

# GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at the Village Hall

**Present:**

Councillors: H Bennett, K Joyce, S Kiddy, A Smith, P Spires and A F Sugg. Also Borough Councillor J Midwood (part), one member of the public (part) and Clerk J Barnett.

**Open Forum for items not on the agenda:**

Nothing raised.

**Action**

**Item**

- 1 **Election of Chairman:**  
Councillor S Kiddy was elected Chairman for the meeting.  
As this is the last meeting of this Council before elections the Clerk thanked all the Councillors for their time and effort over their period as village representatives.
- 2 **Apologies for absence:**  
Councillor N Pizey
- 3 **Councillors Declarations of Interest in any item on the agenda:**  
None declared
- 4 **Open Forum for members of the public to raise any matter on the agenda:**  
The member of the public introduced himself as Borough Councillor Peter Stevens who has been chosen as Conservative candidate to succeed Borough Councillor Jane Midwood (who is retiring at the forthcoming elections in May).
- 5 **Minutes of the previous meetings:**  
The minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 were approved and signed together with the payments approved at that meeting.
- 6 **Matters arising from the minutes:**  
None
- 7 **St Edmundsbury Borough Council:**  
Borough Councillor J Midwood said that they have their last meeting of St Edmundsbury Borough Council next week and West Suffolk Council begins on 1<sup>st</sup> April.  
The Clerk thanked Jane for all her years of selfless service both as County Councillor and then latterly as Borough Councillor. Also, thanks especially for all her considerable financial assistance for Great Bradley projects over those many years.
- 8 **Suffolk County Council:**  
Report received from County Councillor M Evans:  
I hope to get to Great Bradley tonight but have four PC meetings so may not get to you in time . Attached is a report  
Specifically I wanted to tell you all that there has been a good, positive response to the consultation to the introduction of the 40mph buffer – but everyone has asked for it to be extended back to the cattle barn. There was a technical reason why that wasn't done – buffer zones are meant to be up to 400 metres in length. The barn is 530 m from the start of the

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Chair

Date:

30mph. Advice is being taken on extending the buffer as with the accident history it does make sense rather than applying to change the speed limit. It is a technicality and I hope common sense will prevail.

I raised the street light on Clarendale (Clerk - s/be Evergreen Lane) with the Street Lighting Manager and he thinks it is doable – he might want to come out of a site meeting just to check and I will put him in touch with the clerk.

1. I am setting up a councillor review group to look at highways issues such as the reporting tool. One of the other areas we will be assessing will be this year's winter gritting programme and the grit bin policy. Do please send me your comments. Suffolk County Council has now set its budget for the year at £520m. Council tax will increase by 2.99% and we will also be levying social care precept of 1% - the total increase is 1% less than last year. The budget for adult social care is £243m and we are spending £111m on children's services.
2. The fire service is consulting on a range of issues in its Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) such as the size of crew needed for responding to road traffic accidents and whether they could change their response to automatic fire alarms. Currently a high proportion of call outs are to automatic fire alarms where there is no fire. The proposal is to respond to alarms from office and business premises during working hours only if the alarm is backed up by a telephone call. Premises where there are vulnerable people or the possibility of people sleeping – such as hospitals and care homes would still get a fire crew turning out in response to an automatic alarm without a telephone call.

The fire service will be out meeting the public to explain the proposals and hear their views:

- **14 March** Haverhill: Sainsburys, Haycocks Road
- **21 March** Newmarket: Tesco, Fordham Road
- The consultation runs to Sunday 7 April 2019. The draft IRMP, supporting documents and online consultation are available at [www.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk)

3. Suffolk is the first authority in the country to develop a county-wide quality standard on exercise referral schemes which enable GPs and health professionals to refer patients with long term health conditions to a fitness programme based within the community, to increase their physical activity levels as part of a healthy lifestyle – which is preferable to prescribing medication.

Research by Suffolk County Council's Public Health team has found that current Exercise Referral Schemes are not widely used in Suffolk by referrers. The reasons given for this have been a lack of awareness among GPs of referral schemes, variations in referral protocols and an uncertainty as to whether schemes are operating in line with recommended National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines.

The new quality standard for exercise referral in Suffolk has been developed with input from operators, GPs and health professionals, alongside QUEST, the Sport England recommended Continuous Improvement Tool for leisure facilities, to address these issues.

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Chair

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4. SCC highways won a grant of £4.4m from the Government for pioneering project to develop “smart” streetlighting. The project will see the introduction of streetlights equipped with wind vanes and solar panels so they generate rather than consume energy – highways’ electricity bill is £2.3m and set to rise so anything that reduces the bill is very welcome.

The street lights will be equipped with sensors to measure traffic speed and volume; road temperatures – so gritting runs can be better targeted; whether nearby grit bins need filling and gullies emptying. They can also be adapted to act as wi-fi and 5G transmitters.

9 **Police Forum:**

Councillors A F Sugg and H Bennett and the Clerk had attended the Police Forum in Hawkedon on 4<sup>th</sup> February. Councillor Sugg summarised the proceedings. It had been well attended with about 40 people there and it was held at the instigation of County Councillor Mary Evans and the speaker was Jon Gerrish the new Police ‘Community Engagement’ officer. He was very good and had come to the fete last year to introduce himself. He spoke about the value of Community Speedwatch and promised to come to one of Great Bradley sessions when we start again after the clocks go forward. He also recommends Neighbourhood Watch for villages and Police Connect online for up-to-date information. He stressed the importance of using 101 to call in information/problems despite the poor reputation that it currently has for its slow answering of calls. Councillor Bennett said that Jon had accepted an invitation to come to the Community Event in May to introduce himself to more people in the village.

10 **Highways matters:**

1. Vehicular Activated Sign. A new pole for the Northern entrance (from Burrough Green) to the village is to be requested. After discussion it was decided that the best position would be for the new pole to go up at the junction with Water Lane which gives a wide verge and safe position to put the sign up. Clerk to forward the request.

Clerk

11 **Planning applications:**

DC/19/0372/HH 6 Evergreen Lane. Single storey front extension. The Council agreed they had no objections to this application.

Clerk.

12 **Correspondence:**

Quadracentenary event in Thurlow. Information has been received of a large event in Thurlow to celebrate 400 years since the death of Sir Stephen Soame. It is understood that the events include a lunch to which Great Bradley residents will be invited. It had been hoped that a representative from the event would be at this meeting tonight to explain all but no-one has arrived.

13 **Clerk’s meeting with Tim Barling of Vestey Estate:**

Clerk said that he had had a meeting with Tim Barling, Estate Manager, on 1<sup>st</sup> February. The Permissive Path hedge across the field has been cut back well.

The proposed route change at the bottom of this path to close off the access to the neighbouring field and take the path along the Northern edge of the existing hedgerow is still on track for completion at some point. How to exit to the road is still to be resolved.

Clerk had raised with Tim the problems of walkers on the section from the top of Clarendale to Matthews Lane (particularly popular with people wishing to access the allotments). The last section by the road across the ditch and onto the verge was difficult especially after rain

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Chair

Date:

with a muddy and slippery climb up and down with a potential for injury. Clerk said the Parish Council may wish to consider the possibility of putting up another footbridge similar to the one at the top of Clarendale. Tim said he had no problems with that provided the Parish Council took responsibility for it as with the other footbridge. Clerk said that there may have to be discussions with Highways as the footbridge might exit the ditch onto Highways verge. Tim said he will get the far hedge at the allotments cut back and will get the broken stopcock cover at the entrance to the allotments dealt with.

Clerk

14 **Recreation Area:**

1. Outdoor gym equipment. Sunshine Gym has confirmed the installation of the 5 pieces of equipment will take place over Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. There will be an opening ceremony hosted by a local fitness professional to demonstrate the equipment on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Parish Council will provide some refreshments for this. The public are to be asked to keep off the equipment until the opening ceremony to allow the concrete to fully set.
2. Play equipment. There is an ongoing recommendation from the company that St Edmundsbury Borough Council use for their monthly play equipment reports which says that the Parish Council should use preservative on the wooden posts that have suffered some strimmer damage. Playdale guarantee their wooden posts for 'up to' 20yrs but as we are already 10 years in and with some external 'damage' there is unlikely to be any value in the guarantee. The council agreed that preservative should be applied to maintain the posts for as long as possible.

HB/Clerk

Clerk

15 **Litter pick:**

The litter pick is to take place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March meeting 10am at the Village Hall. Councillor Smith agreed to handle the refreshments as usual. Clerk has organised the bags from St Edmundsbury Borough Council and has all the other equipment available (hoops for the bags, gloves, hi-vis jackets). Clerk has already organised St Edmundsbury Borough Council to pick up the bags of litter from the Village Hall on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March. Clerk will put the information on Facebook.

AS

Clerk

16 **Community Event:**

The event is to be held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May on the Recreation Area. Councillor Kiddy suggested to call it a 'Village Party'. There is a budget of £300 for this and Councillor Bennett will organise the refreshments. Clerk to organise the large gazebo as before.

HB

Clerk

17 **Parish Council elections:**

The elections will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Clerk issued all election papers to those that required them together with a paper with hints and tips on how to fill everything out correctly. The Clerk was asked if he would take the papers in for the Councillors and he said that he would do so but that he would give a deadline to get them to him.

Councillors

Clerk

18 **Annual Village Meeting:**

Clerk distributed a suggested draft of the agenda for the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April. This was agreed and Councillor Spires offered to do the Bonfire Night report, Councillor Bennett said she would contact all the Village Hall groups to send a representative or, at the least, a report and Bob Bennett was volunteered to do the allotments report.

PS

HB

Clerk

Signed:

Chair

Date:

19 **Finance:**

1. To consider new grants for local groups/organisations together with usual annual grants to other organisations within and without the village. The Council agreed the following grants:
  - a. Art Group - £50
  - b. Suffolk Accident Rescue Service - £25
  - c. St Edmundsbury Newstalk - £25
2. Accounts for payment. This was approved at 11 items totalling £9,439.82 (which includes the sum of £8,847.60 for the outdoor gym equipment).
3. Final budget update for the year. The latest estimate for the end of year balance is £12,751 against a budget of £12,098 and this includes having a greatly increased spend on the outdoor gym equipment (assisted by the grants obtained).

Clerk

20 **Project List:**

The latest Project list was discussed. Councillor Smith said that she could no longer take responsibility for the checking of the footpaths.

21 **Village Events:**

Pub Nights - 24/5, 21/6, 19/7, 23/8, 20/9

23<sup>rd</sup> March Litter Pick

19<sup>th</sup> May Village Party - Community Event

1<sup>st</sup> June Farm Walk

1-2 June Open Gardens

30<sup>th</sup> June Fete

The situation with the Open Gardens clashing with the Farm Walk was raised. As this would cause problems for those opening their gardens and wishing to go on the farm walk and also visitors the Clerk was asked to liaise with the Open Gardens organiser and suggest that the gardens only open on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Clerk

22 **Matters for consideration at the next meeting:**

Councillor Bennett mentioned that the Village Hall new kitchen was imminent and new lights also.

23 **Dates for next meetings:**

The next meetings are scheduled for: 24<sup>th</sup> April (Annual Village Meeting) – not a Parish Council meeting as such but it was a meeting for everyone in the village and it was hoped all Councillors could attend, 15<sup>th</sup> May - first meeting of the new Council after elections, 26<sup>th</sup> June - approve accounts from 2018/19, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 27<sup>th</sup> November - pre-Budget and Precept meeting

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed:

Chair

Date: