

GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th September 2017 at the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: H Bennett, K Joyce, N Pizey, A Smith, P Spires, A Sugg. Also County Councillor M Evans (part) and Clerk John Barnett. Two members of the public also attended.

Open Forum for items not on the agenda:

Nothing raised

Action

Item

- 1 **Election of Chairman**
Councillor Pizey was elected Chairman for the meeting.
- 2 **Apologies for absence:**
Councillor S Kiddy and Borough Councillor J Midwood
- 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 question was raised regarding the change of ownership of land to the West of the B1061 which includes the Recreation Area, allotments and Permissive Path. Clerk said that he had asked for a meeting with the Estate Manager in order to clarify the thinking of the new owners towards these facilities. Clerk said that the Recreation Area had the protection of a s106 agreement and read out the relevant sections from that agreement, but that the other facilities did not have such protection and it was important to clarify their future particularly for the allotment holders. Once the information has been obtained then that can be brought to a Parish Council meeting where everyone can make their comments in the Open Forum sections. Councillor Spires said that the next meeting was not for another 2 months and she suggested another meeting to be called before then and once the information was known. This Clerk was agreed.
- 5 **Minutes of the last meeting:**
The minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council on 28th June 2017 were approved and signed together with the payments approved at that meeting.
- 6 **Matters arising from the minutes:**
 1. Heritage Lottery grant for the digitising of the archives. Clerk said that the scanning of the archives had begun. Forty nine hours had been worked/charged to date and the number of scans was 2210. These had already been added to the cloud storage device and are now available to view on the internet. There is to be a monthly report and the first was extremely detailed. This is a very encouraging start. About 10% of the remaining budget for this has been spent so far.
 2. Glade metal edging. Clerk said that this project will have to be discussed with the new landowner. Grant money has been promised for this project from County Councillor Mary Evans Locality Budget. Clerk
 3. Councillor Sugg asked for an update on Parish Plans. Clerk said that the visit to a Neighbour Plan Seminar by 2 Councillor and the Clerk had shown that a N.P. was

Signed:

Chair

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not suitable for an infill village such as Great Bradley as they were directed at villages/towns where housing growth was scheduled by the local Planning Authority which was not the case in Great Bradley. Clerk said he had researched Parish Plans to see if that was a suitable alternative for Great Bradley and he quoted from a CPRE document:

A Parish Plan reflects the local vision of how local residents would like to see your area change in coming years. Parish Plans can be much broader than neighbourhood plans, covering more than just planning issues. This optional document is more community-led and can reflect the needs of an individual town or village and surrounding countryside.

While Local and Neighbourhood Plans are the main documents for most areas, other areas of planning policy can have an impact on how your region develops.

Parish Plans give you an opportunity to get involved in planning in your town or village and surrounding countryside.

What is a Parish Plan?

A Parish Plan is a document that tackles important issues that will influence your neighbourhood in the future.

This could be anything from ensuring building projects fit in with local character to supporting alternatives to private car use to improving the state of local parks.

The development of the plan will be led by the town or parish council but must take into account the views of the whole community. It is critical that it is in conformity with the area's Sustainable Community Strategy.

The final plan will identify key facilities and services, set out the problems that need to be tackled and show how distinctive character and features can be conserved.

It will also include an action plan for the area.

Why Parish Plans are important

Parish Plans can be used to make sure local concerns and characteristics are taken into account before any planning decisions are made.

Influence how local services are delivered

Parish Plans are an important tool that can be fed into other plans and strategies such as Local Plans, where the needs of individual towns and villages and their surrounding countryside might not normally be adequately considered.

If you want to make the most effective use of your plan it is important to work with the local planning authority from the beginning.

You could press the local planning authority to adopt the plan as a Supplementary Planning Document that would carry significant weight as a material consideration in the planning decision-making process.

Even if the local planning authority decides not to formally recognise the Parish Plan it can still be used as evidence to inform the Local Plan and to inform responses to planning applications, as long as it has been subject to widespread and effective community involvement.

It was agreed to research further similar villages to Great Bradley and whether any have produced Parish Plans and to what effect.

Clerk

4. Councillor Sugg asked for an update on the possibility of a mobile phone booster on the Village Hall. Clerk said he had passed the information to the VHMC who would have the responsibility for this project. Clerk was asked to find out if there was any further information from the VHMC.

Clerk

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7 **St Edmundsbury Borough Council:**

Borough Councillor J Midwood sent a report:

A single Council for West Suffolk

The findings of the ComRes Independent survey of St Eds and Forest Heath residents on the creation of a single West Suffolk Council will be presented formally to councillors on 12th September. The survey confirms that two thirds of residents who responded to the questionnaire favour a single council for West Suffolk.

The West Suffolk Operational Hub

In July the Development Control Committee of St Eds deferred a decision on the planning consent for the West Suffolk Operational Hub (WSOH) to later this month. A number of issues have arisen over the proposed WSOH site at Hollow Road. Once planning permission has been granted, all our waste will go to the WSOH - blue bin rubbish for transfer to Gt Blakenham, black bin rubbish to the Energy from Waste plant also at Great Blakenham and the brown bin waste for composting on site. The site will take waste from the whole West Suffolk area.

The Bury Town Masterplan

Almost 6000 comments and suggestions were received following the "Issues and Options" public engagement. Once adopted the MAP will become a supplementary planning document supporting the statutory planning policy for the town centre. This means that all future planning applications for development and redevelopment in the town centre must meet the expectations of the MAP.

Locality Grants

I am glad that the grant for the outdoor table tennis equipment for Great Bradley has been awarded.

8 **Highways:**

Speeding in the village. Clerk reported on possible village entrance gateways. JACS (UK) signage had provided costings of around £400+ for a 1m gate not including installation costs. Up to 6 gates may possibly be required for all 3 entrances to the village. It was agreed to put a sum of £3,000 into one of the suggested budget alternatives for next year. Clerk said he had raised the possibility of a new 'buffer' 40mph zone starting around the barns at the bottom of the Bradley Hill with Mary Evans and she was going to take this forward.

Clerk

9 **Planning:**

Handy Bar Grove application. Everyone appeared pleased with the outcome of this application as some of the existing trees are to be retained as a screen for Carlton and the original suggestion of clear felling has been amended to regeneration felling. Thanks went to the Councillors who had taken the time to get involved in this application.

10 **Suffolk County Council:**

County Councillor Mary Evans joined the meeting at this point and said that she was pleased the recent Village Hall funding seminar at which Great Bradley had been represented had been so successful.

There is a meeting set up with Police Chief Inspector Danny Cooper most likely on 10th October. The Clerk will represent Great Bradley at this meeting.

Clerk

The speed camera team have prosecuted 297 drivers in the first 6 months of this year. 74 of these were in the whole of Haverhill and, shockingly, 70 of them were in Great Bradley. This is unheard of in a small village such as this. It was unknown what numbers were coming from which direction but the Clerk said that his experience with the Community Speedwatch team

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Chair

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showed there was no preponderance from a particular direction. There was discussion on what might be the cause of this and one suggestion was that it could be because the village only had houses on one side of the B1061 on the Thurlow Road at the Spring Barns end so that it did not give a 'built up' village 30mph appearance. That then led to the discussion returning to the possibility of 'gateways' which might reinforce the fact of entering a village in motorists minds. Councillor Evans said she could give some Locality Budget grant to these which could also be installed with white lines on the road to give a 'chicane' effect slowing the traffic.

Councillor Evans said she had taken up the idea of a 40mph buffer at the bottom of Bradley hill with Guy Smith and also the fact that the existing 30mph at the top of the hill was virtually 'invisible' until you were actually upon it. She suggested the possibility of 'children's artistic 'SLOW' signs such as those used in Lidgate and Thurlow. However, she said the signs would need to be bigger than those actually used and she suggested A1 size. She could sponsor these.

Mary said that the exam results in Suffolk this year were good.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has decided not to make a bid to take over the running of the Fire Service.

11 **Correspondence:**

1. Clerk reported a circular which came from an oil delivery 'club' service. Councillor Pizey said her neighbour used it and said she would find out more information on the service. NP
2. Clerk reported correspondence with a Parishioner regarding ownership of the land at the entrance to Clarendale as she was having problems with overhanging trees. Clerk had been able to provide her with an old map from 2005 which showed the land in question belonged to Highways.
3. Clerk reported damage to a goal post rear net brackets. He said that he had new brackets and nets available.
4. Clerk reported a letter from the Coffee Caravan thank the Council for their donation towards replacement of their van after it was stolen.

12 **Bonfire Night:**

All Councillors had been provided with an action list for Bonfire Night. A couple of personnel changes were noted. Councillor Bennett cannot attend the fireworks demonstration but Councillor Spires said she would check her diary to see if she is free. PS

13 **Village Hall:**

1. Broadband line rental. Clerk reported that the current contract with BT has now finished and they are offering a broadly similar package for a further 2 years. A quote has been received from Plusnet at less than half that cost for one year. It was agreed to go with this. Councillor Joyce confirmed she was happy with the service from Plusnet. Clerk
2. Councillor Bennett said that the Village Hall Committee meet again at the end of this month and so far things are going well. However, they still need more volunteers to help with specific things.
Councillor Bennett said that the Committee had agreed to do their work for 2 years only and there needs to be a group of other people ready to take it on when their time runs out. The Village Hall is in relatively good shape at present and this needs to continue.

Signed:

Chair

Date:

14 **Recreation Area:**

1. New outdoor table tennis table leg anchors. Clerk said that he and Councillor Kiddy were going to put the new leg anchors in place on Sunday 17th September. SK/Clerk
2. Playdale play equipment site inspection. Playdale reported from the inspection: *After visiting site our engineers have confirmed to me that the spinner was slightly loose in the ground, whilst there he resolved this problem so it is now sorted. He also checked over the rest of the equipment and all was in good condition and didn't need any work doing.*
3. Football goals refurbishment. Some of the youngsters who use the facilities had agreed to do all the necessary repairs including replacing the damaged/broken rear support brackets, de-rusting the posts and repainting with metallic paint and putting up the new nets.

15 **Finance:**

1. The Annual Return 2016/17 report from BDO is now late.
2. Annual Parish Council insurance. Clerk said that the invoice for this coming year was only £10 more than last year with new items included. This was approved. Clerk
3. Accounts for payment. The Council approved 27 payments totalling £5,892.22 Clerk

16 **Project List:**

Councillors had been supplied with an updated Project List.

17 **Village events notified:**

29th September

1. MacMillan coffee morning 10 - 12 at Village Hall
2. Portable pint pop-up pub from 6pm at Village Hall

13th October - wine tasting at Village Hall

28th October - young at 'art' Halloween Special

4th November - Bonfire and Fireworks night

11th November - Quiz night

2nd + 3rd December - Christmas weekend at Village Hall

18 **Matters for consideration at the next meeting or to note:**

Councillor Sugg said she had been asked why the brass band at the fete had not been subsidised this year by the Parish Council. It was suggested that the Village Hall had received considerable subsidy from the Parish Council in recent years and that there was a feeling that perhaps some of the fete monies should also be used to assist the Village Hall as in many other villages.

19 **Dates for next meetings:**

The next meeting date is: 15th November.

Councillors approved meeting dates for next year as follows: 17th January (set Budget and Precept to West Suffolk Council), 14th March, 25th April (Annual Village Meeting - not a Parish Council meeting), 16th May (Annual Parish Council Meeting), 27th June (approve accounts 2017/18), 12th September, 14th November (pre-budget planning meeting)

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed:

Chair

Date: