

GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th November 2018 at the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: H Bennett, S Kiddy, A Smith, A F Sugg. Also Borough Councillor J Midwood (part), County Councillor M Evans (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.
- 2 **Apologies for absence:**
Councillors N Pizey & P Spires
- 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:**
Nothing raised.
- 5 **Minutes of the previous meetings:**
The minutes of the last meetings of the Parish Council on 19th September and 17th October 2018 were approved and signed together with the payments approved at those meetings.
- 6 **St Edmundsbury Borough Council:**
Borough Councillor J Midwood said that they were still deciding whether to have a Mayor or not with the new Council. The Boundary Commission report is now in and is completely unsatisfactory in one area with a recommendation for 3 different Councillors in one rural Ward.
- 7 **Matters arising from the minutes:**
The Glade maintenance has begun with the South-Eastern corner having the Willows cut down to the ground to allow the light in to the smaller trees which would have been killed otherwise. Also the smaller trees have been lifted to bring yet more light in. That whole section is now much improved. The South-Western section will be scheduled in for next year. Clerk
- 8 **Planning applications:**
 1. DC/18/2054 Water Barn Cottage. Two storey side extension and wrap-round front extension. The Council agreed they had no objection to this application.
 2. DC/18/2125 Harebell, The Street. Single storey rear and side extensions. The Council agreed they had no objection to this application. Clerk

Signed:

Chair

Date:

9 **Correspondence:**

Clerk reported on a visit from Kerbury who were concerned by the excessive usage of magenta cartridges in their printer. They examined a number of recent issues of the Bugle (which is the only major user of colour through the machine) but could find no indication of where the fault may lie. They took some digital copies of the Bugles to test in their machines in their offices.

10 **Proposal for the village to have a dedicated War Memorial in a prominent outside position:**

A request has been received that, particularly at this time, the village should have a dedicated War Memorial but that it should be outside in an readily visible position. Clerk said that the original memorial after the first world war was chosen by the Parish Council in 1919 unusually to be a funeral bier which was to be in the church. Later a plaque with the names of those who served was put up in the church. Oddly, Parish Councils do not have a direct power to erect a new War Memorial although they do have the powers to maintain them. However, through the power of section 137 *they are able to spend a limited amount of money for purposes for which they have no specific power* (in 2018/19 this is up to £2,350 in Great Bradley). In addition, the Clerk was confident that grants could be found to assist with this. The Council discussed this proposal and decided that it was something that should be undertaken and perhaps in the form of a stone plaque similar to the Millennium Oak. A suggestion was made that it could be in that same area also. Councillor Kiddy suggested that perhaps the Village Hall would be a better location. This was agreed ideal and Councillor Bennett will sound out the idea at their Village Hall Management meeting tomorrow.

Clerk

HB

11 **Budget and Precept pre-planning:**

Councillors were asked for their ideas for inclusion in the draft budgets for next year:

1. Councillor Sugg suggested a shed or pavilion on the Recreation Area for housing tables and chairs for events. Clerk said that the previous landowner had precluded any permanent structure on the Recreation Area and that the new landowners were likely to be similarly minded. A Youth Shelter was then suggested but the Clerk said that when the play equipment was being organised for the Recreation Area in 2008/9 the youngsters were asked at that time whether they wanted a shelter as part of it and they said definitely not as it would attract badly behaved youths from other villages. They asked for a football pitch instead.
2. The discussion then moved to the need for more storage space at the Village Hall. With the new display boards requiring further space indoors it was thought necessary to have a larger shed to replace the existing one (subject to VHMC approval). It was agreed to put £1000 in the budget to assist with this.
3. Continued maintenance on the Permissive Paths is to be included in the budgets going forward. Clerk said that the Permissive Path across the field hedges have not been cut. He is having difficulty contacting Tim Barling to see if it is still possible this Autumn. Councillor Bennett requested that the hedges be severely reduced in height to give back the views over and make it less intimidating.
4. Clerk said that West Suffolk Council had advised the likely cost to Parishes of the elections next year. It will be between £500 - £750 if it is contested in the Parish.
5. It was agreed that the usual annual community event would take place. Clerk said that next year would be the 125th anniversary of the formation of the Parish Council (along with most other Parish Councils also) and that it could be appropriate to have this as the event 'theme'. This was agreed.

Clerk

Signed:

Chair

Date:

6. The second Autumn maintenance of the Glade trees is to be included as previously agreed.
7. A proposal for more picnic tables was put and it was agreed to include in the drafts.
8. Councillor Sugg asked whether some more equipment for very young children could be included as there was very little actually for them. Clerk will research what might be available and include in the drafts.
9. Clerk said he was going to a seminar shortly at West Suffolk which included their plans for '*Progress of paperless business on Planning applications (electronic consultation)*' which is likely to give a date for their discontinuation of distribution to Parishes of paper plans (which has been coming for some time). Clerk said that would entail the use of the Parish Council laptop and the projector to enable Councillors to see the plans at meetings. Councillor Kiddy said that instead it could be preferable to have some form of electronic screen (TV) which could be connected to the internet and viewed on that. The advantage would be that the whole village could benefit as the Village Hall would be able to offer that service for all events/meetings/groups. It was agreed (subject to eventual project approval from the VHMC) to include a sum for this in the drafts.
10. New War memorial
11. Two requests had been received from the public but neither involved Parish Council expenditure as they were controlled by other agencies.
 - a. A further street light at the end of Evergreen Lane at the roundabout. This has already been suggested and a request sent to Highways.
 - b. Further parking to be made available by removing the trees on the land at the northern end of Clarendale. The Parish Council had already decided at an earlier meeting that they could not accept this.

The Clerk is to produce 3-4 draft budgets in good time before the final Budget meeting in January which will give Councillors alternative spending/income and Precept options.

Clerk

12 **Bonfire Night report:**

Clerk reported that income had been collections on the gate and donations to a total of £725.10 which was up from the approximately £500 last year. He had estimated a number around 350 people there this year which was also up from the roughly 200 last year. This was most likely due to the discontinuation of the Thurlow event. The VHMC had very kindly offered to take over the food and drink at the event this year which took a lot of pressure off the Parish Council which normally organised it whilst at the same time offering more choice to customers. Those Councillors who attended the event said they were very pleased indeed with it. The fireworks were considered to be extremely good and Councillors Spires and Bennett were thanked for going to the supplier's demonstration in Chelmsford to choose which fireworks to order. The fireworks and the Temporary Event Notice (for the selling of alcohol) cost £932.87 so the cost of the event to the Parish Council was £207.77 which was considered extremely good value for such a good event. It must also be borne in mind, of course, that the VHMC made over £400 for their funds so overall the village made a handsome profit.

Signed:

Chair

Date:

13 **Suffolk County Council:**

Councillor Evans said that she was very pleased to see the exhibitions in the Village Hall at the weekend. The Council has received extra money from the government for road repairs but it must be spent by March next year which, of course, is ridiculous as the Winter period is the worst time to repair roads. There is no news yet on the 40mph speed restriction 'buffer zone' up the Bradley hill. There is the possibility that the chicane required near Spring Barn might be a 'plastic' type variety – maybe similar to those used in villages in France. Councillor Evans will follow this up.

14 **Combined Archives and WW1 exhibition 10/11th November:**

Everyone agreed that the exhibitions for the Archives digitisation and the Centenary of the signing of the Armistice 100 years ago at that very time had been very good indeed. The 2 minutes silence at 11am on Sunday had been particularly moving for all those present as it included Big Ben, the silence, the firing of the guns and then the last post. There was a large 4' x 3' picture of the famous railway carriage in the Compiègne including the three British representatives present at the actual signing of the Armistice, one of which was Alice Ryder's grandfather. There were explanations for all this including information from Alice Ryder about her Grandfather and why he was there and also why the Armistice was signed in such a remote spot and the significance of this railway carriage in WW2. There were 2 large tables dedicated to those who had served and those who had fallen in WW1. After the weekend these were taken and put on the bier in the church.

The new pictures from the archives shown on the new display boards had attracted a lot of interest. Mike Brophy also received a lot of attention from visitors regarding the digitisation process and how to find the archives on line and he also received a lot of information about existing people in the archives/pictures. Both Councillors Helen Bennett and Anne Smith were thanked for their assistance over the whole weekend with providing and serving the refreshments.

15 **Digitising of the Village Archives:**

Clerk reported on the final spend against the grant received from the Heritage Lottery. The grant had been for £4,700 and the final spend total was £4862.75. The overspend was to be set against the separate budget of £230 originally for the Network Attached Storage Device that had not been spent the previous year.

The Archive group had thanked both Ed and Dom Brophy for all their months of hard work scanning all the pictures and documents and putting them on the NASD to make them available online for everyone. The Clerk said that on the original grant application he had made a complete guess of 12,000 pictures and documents to be scanned/digitised and the final total had actually come out at 12,487! The Archive group were recommending that the two Brophy lads each receive a bonus for a job well done and on time. The Council agreed this and it was still within budget.

Clerk is to return the end of grant report to the Heritage Lottery by the end of November as per the conditions. Clerk

The Parish Council thanked the Archive group for all their hard work over the last 18 months to complete the project and for the excellent exhibitions they had organised and run.

16 **Recreation Area:**

Outdoor gym equipment. The budget for this was discussed as it was originally only £3,000 but £2,000 had been added from the original budget for anti-speeding measures. The Clerk said that there were now promises of another £1,000 (£500 each from West Suffolk and Suffolk County Council) and he was confident that the St Edmundsbury Borough Council RIGS grant would give 50% of the total cost.

Signed:

Chair

Date:

The Council then examined the 3 different company options and decided that the equipment from Sunshine Gym (Broxap) appeared to give the best options. The individual pieces of equipment were examined and it was decided to go for Rower, SkyStepper, Arm and Pedal Bicycle, Double Slalom Skier and Combi Pull Down and Power Push. A new quotation is to be obtained and the Clerk will then put in the 50% grant request to St Edmundsbury Borough Council via RIGS.

Clerk

17 **Finance:**

1. Accounts for payment. This was approved at 17 items totalling £2,234.27.

Clerk

18 **Project List:**

The latest Project list was approved

19 **Village Events:**

The following events at the Village Hall were notified:

17th November Quiz Night

2nd December Christmas Craft Fair

14th December Play – Christmas Ghost Story

20th January Bootiful Breakfast again

February Pub Night returns

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

Nothing raised.

21 **Dates for next meetings:**

The Councillors had received a draft schedule for next year which was approved for the following dates:

16th January - Budget and Precept setting

13th March

24th 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

15th May - first meeting of the new Council after elections

26th June - approve accounts from 2018/19

18th September

27th November - pre-budget and precept meeting

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed:

Chair

Date: