**GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th September 2016 at the Village Hall

**Present**:

Councillors: Simon Kiddy (Chairman), Karina Joyce (vice-Chairman), Helen Bennett, Nicky Pizey,

Anne Smith, Pat Spires. Also County Councillor Mary Evans (part), one member of the public and Clerk John Barnett.

**Open Forum:**

The member of the public said that the flooding concerns at Springbarn mirrors the length of time taken to solve her sewerage problems (3 years).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** |  | **Action** | |
| 1 | **Apologies for absence:**  Borough Councillor Jane Midwood. |  | |
| 2 | **Councillors Declarations of Interest in any item on the agenda:**  None declared. Councillor Bennett raised the question of both her and Councillor Smith being on the Village Hall Committee with several items on that subject on the agenda. Clerk assured both Councillors that as they were representatives of the Parish Council to the Committee there was no declaration of interest required. |  | |
| 3 | **Suffolk County Council:**  County Councillor Mary Evans said that more research into the actual cause of the flooding at Spring Barn was needed. When that was known it would then be included into the forward schedule of works. In the meantime she has asked that the existing drains at the location be cleared after each serious rainfall. They have a new drainage company coming in which may improve that situation. When asked what timescale was likely Mary said it was unlikely to happen this Winter and may be a year. The Chairman said that the Parish Council was very upset at how long this has been going on and had even reached the point of the Police having to close the road after the last heavy rain. A letter to the CEO at Suffolk County Council and copied to Matthew Hancock would be the next course of action from the Parish Council. Mary asked to be kept in touch with any more flooding at the location (with pictures).  Mary said that the 'No through road' sign at the entrance to Matthews Lane from the B1061 was going ahead.  The improvement in education in the County continues satisfactorily.  There is a problem with the Police accepting data from the various Vehicular Activated Signs in the villages in order to prioritise where to go with their radar guns. Mary said they were trying to work up a common form which the Police will accept.  The Clerk asked whether the Parish Council's Locality Budget grant request for the metal edging in the Glade on the Recreation Area had been approved. Mary said she thought it had and should have gone through by now. She will check. |  | |
| 4 | **Minutes of the last meeting:**  The minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council on 29th June 2016 were approved and signed together with the payments approved at that meeting. |  | |
| 5 | **Matters arising from the minutes:**  Defibrillator is now in place. Liz Whittaker has offered to do more training sessions as required and this will be organised in the Autumn. Clerk to organise. | Clerk | |
| 6 | **St Edmundsbury Borough Council:**  Borough Councillor Jane Midwood had sent in a report:  *The Devolution consultation period has now ended and initial results are positive for the concept but less favourable for an elected mayor.*  *Plans are going ahead for the West Suffolk Waste Hub at Hollow Road in Bury St Edmunds. This will incorporate an updated and much improved Household Waste Recycling facility – the slippery steps up to the skips will be replaced with access ramps for cars so that users of the site will be able to dump their waste on the same level.*  *I am getting to grips with the planning application process, although I have found it a complicated and tricky learning curve. Councillors are not informed automatically of applications in their ward and it is up to us to keep abreast of the latest developments – we are sent a link to the weekly lists along with “Councillor’s News” – a newsletter type emailed information sheet with masses of information about the Mayor’s official appearances!*  *A reminder that Locality funding is available for village projects – I have been very pleased to support the new heating system for Thurlow Village Hall. Other projects that have received funding have been very varied – from help for village fetes to HM The Queen’s 90th Birthday celebrations.*  *I am sorry to miss your meeting tonight but please feel free to contact me if there is anything that comes up that I may be able to help with.* | |  |
| 7 | **Highways matters:**  None further reported. |  | |
| 8 | **Village Hall financial situation**:  New Village Hall Treasurer Paul McCloskey gave a full presentation on the current situation at the Village Hall. He said they were determined to make the Village Hall self-sufficient but it could take 2-3 years. The current situation has been very much improved with the news that Slimming World has signed up for every week for a full year at the Hall for one evening a week. |  | |
| 9 | **Village Hall:**   1. Proposal to commission a survey of the building to ascertain current and future liabilities. After much discussion it was decided that the cost was likely to be high and wouldn't necessarily give any insight into future needs. It was decided not to pursue this at this time but to re-visit the idea perhaps in a year or so. 2. Car park steps. These are now completed. 3. Electrical faults. Clerk said the outside security lights together with the outside power socket have all been renewed. The fire alarm and emergency lighting have been tested. The electrician has put in two emergency lighting test switches so these can be checked regularly by members of the VHMC. He recommends a further emergency exit light over the kitchen door. This was agreed to be done. Councillor Bennett said that PAT testing of the appliances was long overdue and this will also be done. 4. Kitchen cooker is faulty and needs replacement. With the planned increase in use of the hall and facilities the faulty cooker needs to be replaced. There was a question as to how much it would be used. Also there was a concern that the Village Hall could cause a problem with the Parish Council finances over time if there was a constant need for funds/repairs/renewals. Clerk to do an up-to-date summary of the budgeted funds for the Village Hall this year and how much has/is likely to be spent. A vote was taken as to whether to order the new cooker/hob and five Councillors voted for the proposal and it was duly passed. Clerk to organise. 5. Debris in hall from the North wall. There is considerable debris on the floor emanating from the Western side of the gable on the North wall. It is likely that the soffits (which are known to be rotten) could be the cause. Clerk said that they needed replacing. Councillor Pizey suggested plastic for longevity and would ask her husband to come and have a look at it. 6. Recent spate of Village Hall burglaries in the East has prompted suggestions of a burglar alarm for the hall. After much discussion it was felt unnecessary although an alarm for the shed might be a simple alternative. | Clerk  Clerk  NP | |
| 10 | **Planning applications:**  None |  | |
| 11 | **Correspondence:**  Concern has been expressed regarding the excessive speeds of tractors in the village. If the problem still exists by the end of the year the Chairman offered to speak to Mr Reed about it. |  | |
| 12 | **Recreation Area:**   1. Metal glade edging. Clerk said that when they receive confirmation of the Locality Grant from Suffolk County Council then he will speak to Mr Ryder about asking for assistance with installation and then order the necessary amount. 2. Outdoor tennis table. It was agreed to put this into the wish list for next year's budget to be discussed at the next meeting. There were concerns about bats and balls storage which are catered for on the unit and also concerns whether they might 'disappear' but it was felt unlikely to be financially onerous should that happen. | Clerk  Clerk | |
| 13 | **Bonfire Night:**  Clerk said he will issue the task list as normal over the next week or two. There was a suggestion that an entrance charge be made but it was decided that it was a village event only and that the income from donations that those on the gate achieved was exceptional. The entrance to the field is to be made smaller this year to ensure that any 'reluctant' givers can't just slip through without being asked to donate. | Clerk | |
| 14 | **Events:**   1. Harvest 'Horkey'. The grant application of £800 had been approved and the Council has until 19th August 2017 to put on the event. The originally considered date of end September (which gave the idea of Harvest 'Horkey') clashed with other events and as the weather was likely to be unfavourable after that time it was decided to postpone until next year. After discussion it was agreed to go for the bank holiday Monday May 1st which would allow sufficient time after for another Big Lunch event to go ahead (should that be decided) later in June. Clerk will check with the Hog Roast team that was used before and see if they are available. 2. Coffee Caravan on today 14th September. Councillor Bennett said that it had been well attended and successful event on Clarendale Green. Councillor Smith said that a new lady from Clarendale had joined everyone and will now also attend the drop-in. 3. Other events notified - 30th Sept Macmillan coffee morning and Jackpot Supper, 13th Oct + 10th Nov drop-in for tea and cakes, 5th November Bonfire Night, 19th November Quiz Night. 4. Clerk said that the Archives group were considering putting on a small exhibition at the Village Hall of some of the more interesting items/pictures that they had found and catalogued in the village archives. They were also asking Mike Brophy if he would be interested in being involved. Councillor Smith said that Thurlow Fair had a history 'tent' with Facebook - perhaps an idea for future Great Bradley community events. She suggested asking Charles Ryder if his display screens could be used. | Clerk | |
| 15 | **Finance:**   1. The Annual Return for the 2015/16 accounts has been approved by BDO as the external auditor. 2. The Parish Council annual insurance is due for renewal on 22nd September. Clerk said that the recommended renewal quotation from Came and Co (who had researched 3 different companies) was via Hiscox at £443.47 (this year £417 but the Parish Council assets had increased by £4,000). There was a 3 year deal at £421.29. Clerk had also asked Zurich to quote but their cheapest deal was £525 due, they said, to the Bonfire/Fireworks Night. The Parish Council approved the 3 year commitment with Hiscox at £421.29. 3. Accounts for approval/payment. A total of 20 payments to a value of £3,397.71 was approved. | Clerk  Clerk | |
| 16 | **Project List:**  Councillor Kiddy ran through the latest updated Project List. Moving the dog bin in Hall Road is to be dropped. | Clerk | |
| 17 | **Matters for consideration at the next meeting:**  None |  | |
| 18 | **Dates for next meetings:**  The next meeting dates are: 16th November (pre-budget), 18th January and 15th March 2017. Three further dates were agreed 26th April (Annual Village Meeting), 17th May (Annual Parish Council Meeting), 28th June (approve 2016/17 accounts before 30th June deadline). |  | |
|  |  |  | |
|  |  |  | |

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.18pm