

GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the first meeting of the new Parish Council held on 15th May 2019 at the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: H Bennett, N Pizey, A Smith, P Spires and A F Sugg. Also Borough Councillor P Stevens (part), and Clerk J Barnett.

Open Forum for items not on the agenda:

Nothing raised.

Action

Item

1 **Election of Chairman:**

Councillor P Spires was elected Chairman and signed the Acceptance of Office of Chairman. All the Councillors then signed their Acceptances of the office of Parish Councillor.

2 **Apologies for absence:**

None

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 meeting of the Parish Council on 13th March 2019 were approved and signed together with the payments approved at that meeting. Also approved were the minutes from the Annual Village Meeting on 24th April 2019.

6 **Matters arising from the minutes:**

None

7 **West Suffolk Council:**

Councillor Stevens said the Council was still in flux from the recent elections where their majority had been reduced from 20 to 5. They have their Annual Meeting next week where they appoint committee members. He will keep an eye on the application at the Coach House Barn. The Locality Budgets have been increased somewhat and he is open to requests for assistance and would look favourably on Great Bradley's request for assistance with their new outdoor War Memorial. As soon as costs are available then the Clerk is to let Councillor Stevens know. The Chairman thanked Councillor Stevens for his report.

Clerk

8 **Suffolk County Council:**

No report.

Signed:

Chair

Date:

9 **Highways matters:**

1. Clerk reported that the new Vehicular Activated Sign pole position on the existing 30mph pole between Crown House and Water Lane has been accepted. The project has been taken over by a new person at Highways and a delay has been introduced by their apparent confusion over which pole and its height. Clerk to continue to press for action.
2. The 40mph buffer zone order has now been issued by Suffolk County Council and covers 534m so would appear to extend to the barn as requested.

Clerk

10 **Planning applications:**

DC/19/0814/P3QPA Coach House barn. This is a change of use from agricultural building to dwelling under a General Permitted Development Order (for redundant barns). This had been brought to the Council's attention by a neighbour as the Parish Council were unaware of the application as they are not normally consulted about Permitted Development Orders. After discussion some of those Councillors who were in the village in 2013 felt that the likelihood was that the barn was being used for animals in the adjoining field at that time. This would mean that the Council had no grounds to object.

11 **Correspondence:**

1. A request has been received from the church for a donation towards the cost of the band again at the fete. After discussion it was agreed to donate the usual sum of £100
2. Thanks have been received from St Edmundsbury Newstalk and SARS for the Parish Council donations.
3. There is a Community Speedwatch annual meetings at Bury St Edmunds Police Station on 21st May. Three volunteers from Great Bradley are attending.

Clerk

12 **Litter pick report:**

Clerk said that it was a really good litter pick on Saturday 23rd March with 14 publicly spirited members of the village turning out for it.

They spent the next 1-2 hours clearing much of the area. The central part was really clean already and thanks must go to those who obviously keep this clear on a regular basis unbeknown to the rest of us. Those who chose to do the main roads were faced with a much more daunting task as it is there that the very worst of littering takes place. However, they did it and even felt it necessary to clear up Cambridgeshire as well! There has been a mattress lying in the young copse at the start of the road through to Brinkley for years now and they actually went and collected that as well. Amazing devotion to clearing up after others! Some interesting items collected included a child's pram, a broken windscreen, a flood sign and two tyres. In all 16 bags were collected and assorted extras.

Many thanks to Councillors Smith and Bennett for the refreshments provided for everyone at the end.

13 **Annual Village Meeting report:**

Clerk said that 23 people attended the meeting. Some councillors thought that it was proving difficult to attract newcomers to the meeting as all the faces were very familiar. Others felt that perhaps it was a sign that most people were happy with things as they are and/or the development in important areas such as the Village Hall, Recreation Area facilities etc. The number of people attending is considerably more than many comparably sized villages where they struggle to get even a few people to turn up.

All village organisations had an opportunity to inform those attending what they had done over the past year and what they hoped to achieve in the coming year.

Signed:

Chair

Date:

14 **Annual review of Parish Council assets:**

Councillors had been issued before the meeting with a revised asset list at 31st March 2019 and this was approved.

15 **Annual review of Risk Assessment and checklists:**

Councillors had been issued before the meeting with a revised Risk Assessment and also a revised Checklist. These were approved. Councillor Bennett said that she would assist Councillor Smith with responsibility for the checking of the footpaths.

HB/AS

16 **Recreation Area:**

1. Outdoor gym equipment. The equipment was installed on schedule and it has been extremely well received. The Council considered the need for a warning sign for the equipment. There were several different signs from other gym equipment locations with varying text options. Clerk to take the most appropriate from each and send round a draft sign to the Councillors for comments/approval.
2. Play equipment. There is an ongoing recommendation from the company that West Suffolk Council uses 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.

Clerk

Clerk

17 **Village Hall:**

There is no longer space for the storage of the village archives at Great Bradley Hall at which Charles Ryder has kindly given them a temperature controlled room for many years. It is therefore necessary to move them to the Village Hall. There are 2 large lockable cabinets and the Village Hall Committee has agreed they can go into the old 'bar' area. They will replace a large storage cupboard, most of the contents of which will have to be moved to the outside shed. That shed has reached the end of its life and needs to be replaced. The bar area will need to have a temperature controlled heater to preserve the archives correctly. This heater is likely to be similar to all the other rooms in the Village Hall (other than the Hall itself). The Council approved the purchase of a larger shed similar to the one on the allotment. The cost is likely to be in the region of £1,600 + VAT (recoverable). The Council hoped that the Village Hall Committee would then be able to fund the cost of fitting the temperature control in the 'bar' area itself. Ideally the shed should be delivered to the Village Hall in the first week of June.

Clerk

18 **Community Event:**

The Big Lunch event is to be held on the Recreation Area on 19th May. Councillor Bennett said it was all being organised with final shopping for various fresh items being done at the weekend. The hope is for good weather as the Village Hall kitchen is out of action due to refurbishment.

HB

Signed:

Chair

Date:

- 19 **Finance:**
1. Proposal that Great Bradley Parish Council declares itself an exempt authority for external audit on the grounds of turnover below £25,000. This was approved and the Chairman signed the exempt certificate. Clerk
 2. Proposal to approve SALC as internal auditor. This was approved. Clerk
 3. Proposal to approve the draft accounts as given to the Councillors before the meeting to go to the internal auditor SALC. This was approved and the Chairman signed the Accounting Statement. Clerk
 4. A new bank mandate is required for further signatories as one signatory has been lost due to retirement at the recent elections. Councillors Pizey and Sugg agreed to go on the bank mandate as signatories. NP/AFS/
Clerk
 5. Accounts for payment. This was approved at 17 items totalling £2536.34 Clerk
- 20 1. **Project List:**
The latest Project list was approved.
2. The project for the new outdoor war memorial was discussed in the context of the many likely events to be held across the country to commemorate 75 years since the end of WW2 in Europe on 8th May of next year. It was felt very appropriate to use this date for the ‘opening’ ceremony. Clerk
- 21 **Village Events:**
Pub Nights - 21/6, 19/7, 23/8, 20/9
1st June Farm Walk
30th June Fete
- 22 **Matters for consideration at the next meeting:**
Councillor Pizey said that she had been asked by youngsters to have a hard standing in front of the high basketball net in order that they can bounce the ball before throwing it. Clerk to examine options. Clerk
- 23 **Dates for next meetings:**
The next meetings are scheduled for: 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: