**GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th January 2013 at the Village Hall

**Present**:

Councillors: Rowan Sylvester-Bradley (Chairman), Simon Kiddy (Vice-Chairman), Karina Joyce,

Anne Smith, Sue Willington. Also present were County Councillor Jane Midwood (part) and Clerk John Barnett.

**Open Forum:**

Jane Midwood gave her report on behalf of Suffolk County Council. There will be no increase in Council Tax. There is a new Staysafe scheme being launched with points of contact for vulnerable people. There is to be cheaper travel for younger people with an Oyster card-type scheme for 16-18 year-olds. The new incinerator at Claydon will have its waste heat used in greenhouses to grow tomatoes. Jane expressed her thanks to the bin-men for their excellent service over the Christmas period. She has spoken today to Steve Boor at Highways about the very bad condition that the roads are in after 2 extreme Winters. Jane is holding a second ‘Security’ evening, this time in Clare, on March 20th. The next Safer Neighbourhood Team meeting is to be held in Chedburgh on March 12th. The previous Safer Neighbourhood Team evening was extremely poorly attended with Police representatives outnumbering the public by 4 to 1 and she is wondering if it is worth continuing. It is very good news to hear that Locality Budgets are continuing and, due to a reorganisation have been slightly increased for her Clare division for her successor.

With Jane stepping down in May, the Chairman thanked Jane for all her hard work over the years and for all the grant aid that she had provided for the Parish as well.

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| **Item** |  | **Action** |
| 1 | **Apologies for absence:**None |  |
| 2 | **Councillors Declarations of Interest in any item on the agenda:**There were no declarations of interest.  |  |
| 3 | **Co-option of new Parish Councillors:**There was no definite progress but two individuals who may be interested are still being talked to about this. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley will put another article in the Bugle.  | RSB |
| 4 | **Minutes of the last meeting:**The minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council on 21st November 2012 were approved and signed together with the cheques approved at that meeting.  |  |
| 5 | **Matters arising from the minutes:**Interpretation Panel. Councillor Joyce said that the leaflets still needed to be progressed. | KJ |
| 6 | **Highways:**Clerk reported that the broken drain which is causing water to pour across the entrance to Clarendale still had not been repaired despite being constantly assured that we were ‘next in line’. Clerk to continue to follow this up. | Clerk |
| 7 | **Planning applications:**The Stable House, Matthews Lane. Erection of:Extension of Stable House to form annexe and the construction of cart lodgeThe Council decided it had no objection to this. | Clerk |
| 8 | **Correspondence:**Two separate requests for funding had been received from the Coffee Caravan and East Anglian Air Ambulance. After discussion it was decided not to use Parishioner’s money support these.  |  |
| 9 | **Coronation Seat destroyed by vehicle:**Clerk reported that the Coronation seat had been demolished by a car which had left the road at that point in slippery conditions. The driver’s details had been obtained. Also some of the garden plants/shrubs had been flattened. The insurance company has asked for 2 quotes for a replacement seat together with installation and the Clerk said he had quotes for seats but needed to find a local builder. Councillor Smith said she had a possibility and would talk to the person to try to obtain a quotation for the installation of the seat. Clerk said he had rescued the plaque from the old seat and would see if an appropriate inscription referring to the old Coronation seat could be included on the new seat. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that this could be the ideal opportunity to consider moving the seat and the garden area to the Millennium Oak area. Councillor Kiddy said that perhaps the area could be fenced to make it more inviting. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley asked the Council to consider what they might like to see in the Millennium Oak Area.Clerk will get insurance quotes to obtain the necessary refund to restore the seat and garden to their original situation but also to make the insurance company aware of the possibility of moving the seat and garden instead.  | ASCLLRSClerk |
| 10 | **Request for assistance with cost of felling Cedar tree in Churchyard:**Clerk reported a request from the church to help with the £400 cost of removing the huge Cedar tree in the churchyard which was severely damaged in a recent gale. The Council had assisted with 50% of the cost of treework on a previous occasion. The Council approved of a donation of £200 to the church for this. | Clerk |
| 11 | **Village Hall annual donation:**The proposal to pay the Village Hall their annual donation was approved. The sum this year was agreed at £250 | Clerk |
| 12 | **Litter pick date:**Clerk reported that the litter pick date for this year was to be Saturday 23rd March.  |  |
| 13 | **Grass cutting contracts for 2013:**The Council agreed to continue with the existing grasscutting contractors for the village footpaths and Recreation Area/churchyard and the prices are unchanged from last year.  | Clerk |
| 14 | **Recreation Area:**1. Glade area edging. There was considerable discussion on whether to replace the existing wooden edging with metal strip or again with wood. Clerk reported an online cost from Wickes for treated timber edging of £78.84. A budget of £800 had been set to cover the likely cost of the metal edging. The Council decided in a vote of 4 for and 1 against that in difficult financial times it should use the timber edging. Offers of assistance had been received to install the edging.
2. Possible outdoor gym equipment. Clerk reported that he had not progressed any applications to date but that as the council were happy with his recommendations for the items and overall cost he would now do so. Councillor Willington said that the cost would need to be covered by grants as it was unbudgeted expenditure.
 | ClerkClerk |
| 15 | **Finance:** 1. Precept. St Edmundsbury Borough Council had now confirmed the level of Parish grants and also the level of support in the new Local Council Tax Support scheme. The budget provisionally agreed by the Parish Council in November gave an unchanged Precept demand of £9,200. Last year the Parish Council Tax demand to Band D households was £42.93 and for this year with all the government changes only increases to £43.11. This was felt satisfactory and the Precept was officially approved unchanged at £9,200.
2. Accounts for payment. The proposal to make 10 payments to a total of £1854.60 was approved by all.
 | Clerk |
| 16 | **Project List:**The Project List was agreed. |  |
| 17 | **Village Events notified:**1. A wine and beer evening has been suggested by Pete Smith
2. Clerk said he was hoping to get a date from Ross Skingley for an evening on his experiences in the Army air force
3. Clerk said he was hoping to organise an ‘Antiques Roadshow’ by Barrie Stevenson from Cowlinge who had many years experience of this particularly through W.I.s in East Anglia.
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| 18 | **Matters for consideration at the next meeting:**1. Coronation seat - update
 | Clerk |
| 19 | **Dates for next meetings:**The next meeting dates are: 13th March 2013, 10th April (Annual Village Meeting), 15th May (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council) and 26th June (final date for approval of the 2012/13 accounts).  | Clerk |

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm