**GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th September 2015 at the Village Hall

**Present**:

Councillors: Simon Kiddy (Chairman), Helen Bennett, Karina Joyce, Anne Smith, Pat Spires. Also County Councillor Mary Evans (part) and Clerk John Barnett.

**Open Forum:**

Nothing raised.

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| **Item** |  | **Action** | |
| 1 | **Apologies for absence:**  Councillor Pizey and the Police. |  | |
| 2 | **Councillors Declarations of Interest in any item on the agenda:**  None declared. |  | |
| 3 | **Minutes of the last meeting:**  The minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council on 24th June 2015 were approved and signed together with the payments approved at that meeting. |  | |
| 4 | **Matters arising from the minutes:**   1. Garden area. It was agreed there was not a lot to see at present as the plants are all so small. Clerk reported that the old telegraph pole had not been removed in its entirety but cut off at the base. 2. Village sign. Clerk said that he had been digging out the hole further and discovered another concrete ring. Will Pallett will get that out with his digger in the next few days which will give us the final hole volume so that orders can be placed for shingle for the base of the hole and cement/ballast. Once that is delivered Will Pallett will assist with the lift of the pole to the site which will then be securely guyed in order that the concrete can be put in place. 3. New Vehicular Activated Sign. The 3 pole brackets have now arrived and Clerk will put them in place. This will assist in the movement of the unit around the village sites. 4. New village Facebook page. There are now 118 people signed up to this and regular use is being made of it. | |  |
| 5 | **Suffolk County Council:**  County Councillor Mary Evans said that local churches are being targeted again for theft of lead. Hawkedon has had some lead taken from their porch but also some items from inside. The line marking at Clarendale is at last being attended to. The poor pavement repair on Clarendale is also now to be looked at. Our contact at Highways, Simon Curl, is leaving to go to the flooding team. There was a serious flood outside Bluebell Cottage this evening after a day of rain. The drain is obviously blocked as it has been in the past and needs rodding/clearing out. Mary will take this back to the team. They are now starting to attend to the roadside grips but concentrating only on A and B roads. So if there are any specific places that anyone is aware of on the minor roads Highways would like to be informed. Hall Road by the bridge and round the bends to the top of the hill was mentioned as always suffering from grip problems. The next roll-out areas of superfast broadband will be known by the end of the month. It is thought that for outlying areas in villages the signal could be 'bounced' there. Clerk said that the new superfast connection in the village is excellent. Councillor Bennett said she had had major problems with her phone line being out of action for several days.  Clerk said that there were a number of 'SLOW' roadmarkings that had faded or become obscured over time which need to be reinstated. Mary said that these were put there as a safety issue in the first place so must be put back. Clerk will liaise with Councillor Smith to indentify exactly where these were. Clerk to then inform Mary. Suffolk has put a bid in for devolution but it would now appear it needs to be a combined bid with Norfolk. Councillor Kiddy asked what the plans were to improve the mobile phone signals in the village. Mary said that the new masts provision had been cut back by nearly 50% from that originally planned. This is likely to mean a delay in better provision for the area. | AS/Clerk | |
| 6 | **Suffolk Police:**  Police report received which stated 2 crimes in the area - both theft from vans. Police Direct has now changed to Police Connect and subscribers to the old service will need to sign up again. |  | |
| 7 | **St Edmundsbury Borough Council:**  No report. The new Clarendale street nameplate was raised again as being completely out of keeping in a rural village. |  | |
| 8 | **Highways matters:**  Dealt with under item 5. |  | |
| 9 | **Planning applications:**  None |  | |
| 10 | **Correspondence:**  Clerk said that information had been received from NALC regarding the grants available from the government to enable small councils to comply with the new Transparency rules. This is to ensure that members of the public have access via websites to council accounts and other information. The examples given of that which might be claimed under the grant are a computer, scanner, broadband access and training. None of these are applicable in Great Bradley so an application for funds will not be made. |  | |
| 11 | **Village superfast fibre connection:**  The roadside cabinet has now been upgraded to fibre although to date only 4 households have signed up for this. Clerk said that he had signed up to receive 39/40Mb which is only half the maximum speed available and he was actually obtaining 37.5Mb which is a huge improvement from the, sometimes, 0.25Mb previously achieved. |  | |
| 12 | **Village allotments:**  Clerk said that there were 6 full plots taken by single families, 2 full plots shared by two families and 2 separate half plots. So there is plenty of provision remaining for others who might come forward. The paving slabs should be put in place next week for the new shed/lockers. The water is finally connected. |  | |
| 13 | **Bonfire Night:**  Clerk said that he had obtained the necessary Temporary Event Notice required for the sale of alcohol. He will be attending the fireworks distributor's demonstration this coming weekend. Councillor Bennett expressed an interest in also attending. | Clerk | |
| 14 | **Recreation Area:**   1. The larger dog bin by the entrance is now in place. Councillor Smith suggested that the old smaller bin be installed by the entrance to the permissive path. St Edmundsbury Borough Council would not empty that FOC so Councillor Smith said she could do so and put the contents into the general waste bin by the play equipment. This was approved. Clerk will put the bin up. Councillor Bennett said that the poo bags that had been attached to the dog bin by the entrance had been a good idea and asked if that could be a permanent provision. Clerk to organise. 2. Glade area edging. Some parts of this are already in need of replacement after only 2 years. After discussion it was agreed to look again at the possibility of using metal or plastic edging. 3. The football pitch marking has now ceased. Should there be a need for further provision or an ad-hoc basis it was suggested that contact be made with Thurlow to see who they use. | Clerk/AS  Clerk  Clerk | |
| 15 | **Annual insurance renewal:**  There are a number of extra items that have now been included in the schedule - basket swing including the safety surface, 2 picnic tables, Russo family seat, Vehicular Activated Sign (at £3,000) and its 3 poles. The annual renewal last year was £394.14 so there is only a small uplift in premium to £416.97. This was approved. |  | |
| 16 | **Finance:**   1. The External Auditor BDO has approved the Annual Return for 2014/15. 2. A new bank mandate is required to increase the number of signatories. This was signed and Councillor Spires took her personal details form to fill out and take to a Barclays branch. Clerk to forward the new mandate form to Barclays 3. Accounts for approval/payment. A total of 25 payments to a value of £4149.00 were approved. | PS  Clerk | |
| 17 | **Project List:**  The Project List was updated. |  | |
| 18 | **Village Events notified:**   1. Nov 7th Bonfire Night |  | |
| 19 | **Matters for consideration at the next meeting:**   1. It was suggested that the Queen's 90th birthday next year in June could be used as a Big Lunch celebration. This was thought a good idea. Clerk to order a Big Lunch pack for Councillor Joyce 2. Councillor Smith said that the village garden light was on 24hrs. Clerk to report 3. Councillor Kiddy said that the flagpole was in need of cleaning and he would attend to that. | Clerk/KJ  Clerk | |
| 20 | **Dates for next meetings:**  The next meeting dates are: 18th November (pre-budget discussions) and 20th January 2016 (Budget and set Precept). Further dates were agreed at: 16th March, 13th April (Annual Village Meeting), 18th May (Annual Parish Council meeting), 29th June, 14th September,  16th November. |  | |

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.55pm