**GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th January 2017 at the Village Hall

**Present**:

Councillors: Simon Kiddy (Chairman), Karina Joyce (Vice-Chairman), Helen Bennett, Anne Smith, Pat Spires. Also County Councillor Mary Evans (part), St Edmundsbury Borough Councillor Jane Midwood (part) and Clerk John Barnett.

**Open Forum:**

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| **Item** | Nothing raised | **Action** | |
| 1 | **Apologies for absence:**  Councillor Nicky Pizey. |  | |
| 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 16th November 2016 were approved and signed together with the payments approved at that meeting. |  | |
| 4 | **Matters arising from the minutes:**  Councillor Bennett said that the Air Ambulance had been booked for an evening and it may be combined with another defibrillator training session. |  | |
| 5 | **St Edmundsbury Borough Council:**  Borough Councillor Jane Midwood praised the work of the Air Ambulance and the enormous teamwork to provide the funding-raising for them.  The Clarendale street nameplate has been made to the old design but Jane said that would be rectified to one with the new design. Jane asked that we check if there are any old street nameplates with the 'stuck-on' lettering which will all be replaced with new.  Jane asked if householders paying for brown bins emptying had had their direct debit reminders yet. None had.  The annual budget meeting at St Edmundsbury Borough Council is next week.  Jane was asked if she might assist with the provision of an outdoor table tennis table on the Recreation Area and she said she would liaise with County Councillor Mary Evans see what could be done. There is no provision of play equipment for older children or adults and it was felt that this would be something for them. It also gives provision for exercise for all ages which is something we are all being urged to do as a health benefit. The Parish Council are only seeking 50% of the cost at £250. | | Clerk |  |
| 6 | **Highways matters:**  Clerk said that the recent repairs to drainage at Spring Barn does not appear to have solved the problem. Councillors felt that perhaps it was not as bad as before but need to wait for the next heavy rains before that could be established. |  | |
| 7 | **Planning applications:**  None |  | |
| 8 | **Correspondence:**   1. Email received with a complaint from 2 Parishioners about the Slimming World roadside posters and banner in the Village Hall car park. The Parishioners asked whether the Parish Council received any financial benefit from this. The Council heard that these signs had also been a subject of contention from a contribution on the village Facebook page. The roadside signs had been removed by the Slimming World representative however the banner in the Village Hall car park was on private property and the VHMC had decided that it would remain. The contract with Slimming World is worth £1,400 to the Village Hall and has proved to be a 'life-saver' for their funds. Clerk to reply that the Parish Council does not benefit from the Slimming World advertising but that the Village Hall certainly does and that's a benefit for the whole village. 2. Information received regarding grants for home owners. Funding is available from West Suffolk Councils to assist families/residents to make safe, repair and improve their homes and they would like to engage with our communities. They can assist in different ways, through Warmer Homes Healthy People or through the Home Assistance grant (HAG) to  help home owners carry out repairs and improvements to their homes to ensure that they are warm, weathertight, safe and secure and have reasonably modern kitchen and bathroom facilities. | Clerk  Clerk | |
| 9 | **Village Hall:**  Clerk said that the new emergency light over the kitchen door had been completed. This leaves the PAT testing and fire alarm and possibly the heating switch replacement cover still to do. The contractor had recently lost his assistant so the timetable is now unknown. | Clerk | |
| 10 | **Recreation Area:**  Metal glade edging. Clerk said that he had spoken to Stephen regarding assistance in the installation of the edging. Need to check with Charles Ryder he is ok with this. | Clerk | |
| 11 | **Suffolk County Council:**  County Councillor Mary Evans said that the Vehicular Activated Sign with the failed battery was being collected and reconfigured by the manufacturer.  Mary was also asked if she might assist with the table tennis table and that St Edmundsbury Borough Councillor Jane Midwood had also been asked.  Clerk said that there were a number of signage problems with the Parish footpaths but it was being rectified jointly by the landowner and the Parish Council.  The repairs at Spring Barn hoping to cure the flooding does not seem to have worked. This will now have to be properly sorted preferably before the full-scale resurfacing of the road.  There will be a 3% increase in the budget next year to pay for more social care which is desperately needed.  More money is to come into rural areas schools in future from a reduction in monies to cities.  Mental health has a higher priority now and there are particular problems nearby in Newmarket. |  | |
| 12 | **Set Budget and Precept:**  After considerable discussion it was agreed to follow budget suggestion B with Precept unchanged at £10,600. There would be the following changes to Budget B:   1. Clerk's salary to be increased by £100pa 2. The donation of £100 to the Fete is to be taken out 3. Bonfire/fireworks budget reduced to £1,050 4. The donation/reserve for the Village Hall is to be taken out 5. The Village Hall cleaner's hourly pay is confirmed to be increased from £10per hr to £11per hr 6. The separate Big Lunch of £300 is to be taken out as there is to be a celebration lunch using the 'horkey' grant monies 7. Extending the village garden is to be taken out 8. The lightweight chairs and stacking trolley are to be taken out.   The St Edmundsbury Borough Council Precept form is to be made out by the Clerk and counter-signed by the Chairman and sent in by the due date of 27th January. | Clerk  Clerk | |
| 13 | **Set grasscutting contracts for 2017/18:**  It was agreed to continue with the same contractors for 2017/18. Clerk to discuss with terms with Gardenpower and assuming any increase is reasonable to continue. | Clerk | |
| 14 | **Speedwatch and Vehicular Activated Sign:**  Clerk said that he has ordered another new Bushnell speedwatch radar gun as the first one was so popular with the volunteers. It is fully grant-aided from residual funds in the original Bury St Edmunds Rural South Community Speedwatch account which the Clerk helped set up in 2008.  Clerk said that Great Bradley is now part of a grouping of 5 villages (Great Bradley, Cowlinge, Gt & Lt Thurlow and GT Wratting) and they now have 2 Vehicular Activated Signs to share on a monthly rotation basis. One of the batteries has failed in one unit and that is being returned to the manufacturer and there will be no charge to sort it. |  | |
| 15 | **Finance:**   1. Accounts for approval/payment. A total of 15 payments to a value of £1,740.47 was approved. | Clerk | |
| 16 | **Project List:**  Councillor Kiddy ran through the latest updated Project List. The Living Willow structure is actually doing quite well. Councillors Bennett and Smith will cut some new whips from the river Willow trees (Charles Ryder has agreed to this) to replace those stems that have died.  Councillor Spires said that the archive group needed 2 more photo albums to preserve the pictures. This was approved.  It was suggested that perhaps a donations bucket might be used at the archive exhibition.  The Hog Roast/Horkey celebration date was agreed for June and either 11th or 18th. Clerk to liaise with Hog Roast supplier on this change of date. | HB/AS  PS  PS/Clerk  Clerk | |
| 17 | **Matters for consideration at the next meeting:**  None |  | |
| 18 | **Village events notified:**  24/25th February - archive exhibition at Village Hall |  | |
| 19 | **Dates for next meetings:**  The next meeting dates are: 15th March 2017, 26th April (Annual Village Meeting), 17th May (Annual Parish Council Meeting), 28th June (approve 2016/17 accounts before 30th June deadline), 13th September and 15th November |  | |
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There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm