**GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th November 2015 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), two members of the public (part) and Clerk John Barnett.

**Open Forum:**

Councillor Mary Evans said that the drainage problem at Bluebell Cottage reported at the last meeting was on the Highways list and the white lining at Clarendale also. Suffolk County Council has a contract with the Police to deliver Speed Awareness courses which has provided funds to purchase a small speed van for the rural areas and which should be very effective in the village. It is hoped to be able to coordinate its presence with the Vehicular Activated Sign at the same time at another location in the village. Clerk asked whether they could have any speed 'radar' signs for the Vehicular Activated Sign poles when the unit was elsewhere. Mary said there had been problems with that but she would ask again. She has had a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner with regard to theft of lead from churches and she had been assured that it was a high priority response to any information from members of the public. Smart water is something worthwhile. Suffolk County Council is facing more cuts so in an attempt to bring in more income they are setting up a company in conjunction with Forest Heath and West Suffolk to use their land to build homes rather than simply sell it to a developer. A major consultation on the future of the Fire Service is now underway and they would like as many members of the public as possible to have their say on this.

A member of the public said that the Village Hall financial situation is dire. Both the cleaner and the gardener have been laid off and they are now dependent upon volunteers to keep the hall clean. This is not a situation that can go on for much longer. There are a lot of ideas to try to generate more interest in using the hall but that might take more time than the finances will allow. The Chairman thanked the member of the public for coming to the meeting and letting the Parish Council know the state of the Village Hall finances and said that the Parish Council was to debate this situation later in the evening and would let the VHMC know what they could do to help.

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| **Item** |  | **Action** | |
| 1 | **Apologies for absence:**  Borough Councillor Jane Midwood |  | |
| 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 September 2015 were approved and signed together with the payments approved at that meeting. |  | |
| 4 | **Matters arising from the minutes:**   1. Village sign post. Clerk said that they are now waiting a date from Charles Ryder as to when Will Pallett will be coming to the village to lift the pole into position. Councillor Bennett said that this was much the same situation as before and this whole process had taken far too long. Clerk said that because of trying to keep the cost as low as possible we used services that were free of charge. Councillors said that it was not possible to dictate when a service would become available if you don't pay for it. Clerk said that Charles Ryder had offered the use of his petrol driven concrete mixer which will be required once the pole is in position. Clerk will order the ballast from Field Compost in Thurlow to coincide with the pole hoist and collect the cement from B & Q so that there is minimum delay. 2. Great Bradley Facebook page. Clerk said the number of members is now 135 and continues to grow. It is possible that the number of people at the Bonfire which was double last year was to a large extent the result of it being on Facebook. 3. Clarendale pavements. Councillor Smith said that they had now been tarmaced and looked very good. Councillor Evans was thanked for this. | |  |
| 5 | **Suffolk County Council:**  Covered in Open Forum |  | |
| 6 | **Suffolk Police:**  No report |  | |
| 7 | **St Edmundsbury Borough Council:**  Councillor Jane Midwood had sent a report:  *I am sorry that I am unable to be with you tonight. I am sure you will let me know if anything comes up that I should know about.*  *For the villages of the ward, my main concern currently is the proposed North East Haverhill development at Great Wilsey Farm. The development is very large and I do not believe that traffic issues have been addressed. As the plans stand, it will lead to greatly increased traffic through the Wrattings, Thurlows and Bradleys.*  *I was delighted that Great Bradley’s application for funding from my Locality Budget (for the Village Hall bell repairs) appears to have been approved according to the latest update on what remains in my budget.* |  | |
| 8 | **Highways matters:**   1. Light out at the junction of Evergreen Lane and The Street 2. Spring Barn flooding needs to be reported. Need to check if there is a drain there first. | Clerk | |
| 9 | **Planning applications:**  None |  | |
| 10 | **Correspondence:**   1. Village Hall request to take over funding of garden upkeep and consideration of any further assistance that may be necessary. The approval of £500 towards the bell tower repairs was welcomed. Simon has a contact who would do a good job and Clerk is trying to set up a meeting with him at the hall. Councillor Smith said that she thought Pete Smith had already given a quotation to Edward Fletcher - Clerk to chase this too.  There was considerable discussion regarding the state of the Village Hall finances and their request for help. It was felt that the paid Village Hall cleaner should not have been stopped as it is a public venue and needs to be clean, hygienic and welcoming. Also you cannot rely upon volunteers to continue to do this type of job for any length of time. The gardening is something that should require little attention over the Winter and that decision could be left to the Spring and possibly something that volunteers could do in any case.  The Council decided the following action:    1. The cleaner, Elaine, should be re-instated immediately and the Parish Council will cover the cost to the end of the financial year    2. A donation of £500 is to be made to the Village Hall immediately    3. The VHMC must have a plan of action and it must be presented at the Annual Village Meeting on 13th April 2016 where the state of the Village Hall finances will be the major item on the agenda    4. Copies of the accounts updated to be supplied at least for Parish Council meetings in January and March and the Annual Village Meeting    5. The Parish Council will take over the bell housing repair project using the Locality Budget grant    6. The Parish Council will take over the manhole covers project using the existing budget in the Parish Council budget This plan of action to be communicated to the VHMC immediately 2. Request for Parish Council to pay for an evening at the Village Hall on the history of RAF Stradishall presented by Jock Whitehouse and Mike Pettitt. This was agreed. | Clerk  Clerk  Clerk | |
| 11 | **Possible defibrillator for the village at the Village Hall:**  There was a recent Heart Restart evening training course at the Village Hall given by the Lead Resuscitation Officer at Addenbrookes. At this course suggestions were put forward that the village should have a defibrillator available for immediate use in an emergency and that it could be made available on an exterior wall of the Village Hall. Councillor Kiddy said that he had been approached by a member of the public with a view to gifting the village the defibrillator leaving the Parish Council to just pay for the exterior box.  There was some discussion as to the use/usefulness of such an emergency item but those who had attended the course were able to show how it would be used and how user friendly they are and others said how it could have been useful in past life/death situations in the village. As an indication as to how useful they could be the Clerk said he had received an email from the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team saying that after a recent incident in one of their villages involving the use of a defibrillator they wanted a full list of villages that have one.  It was agreed that the purchase of an exterior box is to go in the budget for next year. | Clerk | |
| 12 | **Pre-budget planning:**  It was agreed to include the following items in the draft budgets ready for the next meeting:   1. Possibly move the church dog bin to nearer the river footpath or concrete road 2. Village Hall - likely needs 3. Big Lunch on/near Queen's birthday 4. Defibrillator exterior wall box 5. Dog bin bag boxes + bags 6. Adult/child swing seat 7. Everedge metal edging for Glade 8. Village Hall Drain covers 9. Village Hall bell housing repair   Clerk will send round the usual up to 4 alternative draft budgets options well in advance of the next meeting to assist Councillors with their deliberations | Clerk | |
| 13 | **Village allotments:**  Clerk said that the shed was ready for erection but that Charles was waiting for a good frost to harden the ground first so it was likely to be in Jan/Feb. It cannot be delayed long after that as we only have till end of March to obtain the approved grant from Havebury. | Clerk | |
| 14 | **Bonfire Night:**  Clerk gave a summary of the finances from the evening which showed an unusual surplus for the evening. The consensus was that it was a very successful evening with a massive bonfire and the best display of fireworks so far. The sale of food and drink had gone up from £334 last year to £460 this year and entrance collections from £304 to £509. The numbers attending had been estimated at 180 which is nearly double the normal. This might be attributable to the evening being put on the Great Bradley Facebook page. Councillor Kiddy said thanks should be given to all who helped before and on the day. |  | |
| 15 | **Recreation Area:**   1. Clerk said that Bag It and Bin It notices had gone up on the dog-walking paths thanks to Councillor Smith. He said he hadn't put Great Bradley Parish Council on the posters so no one knew it was the Parish Council had actually organised it. Any replacement notices will be rectified. 2. Glade area edging in need of repair/renewal. Clerk gave the cost of plastic edging as £337 but the reviews on the product were not favourable and it would be unlikely to be suitable for a public area. The cost of metal edging 125mm from Everedge together with their 'pin and sleeve' which gives a more sturdy system is £517 + VAT with free delivery. There was discussion as to whether any edging was needed at all but it was decided that it should be in that area. The metal edging would be included in the draft budgets. | Clerk  Clerk | |
| 16 | **Finance:**   1. Clerk asked for approval to order a new Bushnell 101911 radar gun and 2 tripods for roadside warning signs at an approximate cost of £170 for the Community Speedwatch group of volunteers. There will be no eventual cost to the Parish for this as the full sum will be recovered from Community Speedwatch Group South bank account. 2. Accounts for approval/payment. A total of 15 payments to a value of £2620.73 were approved. | Clerk  Clerk | |
| 17 | **Project List:**  Councillors had been provided with an updated list for the meeting. |  | |
| 18 | **Village Events notified:**   1. 26th November - Afternoon drop in club at Village Hall 2pm 2. 28th November - Quiz at Village Hall 7pm 3. 20th January - Parish Council meeting at Village Hall 7.30pm (budget and set Precept meeting) 4. Jan/Feb date/time to be arranged - History of RAF Stradishall at Village Hall |  | |
| 19 | **Matters for consideration at the next meeting:**  None requested |  | |
| 20 | **Dates for next meetings:**  The next meeting dates are: 20th January 2016 (Budget and set Precept), 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 9.30pm