**GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 20th January 2016 at the Village Hall

**Present**:

Councillors: Simon Kiddy (Chairman), Karina Joyce (Vice-chairman), Helen Bennett, Nicky Pizey,

Anne Smith, Pat Spires. Also two members of the public (part) and Clerk John Barnett.

**Open Forum:**

The new owner of Sheppeys introduced his father and himself to the meeting. They were interested as to whether there was a Neighbourhood Plan or anything similar that they might need to be aware of when doing the necessary work on the property. Clerk said it was a small village so a N.P. had not been done and it was not a Conservation Area either. The owner said he would be talking with the Planning Department at West Suffolk in any event.

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| **Item** |  | **Action** | |
| 1 | **Apologies for absence:**  Borough Councillor Jane Midwood, County Councillor Mary Evans and PCSO Anthony Welford |  | |
| 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 18th November 2015 were approved and signed together with the payments approved at that meeting. |  | |
| 4 | **Matters arising from the minutes:**  Village sign post. Clerk said that the new post was in position and thanks went to the volunteers who had helped and Charles Ryder who provided the digger and driver and Colin and Stephen who also helped. Because of the problem of bolting into the back of the sign the Clerk took the sign back to the manufacturer yesterday for assistance/advice. They said they will bolt the sign to the brackets so that it only remained to bolt the brackets back onto the post. Clerk will take the brackets and the post dimensions. There should be a relatively quick turnaround at the manufacturer who will also apply another coat of varnish. | |  |
| 5 | **Suffolk County Council:**  County Councillor Mary Evans had said she had 5 meetings this evening and might not make it. In that case she had sent a report:  *I took up with the new Chief Constable the letter sent out just before Christmas re the possibility of parishes combining to match fund PCSOs and told him that the timing of the letter, once most parishes had set their precepts, was most unhelpful. A new letter will be issued shortly.*  *However, as budgets get tighter I think it will become very important for parishes to  co-operate and share information so that we can work together on the key local issues. Accordingly I am planning to hold a meeting for all parish council chairmen/women in the Clare Division so we can get together, discuss the problems that concern us most and get some action.*  *One of the big events of the coming year will be the celebrations for the Queen’s 90th birthday. SCC has agreed to waive fees for road closures for street parties but please if you do plan to hold a street party make sure to apply asap for the road closure as these take quite a while to process.*  *Re broadband: I know those of you living close to the cabinet have very good speeds but for those further afield - details of the coverage planned up until September 2016 have now been released on the Better Broadband for Suffolk website at:* [*www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com*](http://www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com/)*.*  *Details of coverage planned for later phases will be released in due course - initially it had been hoped that full details of the phased rollout of the scheme could be announced in autumn 2015, but these are still being finalised. Community meetings are being planned across the county shortly to share plans with local communities, and to get input from residents, landowners and businesses on how to extend coverage in their areas as far as possible.*  *Also in December, the council announced the public launch of a basic broadband service to fulfil the Government’s commitment that everyone should have the option of access to a broadband service of at least 2Mbps by the end of 2015. The scheme, which provides broadband by satellite, had been trialled in Suffolk ahead of the public launch.  It is intended as an interim solution for businesses and homes that currently get less than 2Mbps, and which are not included in the planned coverage in the next 12 months. Eligible people can now apply for a voucher (value about £300) to cover the initial installation and commissioning costs of a satellite broadband receiver.  A guide and application form for the satellite broadband scheme can be found on the Better Broadband for Suffolk website at* [*www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com*](http://www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com/)  *I know I mentioned it last time, but do please take part in the consultation on the future of the fire service -*  [*https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/emergency-and-rescue/fire-service-redesign/*](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/emergency-and-rescue/fire-service-redesign/)  *There are no major changes proposed for Clare, Wickhambrook or Haverhill fire stations but the fire service is looking at ways to ensure more retained firefighters are on call at any time so engines can be called out. Ideas being looked at are to increase crew size so there is a bigger pool to draw on and also launching a campaign to explain to employers the benefits of having a retained firefighter on their staff for example they will find they have someone who has up to date first aid, health and safety and fire risk assessment  training – with all that training provided by the fire service. SFRS officers are encouraging people to attend meetings across the county so that their views can be taken into account before the proposals are finalised and any decisions are made.* ***The consultation closes on 22 February 2016.***  *These public meetings are as follows:*   * *28 Jan 2016 – Wrentham – Village Hall, 6.30pm-8.30pm* * *01 Feb 2016 – Lowestoft – Riverside Centre, 6.30pm-8.30pm* * *03 Feb 2016 – Sudbury – Town Hall, 6.30pm-8.30pm* |  | |
| 6 | **Suffolk Police:**  Apologies were received from the Police - For future reference PCSO Anthony Welford emailed to say that:  *We don’t do bespoke reports any more but we will make you aware of any trending crimes in the area.*  The Police had sent a large report on severe cuts being made to the number of PCSOs and asking for Parishes to take on the cost themselves. The short timescale made it impossible to make any meaningful discussion with other Parish Councils. |  | |
| 7 | **St Edmundsbury Borough Council:**  Councillor Jane Midwood had sent a report:  ***Community Governance Review***  *At a recent St Edmundsbury Full Council meeting I spoke on behalf of the Withersfield Ward to express my deep concerns about the North East Haverhill (Great Wilsey Farm) Development plans as set out in St Edmundsbury’s Vision 2031 document and included in the Community Governance Review consultation. A development of this size (approx. 4,500 new homes) will have an enormous impact on neighbouring village communities.*  ***West Suffolk Operational Hub***  *Recently a note has been placed in your emptied wheelie bins about the West Suffolk Operational Hub consultation. This concerns the public consultation about the site for the proposed relocation of waste management and operational facilities to a single site somewhere near Bury St Edmunds. Various sites have been put forward for consideration and your Parish Clerk should have details and documents for anyone interested.*  *The Hub will be a joint effort between St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Forest Heath District Council and Suffolk County Council and will be far more efficient and cost effective than the present multi site system.*  ***Brown Bin Waste***  *One of the changes that will take place is the way that our brown bin waste is treated – it will no longer be heated to a high temperature as currently happens and will be windrow composted in the open air. This is a much cheaper option but it will affect what we are allowed to put in the bins. In future only “garden” waste will be acceptable but there is some confusion as to what constitutes “garden” waste. In the words of a colleague – “if you trim your leeks in the vegetable garden that is garden waste but if you trim your leeks in the kitchen that is kitchen waste” – or will it? Who will know the difference once it’s in the bin?*  ***Great Bradley***  *I am delighted that I have been able to secure Locality Funding for your Village Hall* |  | |
| 8 | **Highways matters:**   1. Footpath sign down at the junction of Clarendale with Matthews Lane. Councillor Smith said it only pointed up the Lane and was therefore not a priority for the Parish Council to rectify itself. 2. Letter received from a Parishioner regarding the poor state of Hall Road out beyond East Green. The letter states that the increasing number and sizes of vehicles is destroying the verges. Over considerable stretches the road is effectively single carriageway (particularly up the hill to the Three Tuns) without passing places. One solution would be to create dedicated passing places properly constituted and tarmaced. Clerk to contact Highways. 3. Other matters to report to Highways. Councillor Smith said that Water Lane edges had fallen away creating a central hump. Councillor Kiddy agreed and said that vehicles with lower ground clearance could suffer damage. Councillor Kiddy reported the Evergreen Lane exit into Evergreen Lane where the road surface was lifting in places. Clerk to report these matters also. | Clerk  Clerk | |
| 9 | **Planning applications:**  None |  | |
| 10 | **Correspondence:**  The Care Quality Commission is holding a 'public listening event' at The Apex on 3rd March from 6 - 7.30pm. They want to hear from everyone about their experience of the services provided by West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust i.e. primarily West Suffolk and Newmarket hospitals and Haverhill Health centre. |  | |
| 11 | **Village Hall:**   1. Update from the joint meeting with the VHMC on 8th January. Councillor Kiddy said that one of the outcomes was that the Parish Council would take over any large scale purchases particularly anything that would attract VAT which the Parish Council could recover.  The VHMC had agreed to postpone their resignations from their AGM in March until after the Annual Village Meeting in April. It is then that the crisis could be explained to everyone and the absolute necessity to recruit new/extra volunteers to help and/or become Committee members put forward. The VHMC have made it clear that a lack of response to this will likely lead to no VHMC being formed afterwards. 2. Proposal to purchase a new fridge for the Village Hall. The fridge has failed and needs replacement. The proposal was agreed. Clerk to source a suitable larder fridge locally. 3. Bell Housing. It was agreed that the Clerk should go ahead with the grant application to Awards for All for assistance with the historic bell housing on the Hall. | Clerk  Clerk | |
| 12 | **Defibrillator at the Village Hall:**  Clerk reported that the application to the British Heart Foundation had been successful and we were going to receive a defibrillator, exterior case and full training kit. An article is going into the next Bugle appealing for any electrician in the village to put the case on an exterior wall of the Hall and connect it to the necessary power. Clerk said he had spoken to Liz Whittaker who was very pleased and she offered to run a series of drop-in sessions over the course of a month for training purposes.  There is still the offer of another defibrillator gratis for which a case would be required. Clerk said he may be able to obtain this from BHF also but a period of time would need to elapse before putting another application in. In the meantime it might be prudent to include a sum of £500 in the budget for a case although hopefully this would not be needed. Should a second defibrillator be acquired the suggestion is to place it on one of the barns close to the church as statistics show that sadly a number of fatalities from heart attacks actually occur in church. Clerk said that he had approached Charles Ryder about the possibility of putting it on one of his barns and he was very supportive. | Clerk | |
| 13 | **Village allotments:**  Clerk said that the situation remained the same in that the shed was ready for erection but that Charles was waiting for a good frost to harden the ground first. This was likely to be in February. It cannot be delayed long after that as we only have till end of March to obtain the approved grant from Havebury. | Clerk | |
| 14 | **Transparency Fund:**  Clerk said he was delighted to be able to report that the application had been successful and the Council would be receiving £958 from the fund. This is for the purchase of a dedicated Parish Council laptop and scanner. Also included are set up funds for a new fast connection at the Village Hall and running costs for around a year together with any training costs for uploading all the relevant Parish Council information to the internet. Decisions on what is actually purchased can be postponed until the next financial year. |  | |
| 15 | **Litter pick:** This is to be on Saturday 2nd April. All welcome to come and help. Councillor Smith offered to organise the refreshments. Reminder to go in the March edition of the Bugle. | AS  Clerk | |
| 16 | **Grasscutting contracts for 2016:**   1. Recreation Area and churchyard. It was agreed to continue on the same terms with Robin Stokes with thanks for all the extra information that he provides whenever necessary. 2. Footpaths. It was agreed to continue with Great Bradley Farms Co on the same terms as this year. This contract is fully refunded by Suffolk County Council. | Clerk  Clerk | |
| 17 | **Recreation Area:**  Councillor Smith was thanked for laminating and putting up the 'Bag it and Bin it' notices. These were considered an excellent addition. Councillor Smith also thanked the Clerk for putting up the spare dog bin close by the entrance to the Permissive Path. When full Councillor Smith said she would will take the bag to the central litter bin. Clerk said he would let Councillor Smith have all the spare rubbish bags from past litter picks for use in this bin. | AS  Clerk | |
| 18 | **Finance:**   1. Proposal to approve the new Sector Led Body for external audit purposes. There is no realistic alternative to this NALC/SALC recommended proposal as each individual Parish Council would have to set up their own external auditor at a greatly increased cost. The likely cost is to be around £100 which would give cover for any requested audit over a 5 year period. This is about 20% of the current external audit cost. This was approved. 2. Set Budget and Precept demand for 2016/17. Various items in the suggested budgets were discussed. The Clerk's salary was approved to be increased by £100. With the continuing uncertainty over the future of the Village Hall it was thought prudent to put in an increase in the Precept from this year. Suggested Budget B with a Precept of £10,600, an increase of £1,000 from this year, was approved. Clerk to complete the paperwork and ensure it is with St Edmundsbury Borough Council in due time. 3. Ideas from the budget discussions. It was suggested that at this year's Bonfire Night the entrance to the field be made narrower in order to ensure all visitors pass closer to the donation bucket holders. Clerk to arrange with Stephen. The Village Hall manhole new covers and repairs need to be expedited. Nicky said she knew 2 builders from her contacts at school and she will speak to them. 4. Accounts for approval/payment. A total of 21 payments to a value of £2,594.75 was approved. | Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  NP  Clerk | |
| 19 | **Project List:**  Councillor Kiddy ran through the latest updated Project List. |  | |
| 20 | **Village Events notified:**   1. 21st April - Traditional Cream Tea at the Village Hall to celebrate the Queen's birthday 2. Coffee Caravan visits - 14th June at the Village Hall to celebrate the Queen's official birthday. Also on 14th September at Clarendale. 3. Quiz Night at the Village Hall on March 12th. |  | |
| 21 | **Matters for consideration at the next meeting:**  There is a need to impress upon the village the seriousness of the Village Hall situation and that the results from Annual Village Meeting would decide the future of the hall. Clerk showed the draft agenda attachment to the Bugle stating that a crisis had been reached and asking people to come to the meeting.  Ideas for events to improve the Village Hall income were discussed. It was thought that another quiz should be run (so there would be 2 per year) as it was so successful and some had been unable to get tickets. Councillor Smith said that the 'drop-in' had discussed this and decided they could put it on. The Village Hall Committee had asked for help with events so the Parish Council decided this should go ahead organised by drop-in. There would be no bar offered to keep it simple - everyone to bring their own drinks. The date of Saturday 12th March was chosen.  It was decided to move the tables to the other end of the Village Hall in future for Parish Council meetings as in cold evenings there was a draft by the door. | AS  Clerk | |
| 22 | **Dates for next meetings:**  The next meeting dates are: 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 9.25pm