**GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 20th September 2023 at 7.30pm

**Present**:

Councillors: A. F. Sugg, R. Sylvester-Bradley, C. Boulton, P. Cook, G. Bailey,

**Apologies**:

Parish Clerk: Michelle Thompson

**Open Forum for items not on the agenda:**

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| **Item:** |  | **ACTION:** |
|  | **Apologies for absence.**  Michelle Thompson |  |
|  | **Receive Councillors Declarations of Interest regarding any agenda item.**  None. |  |
|  | **Forum - 10 minutes is set aside for members of the public to raise any village matter on the agenda.**  None |  |
|  | **Minutes of 28th June 23 and 7th July 23**  Minutes confirmed without change, approved and signed by the chair. |  |
| **.** | **Matters arising from these minutes**   1. **Hedges on the east side of “The Street”**   The Landowner addressed the matter swiftly and effectively (The Council signs still in place, presumably pertaining to their road-edge programme)   1. **Handrail wooden bridge southeast of Clarendale (“Anne’s Bridge)**   This still requires attention. The Council is to correspond with G. Chafer**.**   1. **Replacement Trees on Clarendale**   The stumps remain to be ground down.  The Clerk is to enquire with W.S.D.C. and S.C.C. about any plans for replacement trees – especially to avoid reoccurrence of disease.   1. **Printer Costs and Use**   The Clerk is to explore the possibility of using the money saved from not leasing the printer into the producing the extra editions of the Bugle.   1. **Grasscutting/Weedkilling 2024**   The path along the northern edge of the green is now weed-free, however, this  needs physically clearing and specific weedkiller to minimise reoccurrence.  Recreational Mowing – Having checked, the cost of grass collection is prohibitive.  There has also been a request from a member of public for a two-metre exclusion zone  around the edge of the Rec. for the May mowing, to encourage wildflowers.  The Clerk is to follow this up in due course.   1. **Ownership/Maintenance of Clarendale (Manhole cover)**   Discussion between W.S.D.C and S.C.C continues. The Clerk is to chase the progress on this and renew contact with the District Council, to request repair of the manhole cover.  Also, questions have arisen about grass cutting and thus ownership of land and roundabout in Evergreen Lane. It was suggested that maybe we obtain further details from the Land Registry at a cost of £7) to clarify the situation. The Clerk to investigate further enquiries.   1. **Planning (Mill House and Farm Track)**   New plans are under discussion. Farm Track de facto approved.   1. **Training for new Councillors**   Cllr. Cook and Cllr. Boulton will attend two training sessions in October and up- date the Council on the content and value of the course | CB  CB  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk  PC  Clerk  CB |
|  | **Transition to new Parish Clerk**  The new Parish Clerk began on 11th September 23 with a handover from the locum.  Authorised by Cllr. Boulton to purchase a new laptop as budgeted and as deputed in item 4 (ii) of meeting of 24th August.  The Clerk is exploring the continuing complication with Office 365 | Clerk |
|  | **West Suffolk District Council Report – Cllr Indy Wijenyaka**  Nothing to report |  |
|  | **Suffolk County Council Report – Cllr Bobby Bennett**  Nothing to report. Update sent by Bobby Bennett by email.  *(See Attached)*  Councillor Bennett’s email drew attention to the planning application for an anaerobic digestion facility *(See item 10)* |  |
|  | **Highways and Public Footpaths *(any matters to report)***   1. The Hedge near 12 Evergreen Lane is overgrown and obstructing the path to the Village Hall. The Clerk has been asked to contact W.S.D.C 2. The trees on the property of Yew Tree Cottage are obscuring the street lights and therefore giving poor visibility on the opposite footpath. The Clerk is to approach Council / Highways and request that they be trimmed. | Clerk  Clerk |
|  | **Planning Applications**  **DC/23/1427/AG1** Determination in respect of permitted agricultural development - a. single barn for storing agricultural equipment b. access track | Water Lane Great Bradley Suffolk (Application to determine if prior approval is required). No Parish Council comment invited  **SCC/0045/23SE -** Construction and operation of an anaerobic digestion facility, associated infrastructure and new access road, connecting pipeline and covered digestate lagoons.  Proposition suggests use of Thurlow Estate tracks, Common Rd, Skippers Lane, Silver St, A1307  **Council members** invited to consider implications. Initial views suggest that transport / traffic will have little effect on traffic along the B1061 | All |
|  | **Village Hall: any matters to report.**  The Village Hall has been decorated. It seems likely that the defibrillator will need replacing soon, together with its box costing between £1500+£800. Consideration for funding will be given in the November Meeting within the Budget | All |
|  | **Speedwatch group-update for co-ordinator P Hart**  No report was provided  The Parish Council expressed their interest in having their own vehicle-activated speed-warning system in the village. The Clerk to consult with P Hart and explore costs and implications. | Clerk |
|  | **Consideration of bus services**  It was decided to once again look into the possibility of re-introducing of a Haverhill-Newmarket bus services) for Gt Bradley residents. The Clerk was asked to draft a letter of support from the Parishioners | Clerk |
|  | **Recreation Area**: *To discuss any matters highlighted by the annual and most recent monthly report and regular checks of play and fitness equipment.*  It was reported that Hedges and Glade need trimming to maintain thoroughfares.  The Clerkto instigate this.  Regular weekly check required by the insurance continue to done.Table Tennis Bats and Balls are now out and all equipment is checked weekly.  The annual and monthly play area reports have been received. Cllr. Boulton has reviewed the reports, checked equipment and written and circulated to Councillors a detailed assessment of potential actions to be taken. These were discussed.   * The Council have decided unanimously upon a Spring programme ready for Summer * to treat the wood, procure, fit and fix caps on nuts, ground bolts, picnic Table fixings) * Also, to extend the service of the Gym Equipment. A quote has also been received * to repair the handle on the exercise bike. The Clerk to get quote for service of all * outdoor gym equipment together with the repair. | Clerk  Clerk  Clerk |
|  | **Finance**   1. Accounts for payment/cheques required to date.   This was circulated to and approved by all  Revised version circulated.   1. Budget update & Bank Reconciliation   This was circulated and approved by all. One minor alteration with the cost of the leasing of the printer.   1. Bank Form for New Parish Clerk   The Form was signed to enable Parish Clerk to be added on to the Bank Account  The Clerk to send all relevant documentation to the Bank   1. A Request for a grant for the Community was discussed and will be included in next year’s budget considerations. The Clerk is to make a note of this. | CB / Clerk  Clerk |
|  | **Risk Assessment - update**  This has been reviewed by Cllr. Boulton. The Clerk will assist Cllr. Boulton in updating the Assessment. | CB / Clerk |
|  | **Village Projects**  Preparations for Firework Event – All preparations have been completed including Safety courses and a big thank you to Charles Ryder for giving us permission to use his land. and the bonfire is beginning to take shape.  Bulb Planting and Village Garden. The Parish Council have decided to review what the Great Bradley needs from a Village Garden, its uses and maintenance.  The Council will canvas the village in due course to gain opinions.  Litter Pick – Council have decided unanimously to postpone to the Spring. | All |
|  | **Matters for consideration for the next and future meetings**  Risk assessment review  Review of bonfire / fireworks – lessons to be captured  Budget preparation – The Clerk to circulate notes / draft before next meeting  Actions arising from audit and review of processes  Dates for 2024 meetings  Date of next meeting: 22nd November 2023, | Clerk  All |
|  | There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance  and declared the meeting closed at 21:05. pm |  |