**GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21st January 2015 at the Village Hall

**Present**:

Councillors: Simon Kiddy, Chairman, Karina Joyce, Vice-Chairman (part), Helen Bennett, Nicky Pizey,   
Pat Spires, Rowan Sylvester-Bradley. Also St Edmundsbury Borough Council Mayor Robert Everitt (part), St Edmundsbury Borough Councillor Robert Clifton-Brown (part), County Councillor Mary Evans (part) and Clerk John Barnett.

**Open Forum:**

Nothing raised.

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| **Item** |  | **Action** | |
| 1 | **Welcome to the Mayor of St Edmundsbury Borough Council:**  The Mayor of St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Robert Everitt, was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman. The Mayor said that he was here to give thanks to the Parish Councillors who do give so much time, effort and commitment on behalf of their communities. He presented the Council with a heraldic scroll celebrating the 800 years since Magna Carta when the Barons convened a meeting in Bury St Edmunds to agree to force the King to their demands. It was felt that this should be framed and put up in the Village Hall. |  | |
| 2 | **Apologies for absence:**  Councillors Anne Smith. Karina Joyce had advised she would be able to join the meeting later |  | |
| 3 | **Councillors Declarations of Interest in any item on the agenda:**  None declared. |  | |
| 4 | **Minutes of the last meeting:**  The minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council on 26th November 2014 were approved and signed together with the cheques approved at that meeting. |  | |
| 5 | **Matters arising from the minutes:**   1. The Clerk said that 4 plants had been taken from the Village Garden and he had replaced 2 of these. The others will be obtained when they are more likely to be available in the Spring at garden centres. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley suggested some means of electronic surveillance but, given the low cost of replacement of the plants, it was agreed to see if any further thefts take place. 2. Living Willow structure. This item was discussed after Councillor Joyce had joined the meeting. The Dome/Children's Playhouse is due for delivery 10th February. The area to be used would be prepared on February 19/20th ready for planting on 21st. Councillors Joyce and Pizey agreed to organise. 3. Village sign. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that he felt the use of a 7" pole was essential and that for safety it should be either itself, or a substantial metal socket, buried in concrete. There was concerned expressed that a post above ground could be subject to theft. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that he thought that Mackays could make the socket. Councillor Pizey said her husband could assist with suppliers for this.  The siting of the new post/sign was discussed and it was hoped that it could be put alongside the old site. 4. Village Hall manhole refurbishments. Clerk reported he is still waiting for the go-ahead from the Village Hall Chairman to get quotations from Charles Ryder's contact. He will chase up. | | Clerk  KJ/NP  Clerk  Clerk |
| 6 | **Suffolk Police:**  Councillor Bennett said she had been to the meeting in Clare regarding the imminent closure of Clare Police station. The lease has been extended by 6 months to give time for a consultation. Everyone was assured that any move to relocate the Rural Officers to Haverhill would not affect the status of the Officers and they would continue to be used only on rural issues. In Haverhill they would benefit from daily briefings from senior officers. The fact remains that only 2 - 3 members of the public use the Clare Police station each week and even then it's not a face-to-face consultation but intercom. It is felt to be a waste of resources. |  | |
| 7 | **Suffolk County Council:**  County Councillor Mary Evans reiterated the remarks on the Police station closure and said the Police have to find savings of £16m out of a budget of £124m.  She is keen to get the VAS underway and with the Thurlows still awaiting site assessments suggests that Great Bradley and Cowlinge go in immediately with Hargrave who are also ready to go. She will attempt to get the manufacturers to demonstrate the different options to the Councils. A data recorder will be ordered as part of the kit which will give essential information to the Parishes, Suffolk County Council and Police. Clerk can now send in the form to order the 3 poles at a cost of £450.  Councillor Evans said that she will also include 2 'radar area' signs which can go on the poles when they are not in use.  There is to be a meeting tomorrow to discuss the white lining of the Clarendale junction. | Clerk | |
| 8 | **Highways matters:**  Nothing raised. |  | |
| 9 | **Planning applications:**  One application was subject to consultation by the Council:  DC/14/2419/FUL Oak Stud, East Green. New dwelling with detached cartlodge for use in conjunction with Great Bradley Oak Stud.  The Council discussed the application and no objection was raised.  Clerk to report this to St Edmundsbury Borough Council. | Clerk | |
| 10 | **Correspondence:**   1. An offer to provide a seat for the village has come from the Russo family who lived in Clarendale in the 1980s. This is in memory of their late mother who had fond memories of her time in Great Bradley. The suggestion for siting of the seat from the family is perhaps on the Recreation Area and after discussion Councillor Joyce suggested that near the Clarendale entrance to the Recreation Area would be most appropriate. This was agreed and Councillor Kiddy will liaise with their son on this. 2. West Suffolk (aka St Edmundsbury Borough Council) has sent information that there will be costs associated with any contested election in May of around £400. This is to be included in the budget. 3. A legal briefing from NALC has been received giving information for Parish Councils with a turnover not exceeding £25,000 (which includes Great Bradley) on the new Transparency Code. The requirement for an external audit is dropped and replaced by the need to publish detailed information on a Parish Council website (if there is one) or otherwise the Borough Council website. Clerk said he had spoken to Mike Brophy about putting it on the village website and he is happy with that. Clerk to have a meeting with Mike on how to upload the information. | SK  Clerk  Clerk | |
| 11 | **Village allotments:**  Clerk said there were now 13 applications for allotments. He said he had had an onsite meeting with Charles Ryder, Stephen Steward and a representative from Bidwells. There is a huge amount of work to be done to clear the area, create an access, provide a water supply and prepare the ground and measure the allotments out. The Parish Council has offered to financially assist in some way and Charles has suggested that a contribution could be made towards the proposed hut/shed and lockers for all users. This was agreed as very suitable and discussion ensued as to possible cost of shed/lockers and it was proposed to include a sum of £1,000 in the budget for this. Clerk said he had in mind the possibility of a grant from Havebury to assist with this.  There was thanks from the Parish Council for the huge amount of time, effort and cost that Charles Ryder is putting behind all this for the benefit of the village.  Councillor Spires raised concerns about possible speeding traffic in that section of Matthews Lane where the allotments will be sited being outside the 30mph limit. Clerk said that Charles Ryder had said that he was happy for there to be a walk through from the end of Clarendale round to the new allotments which would assist in keeping people off the road. | Clerk | |
| 12 | **Parish Council printer lease finishing:**  Clerk said that the printer lease is due to expire in April and the Council needs to have its forward option in place by then. A new quotation from STP is unsatisfactory in that it doesn't cover the expected usage. Clerk said he is going back to them for a further quote. The alternative is to purchase a printer and pay for the toners as needed. It would appear to be a more expensive option than the current lease cost and Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that there was always the problem of servicing, breakdowns and replacement of parts when their life expires. For budget purposes it was agreed to put up the annual likely cost of the Bugle to £1,500.  To go on the next agenda. | Clerk  Clerk | |
| 13 | **Set grasscutting contracts for 2015:**   1. Recreation Area and churchyard. Clerk said that he had received a concern that the Recreation Area appeared not to have been cut so regularly this year. Clerk said this could be a result of the price reduction agreed this year. The Council proposed the price should be raised from £88.75 combined to £100 (+12.7%). Clerk to contact the contractor on this. 2. Footpaths. Clerk said that Charles Ryder is keeping the cost the same for this year again at £250. | Clerk | |
| 14 | **Finance:**   1. Set Budget and Precept for 2015/16. Considerable discussion took place and various budget items were approved as follows:    1. Clerk's salary increased by £100 to £3150    2. Bugle newsletter printing to £1,500    3. Grasscutting Recreation Area + churchyard increased from £910 to £1026    4. Village Hall donation £1,000 covering annual donation and manhole covers donation    5. Broadband provision at the Village Hall was felt no longer necessary    6. Allotments provision £1,000    7. Basket swing £1,600 which will cover about 50% of the cost. Clerk to attempt to obtain grants for the remainder and if not successful then a similar sum in next year's budget will secure the item.    8. Big Lunch/Waterloo celebrations £200    9. Parish Council elections £400 The Precept was agreed at £9,600. Clerk to ensure the form is sent to St Edmundsbury Borough Council by the end of the month. 2. Accounts for approval/payment. A total of 9 payments to a value of £1498.38 were all approved. | Clerk  Clerk | |
| 15 | **Litter pick:**  The date of 28th March for the village Litter Pick was noted. |  | |
| 16 | **Suggestion of a Facebook page for the village:**  There was discussion on this but it was not felt necessary. |  | |
| 17 | **Project List:**  The updating of the Project List was held over to the next meeting. |  | |
| 18 | **Village Events notified:**  Willow Dome planting February 28th.  Litter Pick March 28th. |  | |
| 19 | **Matters for consideration at the next meeting:**  Printer lease. |  | |
| 20 | **Dates for next meetings:**  Councillor Sylvester-Bradley asked if the 20th May date could be changed but there was no suitable alternative.  The next meeting dates are 18th March 2015, 15th April (Annual Village Meeting), 20th May (Annual Parish Council Meeting - first meeting of the new Council after the elections),  24th June (last legal date before 30th June to approve 2014/15 accounts) and 16th September. |  | |

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 10.05pm