**GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 22nd November 2011 at the Village Hall

**Present**:

Councillors: Rowan Sylvester-Bradley (Chairman), Simon Kiddy (Vice-Chairman), Karina Joyce,

Anne Smith and Sue Willington. Also PCSO Kayla Packman (part), one member of the public and Clerk John Barnett.

**Open Forum:**

The member of the public raised the question of traffic speeding through the village which was particularly concerning if you have children or animals. The question was asked whether it was possible to have having signs which flash the speed at vehicles. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that many different ideas had been considered over the years but that the Police and others had advised that flashing signs, gateways and other traffic calming measures were not effective in other villages and could be very expensive. Community Speedwatch had been set up in the village to help combat this problem and this was run regularly through from Spring to Autumn. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that another look at flashing signs would be made to see their efficacy and the current cost. Clerk

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** |  | **Action** | |
| 1 | **Apologies for absence:**  Councillor K Noakes and County Councillor J Midwood |  | |
| 2 | **Councillors Declarations of Interest in any item on the agenda:**  None declared |  | |
| 3 | **Minutes of the last meeting:**  The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 21st September 2011 were approved and signed together with the cheques approved at that meeting. |  | |
| 4 | **Police report:**  PCSO Kayla Packman said that there had been 2 crimes since the last meeting - an attempted burglary and theft of a lawnmower from a barn. | |  |
| 5 | **Matters arising from the minutes:**   1. Interpretation Panel. Councillor Joyce updated the Council from the last committee meeting. They are in the process of sorting out the text and photos and are hoping to have another meeting in a week or so. The map was discussed regarding size and amount of detail required. 2. Recent local training by Suffolk Association of Local Councils. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that he had attended both sessions and also a planning training session at St Edmundsbury Borough Council. The local training was very worthwhile for both existing and new Councillors. The St Edmundsbury Borough Council training was well attended with about 50 there. 3. Possible diversion of footpath 4. Clerk said that the likely costs may be more than the agent for the owner would recommend. Clerk had been asked if the Parish Council might contribute to the costs perhaps on a 50/50 basis. He had replied that due to the open ended nature of the costs particularly if the diversion is contended would effectively rule that out. Councillor Smith asked whether the farmer/owner might consider a permissive path around the field edge. Councillor Kiddy said that he thought this unlikely as that would mean he had 2 paths to maintain. It was agreed not to pursue this any further at this stage. 4. New grit bins. Clerk said that 2 new bins were now in position and that Highways had said they will come out in the next couple of weeks or so and put grit in free of charge. 5. St Edmundsbury Borough Council Parish Conference. Clerk said that the main item of interest had been the workshop on Neighbourhood Plans. Concern had been expressed by the Borough representative that the new Localism Bill might have an unexpected effect on their Local Development Framework by permitting development where none had been planned. 6. Dog fouling. Councillor Smith said that she had had to contact St Edmundsbury Borough Council with regard to a large dog in the village that had not been under control and had caused problems. 7. Seat at Langacre. Councillor Smith said that Les Bunyan was all set to do this. 8. Bottle Bank possibility. Clerk to bring information to the next meeting on this. 9. Oak Tree in Evergreen Lane. Councillor Smith said she would check with Rod Pass on the situation with the new growth. | | Panel  Committee  Clerk  AS |
| 6 | **Highways:**  There were no matters for reporting to Highways. |  | |
| 7 | **Suffolk County Council:**  No report |  | |
| 8 | **Village Hall:**   1. Councillor Smith said that there was a further V H Committee meeting tomorrow evening. The curtains are due to be replaced shortly. 2. The donation to the Village Hall was discussed and it was agreed to maintain the current level of support for this year. | Clerk | |
| 9 | **Set the Budget and Precept:**  Councillor Sylvester-Bradley ran through the draft budget and the following items were agreed:   1. Broadband at the Village Hall. Due to the flood this had remained unused so far this year. Councillor Smith said she was to see the tutor next week to see if the courses could be started again. 2. The Clerk’s salary. The Council decided to increase the Clerk’s paid hours from 4 to 5. 3. Village Hall maps. It was felt that these could not be funded by the Parish Council next year. Councillor Willington suggested that they could be part of the £500 donation given this year. 4. Village Hall donation would have to be reduced to £250 5. The Jubilee event should be budgeted for £400 and therefore other events would not be budgeted next year. 6. Asset maintenance budget should be £200 7. Village tidy-up budget £100 8. New flags for the village hall flagpole could not be budgeted next year 9. Gazebos could not be budgeted next year 10. New seat for the churchyard budgeted at £350   The Precept was discussed and it was agreed that, with the continuing 10% reduction in grant from St Edmundsbury Borough Council, an increase was required to maintain an adequate reserve. After much discussion Councillor Kiddy proposed the Precept level shown in suggested budget C of £9,600. This was seconded by Councillor Smith and all approved.  The Precept Estimates will be sent to St Edmundsbury Borough Council in good time in order to receive the Parish grant. | Clerk/RSB | |
| 10 | **Planning applications:**  None |  | |
| 11 | **Correspondence:**  None |  | |
| 12 | **Event to mark the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee:**  It was agreed that for this it would be useful to have a sub-committee. Councillors Sylvester-Bradley, Smith and the Clerk to be on this committee. Councillor Smith will ask two other members of the public in addition. | RSB/AS/  Clerk | |
| 13 | **Recreation Area:**   1. Provision of lower basketball hoop for younger children. Clerk said the goal had been delivered. The exact placement is to be decided but likely to be near the train and avoiding the drainage channels. An offer of assistance has been given by Mr Ryder. 2. Clerk said that he had chased up St Edmundsbury Borough Council for the annual check free of charge of the play equipment. In error they had not included Great Bradley in their list of villages to be done. The play equipment will now be included in their next annual check in April. | | RSB/Clerk |
| 14 | **Bonfire Night:**  Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that it had been very successful and he thanked everyone who had attended and helped out. Clerk said that the overall figure showed just a £114 loss which is pretty good for such a community event especially given that there is no entrance charge but simply donations. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that there were a couple of areas that needed looking at:   1. The bonfire had proved difficult to light satisfactorily. Councillor Kiddy said that the bonfire would be redesigned next year to ensure quicker lighting and should be lit earlier in any event. 2. A couple of the candle barrages fired sideways and could have affected safety. The reason for this needs examining and Councillor Sylvester-Bradley will contact the firers to set up a short de-brief together with the Clerk.   Councillor Kiddy suggested that separate fliers possibly with the earlier edition of the Bugle could help with publicity next year.  Clerk said that he was very pleased with the fireworks supplier this year and proposed visiting their demonstration again next year and ordering with them again. | SK  RSB/Clerk  Clerk | |
| 15 | **Village records/maps:**  There are large number of historic documents and pictures that need archiving and also digitising if possible. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said he would put an article in the Bugle about this. Councillor Joyce suggested tapping the knowledge from surrounding local Councils who may have done this exercise before e.g. there are good History Societies in Wickhambrook and Haverhill. Councillor Smith said she would speak to Geoffrey Vollam with a view to seeing if the WEA could do an evening on Archiving. | RSB  AS | |
| 16 | **Finance:**   1. The external auditor BDO has completed the audit on the 2010/11 Annual Return. They have stated that in their opinion the return is in accordance with proper practices and there were no matters which came to their attention which gave rise to concern. The auditor’s opinion has been recorded as required. 2. Councillor Smith proposed the payment of £20 donation to the Royal British Legion, seconded by Councillor Kiddy. This payment is made under Section 137. 3. Accounts for payment. Councillor Smith proposed the payment of 17 cheques and 2 Direct Debit payments to a total of £3,500.60. This was seconded by Councillor Joyce and all approved. | Clerk | |
| 17 | **Village Events:**  The following event was notified: Quiz night at the Village Hall 26th November |  | |
| 18 | **Matters for consideration at the next meeting:**   1. Storage of the new Bar-B-Q 2. Interpretation panel - update | Clerk | |
| 19 | **Dates for next meetings:**  The next meeting dates are 18January, 21 March. The Annual Village Meeting was agreed to be held separately in April on 18th. Further Parish Council meetings were agreed for 23 May (Annual Parish Council meeting) and 27 June (approve 2011/12 accounts - last date before 30 June deadline). |  | |

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 10.10pm