**GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 22nd March 23 at 7.30pm

**Present**:

Councillors: P Spires (Chairman), A F Sugg, R Sylvester-Bradley, C Boulton, Borough Councillor Peter Stevens (part),

3 members of the public present. Clerk Hayley Livermore

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

Nil

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| **Item:** |  | **ACTION:** |
|  | **Apologies for absence.**  Received and accepted from Helena Crawford and Bobby Bennett |  |
|  | **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.**  2 members of the public attended the meeting to discuss the loss of agricultural land around the village. Both felt that planning rules are supposed to protect this, however there is a gradual decimation of our agricultural land. They discussed with Cllr Stevens how there appears to be no onus on applicants to prove agricultural need or necessity and WSDC appear to take any statements at face value. Cllr Stevens will discuss this will planning officers; however reminded that speculation on future land use cannot be taken into account when making decisions on whether to grant or refuse planning permission. |  |
|  | **Minutes and confirmation of payments approved at meeting 18th January 23 – approval and signature.**  Minutes approved and signed by the chair. |  |
|  | **Matters arising from those minutes**   1. Community heating scheme – Cllr Sylvester-Bradley is looking into this and hopes to have an update soon. 2. Grass cutting Fox Green- Grass is growing over the path near to number 18 in Fox Green. Cllr Stevens stated that the district council intends to stop using Glyphosate, therefore if we wish to use this we will need to organise ourselves. Clerk to investigate in the future. 3. Trees Clarendale estate – We have been informed that the main grass areas on Clarendale were never formally adopted and registered by St Edmundsbury BC (now West Suffolk Council); however they do cut these areas. We have been asked if the pc would consider adopting these areas. No detail has been given at present of what this would involve therefore the clerk will discuss with Damien Parker at WSDC and report at the next meeting. | Clerk  Clerk |
|  | **West Suffolk Council – report from Councillor Peter Stevens.**  Cllr Peter Stevens reported that residents of Great Bradley should all have received notification of their Council Tax for the coming year and that West Suffolk’s for 2023/2024 was the lowest in the county.  He was pleased to report that waste services have been maintained and that the teams have done a great job often in difficult circumstances.  May election update and a reminder that photo ID is required in order to vote.  King Charles lll Coronation- Cllr Stevens apologised that there was no funding available for this event due to the election.  Cllr Spires thanked Cllr Stevens for the advice and support he has given to Great Bradley and the Parish Council over the years. She invited him to the Coronation Big Lunch on Sunday 7th May. |  |
|  | **Suffolk County Council – report from Councillor Bobby Bennett.**  Cllr Bennett did not attend. Informed clerk prior to meeting she has reported again the flooding to the south of Great Bradley on the B1061. The ANPR camera stats have been sent to Cllr Bennett for January: 591 drivers over 35mph from the 2nd January – 9th January were written to and she will ask for Gt Bradley to remain in the ANPR Rota for a repeat visit on the future |  |
|  | **Highways**  None other than those already on agenda |  |
|  | **Public Footpaths (PRoWs): any matters to report**  None |  |
|  | **Speedwatch Group – update from co-ordinator, P Hart.**  The speedwatch group hope to get up and running again in the next few weeks when we have lighter nights due to the clocks going forward. |  |
|  | **Planning - any applications received to date, and any shown on the West Suffolk Council website up to the date of this meeting.**  DC/23/0198/FUL | Planning application - provision of revised access and new access track serving two agricultural barns | Mill House The Street Great Bradley Newmarket Suffolk CB8 9LG  The PC submitted the following response on 9th March 23:  The Parish Council notes the comments made in document (<https://planning.westsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/files/5E20ADC87029FDE8DC92A5EE899E1410/pdf/DC_23_0198_FUL-1_ST_JOHNS_COTTAGES__THE_STREET-2106981.pdf>), especially regarding the completion / advanced progress of the work to construct the access. The matter of use of the land, be it agricultural or equestrian, is perhaps germane to the plans submitted and should therefore be confirmed. The safety of the entrance for the new track to the planned barns is impossible to assess without a plan showing the shape of the new hedges that the applicant proposes. We feel that the applicant should provide further information and a plan - and maybe hosting a visit from Highways if appropriate. Attention to visibility is required, especially for vehicles leaving the site. Visibility in both directions will depend on the the location of the new hedge and how well it is maintained. Some sort of visibility splay is required and it is of concern that if the hedges are planted parallel to each other with no splay, and close to the driveway, this would compromise a driver’s line of sight meaning they would need to pull put onto the road to see. With regard to creating splay, there is a telegraph post very close to the exit which needs to be considered. |  |
|  | **Correspondence - any received to date:**  1. Loss of agricultural land in Great Bradley-email from member of public- Discussed during item 3  2. Play area inspections-West Suffolk council have informed the clerk that they will continue to fund monthly inspections of the equipment in Great Bradley on the recreation ground.  3. Open letter regarding Neighbourhood planning from member of the public- The PC has received a letter from a member of the public who is looking for land to build a house and believes that in some circumstances the parish council can grant planning permission under the Neighbourhood planning initiative. The clerk is not aware of this and will therefore discuss with Cllr Peter Stevens.  4. Correspondence from Mill farm re Farmhouse planning application- Resident of Mill Farm has informed the clerk that they will soon be submitting a planning application to extend the farmhouse and add a stable block and manege. Clerk will inform the council when this is received from WSDC. | **Clerk**  **Clerk** |
|  | **Recreation Area: To discuss any matters highlighted by the annual and most recent monthly report**  Clerk has received the most recent play area inspection report which highlights again the gaps under the activity trail as a safety issue. Clerk has obtained a quote for this work of £400. Agreed to proceed with this work. Proposed by PS, seconded by AS and agreed by all. |  |
|  | **To discuss quote for removal of old and installation of new noticeboards**  We now have the new noticeboards which are being stored at the village hall. Clerk has obtained a quote of £340 to remove the old noticeboards and install the new ones. Agreed to proceed with this work. Proposed by PS, seconded by CB and agreed by all. |  |
|  | **Update on Bradley Bugle printing**  The company we were using for the bi-monthly printing of the Bugle has now closed due to retirement. Clerk obtained a quote from Red side up printers in Haverhill. This will be a cost of £260 for 184 copies and delivery to Great Bradley. This is more than we have been previously paying but not far off what we budgeted for 23-24 as we had anticipated an increase. Agreed to proceed with this for future issues. Proposed by AS, seconded by CB and agreed by all. |  |
|  | **Village Hall: any matters to report.**  Committee are looking into the possibility of installing ceiling fans which would work in reverse by pushing down heat from the ceiling thus saving on heating; unsure at present whether this is a viable option.  Discussion took place about the defibrillator which doesn’t seem to be owned by either the parish council or the village hall. The VH committee were happy to share the cost with the council if a replacement was needed. The council agreed to this. It was also suggested that we organise a first aid course to allow village residents to familiarise themselves with the defibrillator.  The committee agreed to ask Peter Smith if we could have a look at the War medals before agreeing to accommodate them in the hall.  Pub nights will continue although they will be hosted by the village hall. Dates are:- 30th June, 28th July and 29th September with. BBQ as food. Other fund raising events are-  A Pub Quiz Night on 31st March with raffle and serving desserts at half time.  Pottery and Prosecco evening  Gin tasting evening.  The Big Lunch Coronation which will take place in the hall on Sunday 7th May on behalf of the parish Council. |  |
|  | **Finance:**   1. Accounts for payment/cheques required to date    * 1. List circulated and reviewed 2. Budget update & bank reconciliation    * 1. Circulated and reviewed. PC has a balance of £14106 and is on course to end the financial year with approximately the amount predicted when the 23/24 budget was set |  |
|  | **Projects:**  **Queen’s Green Canopy:** It was agreed at the previous meeting, in order to contain the budget, PC will aim to plant one Himalayan silver birch tree and procure an appropriate plaque. |  |
| **19** | |  | | --- | | **Village events**  Coronation of King Charles III |   Coronation Big Lunch Sunday May 7th  PS confirmed that plans are progressing, the hog roast was booked in January and various items have already been ordered including crowns for children to decorate, coronation wrist bands and coronation tableware. Refreshments will be purchased when the supermarkets have special offers. |  |
| **20** | **Election nomination forms and timings**  An election will be held for all parish and district councils in West Suffolk on the 4th May. If existing councillors wish to stand again, they must complete the relevant forms and deliver by hand to the West Suffolk council offices in Bury St Edmunds by Tuesday 4th April. Cllr Sylvester-Bradley will collate all forms and deliver them. |  |
| **21** | **Daffodil bulb planting in Great Bradley**  Councillor Sylvester Bradley suggested that daffodils would enhance the village and that planting should be considered on green spaces such as the Rec, Fox green and Clarendale. Villagers could be encouraged to plant them in their front gardens. If possible and the budget allows the Parish Council could fund daffodils for residents. Inspired by the impressive displays in other villages. Not included in the budget plans for 23/24 so would have to be next year. Councillor Spires had seen that some District Councils have sponsored daffodil planting in their villages and will investigate further. |  |
| **AOB** | Cllr Spires informed the Parish Council that she will not be standing as a Parish Councillor in the May elections. She thanked councillors for their help and support. |  |
| **22** | **Matters for consideration for the next meeting-**  To elect a new chair following the election |  |
|  | Dates of next meeting: 17th May 2023 |  |

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 21:15.