**GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 27th November 2013 at the Village Hall

**Present**:

Councillors: Simon Kiddy (Chairman), Karina Joyce (Vice-Chairman), Anne Smith,

Rowan Sylvester-Bradley. Also present one member of the public, County Councillor Mary Evans (part) and Clerk John Barnett.

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| **Item** |  | **Action** | |
| 1 | **Apologies for absence:**  Councillor Mike Parsons, Suffolk Police |  | |
| 2 | **Vacancies for 2 Councillors:**  Two members of the public had expressed an interest in joining the Council and one had come to see the proceedings this evening. |  | |
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| 3 | **Councillors Declarations of Interest in any item on the agenda:**  There were no declarations of interest. |  | |
| 4 | **Minutes of the last meeting:**  The minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council on 18th September 2013 were approved and signed together with the cheques approved at that meeting. |  | |
| 5 | **Matters arising from the minutes:**   1. Garden area. Quotations received for renovating the garden area. It was decided to go with the quote from M Baird and use compost/soil improver from the local supplier Field Compost. Clerk to organise. Clerk said that the contractor had intimated that he could do the job the following week so the village sign would have to be removed from the post before then. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said he would organise. Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that he had yet to complete his research on a new taller post and ground socket. 2. Design and plants for garden area. Pictures of plants recommended by Sue Sylvester-Bradley were shown and a number approved. Clerk to communicate this to S S-B.  When the Sycamores in the Millennium Oak Area are taken out they will need to be gapped up. Clerk to contact Charles Ryder on this. 3. Computer courses. Clerk said the current two courses would be completed next week and had 8 students from various villages and one from Haverhill. There is to be a final set of 2 courses including an Excel course starting on 20th February. Clerk said that once the courses were completed the Council would need to look at whether to continue to pay for the broadband connection at the Village Hall. Councillor Smith said that it was useful for W.E.A. classes, also the Annual Village Meeting. 4. Village archives. Clerk said he had not been able to progress this yet. Councillor Smith said that Wendy Barnes (who has offered to help with the village archiving) is to run a W.E.A. course after Christmas. | | Clerk  Clerk  RSB  Clerk  Clerk  Clerk |
| 6 | **Suffolk Police:**  A report had been received. There was one crime of note in the village since the last meeting. Other crimes in the area were also highlighted. |  | |
| 7 | **Suffolk County Council:**  County Councillor Evans said that since the recent Speeding meeting in Thurlow she had chased up Steve Boor. He said they had already looked at the drainage issue near St John's College Cottages and were looking at traffic calming issues at the entrances to villages. Villages can now get their own Vehicle Activated Signs if they so wish. Clerk raised a possible problem with the VAS units as the instructions for the one that Great Bradley and Cowlinge share with Hundon were that they needed taking in every day and charging every night. This would not make it suitable for leaving it secured in a location for a week or so.  Councillor Evans said that there were huge cuts in the grants from central government which had to be managed.  They are attempting to work with BT to bring faster broadband to rural areas. |  | |
| 8 | **Highways:**  Nothing reported. |  | |
| 9 | **Planning applications:**  None received. |  | |
| 10 | **Correspondence:**   1. St Edmundsbury Borough Council cut to Parish Councils grants. Great Bradley currently receives £2,500 grant aid which is to be withdrawn over a 4 year period and which could impact heavily on the 2014/15 Budget and Precept. 2. Came & Co have asked Parishes to check all their assets after the recent severe storm. Clerk said he had checked the Play Area. 3. Councillor Kiddy said he had received a letter from Matthew Hancock MP thanking him for his attendance at the Thurlow Speeding meeting and outlining some of the things resulting from it. |  | |
| 11 | **Set Budget and Precept for 2014/15:**  Clerk explained the uncertainties regarding the possible government capping by referendum of Parish Council Precepts. It was agreed that, given the pressures many household budgets are under at present, to attempt set the Precept demand no higher than this year (budget suggestion B) which, due to the grant cuts from St Edmundsbury Borough Council, would still mean a 10% rise in the Parish Council part of the individual household Council Tax albeit only £4 for a year. Individual changes to Budget B were agreed as follows:  Current items:   1. The Clerk's salary was increased by £100.   New items:   1. Village sign - raise height. This was to remain in at the budgeted sum of £500 2. Allotments sum to be taken out. Clerk said that, should they go ahead, there was a good chance of obtaining a grant for this if necessary. 3. Community Event. The budgeted sum to be reduced to £100 as it was hoped it might be mainly self-financing. 4. The WW1 commemoration remains in as it is anticipated that a Locality Budget grant could be obtained for the same sum. 5. Way-marking of footpaths. The sum of £100 was retained.   The 2014/15 Budget (with the above changes) and with a Precept of £9,200 was proposed by Councillor Joyce and seconded by Councillor Smith and all approved. Clerk to ensure the Precept demand and grant application forms are sent to St Edmundsbury Borough Council in due time.  Councillor Sylvester-Bradley mentioned a possible community heating scheme using woodchips which could be cheaper than oil. He will do an article for the next edition of the Bugle. | Clerk  RSB | |
| 12 | **Village Facebook page:**  Councillor Sylvester-Bradley said that he had not been able to progress this. He would look at the Thurlow facebook site. There was a general discussion and concern that there may not be enough interest in the village. | RSB | |
| 13 | **Model Financial Orders:**  There was general agreement that these Orders were not designed for small villages and therefore not appropriate. The Clerk was asked to go back to the existing Financial Orders and amend them only where really necessary. | Clerk | |
| 14 | **Bonfire Night:**  Councillor Kiddy said that the fire had gone well and the fireworks were good and there was general agreement the evening had been a success as usual.  Councillor Joyce said that they were fortunate that it hadn't rained on the evening as it would have been a real problem because there was only the one marquee. She said that Gill Dunn had said that they could have borrowed their gazebo as well if she had known. This is good news for next year. Councillor Smith said that the rolls for the hotdogs had been donated by Thurlow shop. Councillor Joyce said that they ran out of soft drinks as there seemed to be more children this year (whereas last year soft drinks were left over). There will be more ordered for next year.  Councillor Kiddy said there had been a problem with the usual disposal of spent fireworks on the bonfire. One of the fireworks had some candle 'shells' that had not fired correctly when originally lit and were sparked into life by the bonfire and they had gone off towards the marquee. The lesson learnt was that if spent fireworks are put on the bonfire it must only be done after the public has left the field and with great care.  Clerk to summarise the event for next year's planning. | Clerk | |
| 15 | **Recreation Area:**   1. Glade seat and path area. Three quotations have been received for the new chips. It was decided to go for the local supplier Field Compost for 3cu m of wood chips. Clerk to organise. 2. Living Willow structure. Councillor Joyce said that she had been unable to progress this at this point. | Clerk  KJ | |
| 16 | **Finance:**   1. Accounts for payment. The proposal to make 18 payments to a total of £3247.08 was approved. | Clerk | |
| 17 | **Project List:**  The Project list was updated. |  | |
| 18 | **Village Events notified:**   1. Councillor Smith said that the children's Christmas party numbers are low at present and there is a possibility it may not go ahead. |  | |
| 19 | **Matters for consideration at the next meeting:**   1. Amended existing Financial Orders 2. Living Willow Structure - recommendation | Clerk | |
| 20 | **Dates for next meetings:**  The next meeting dates are 29th January and 19th March 2014. The following dates were agreed: 9th April for the Annual Village Meeting, 14th May for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and 25th June to approve the accounts for 2013/14. |  | |

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm