**GREAT BRADLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th January 2023 at 7.30pm

**Present**:

Councillors: P Spires (Chairman), A F Sugg, R Sylvester-Bradley, H Crawford, C Boulton, Borough Councillor Peter Stevens (part), County Councillor Bobby Bennett (part) and one member of the public present.

**Apologies:**

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 Clerk Hayley Livermore |  |
|  | **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.**  The standing water on the B1061 at the south of the village – discussed at Item 7.6 | Clerk |
|  | **Minutes and confirmation of payments approved at meeting 23rd November 2022 – approval and signature.**  Minor correction to road numbers. |  |
|  | **Matters arising from those minutes**   1. Community heating scheme - Cllr Sylvester-Bradley continues to explore feasibility and will survey for likely uptake and feedback. Cllr Bennett will seek SCC contacts for advice and support. 2. Grass cutting Fox Green- Grass is growing over the path near to number 18 in Fox Green. Cllr Stevens will continue to explore options since the Council intends to stop using Glyphosate. 3. Gravel to be renewed at entrance to the Rec - PC agreed to select the cheapest of the three quotes received to replace the gravel and proceed as soon as possible, within this financial year. DM Groundworks 4. Dead/dying trees Clarendale estate – The PC noted that the fallen tree has been removed, but that there remain one dead and two diseased rowan trees. PC identified the location of the trees and Cllr Stevens will continue to try to establish ownership. | PS/Clerk |
|  | **West Suffolk Council – report from Councillor Peter Stevens.**  See also Items 5.2 and 5.4   1. Council budgets are being prepared. Current indications are that there will be an increase of about 2.6% but this is subject to confirmation. 2. Preparations are under way for the next elections in May. Photo ID requirements will need to be accommodated, requiring a separate room in the polling venue 3. Road sweeping will not be requested until Highways have addressed the flooding (See Item 7.6) 4. Cllr Stevens updated the PC on the proposed anaerobic digester at Spring Grove Farm. To date, a specific application has not been submitted so all information is available only from the outline proposal. Cllr Stevens confirmed that the transport plan will be scrutinised carefully 5. Cllr Steven confirmed that the Barns proposed for the north of the village will require Highways planning permission for access, and that visibility splays will be a key issue. |  |
|  | **Suffolk County Council – report from Councillor Bobby Bennett.**   1. Cllr Bennet flagged up the County’s Winter matters programme (<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-and-rescue-safety-advice-in-the-community/seasonal-winter>). Note that there are resources available should people need assistance (<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/healthier/cost-of-living-support>) 2. Cllr Bennett to send cost-of-living leaflets to Chair for distribution (<https://suffolk.pagetiger.com/cost-of-living-support/scc1> ) 3. The Council is in the midst of setting budgets for the next financial year. The ambition is to contain any rises to 4% of which 2% for social care and 2% for wider issues 4. The Council is commissioning a speed survey to the south of the village. This will collect data to see whether the site is eligible for a 40 mph ‘buffer zone’, analogous to that on the north 5. Cllr Bennet will explore the possibility of a £500 Locality Grant towards the cost of the noticeboards 6. Cllr Bennett is aware of the problem of standing water on the B1061 at the south of the village and has, herself, reported it last week to Highways. People are strongly encouraged to report it on the Highways Reporting Tool (<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/report-a-flood-in-suffolk>). Photographs would be helpful. Priorities are set by the magnitude of the issue and the number of people impacted and reporting the issue. |  |
|  | **Highways**  See Items 6.2, 6.3 and 7.6 |  |
|  | **Public Footpaths (PRoWs): any matters to report**  None |  |
|  | **Speedwatch Group – update from co-ordinator, P Hart.**  No report, but see also Item 7.4 |  |
|  | **Planning - any applications received to date, and any shown on the West Suffolk Council website up to the date of this meeting.**  DC/22/2200/FUL- one dwelling and cart lodge. Location Great Bradley Oak Stud East Green Great Bradley, Newmarket Suffolk   * PC has no objection   DC/22/2136/FUL-a. one dwelling (following demolition of existing dwelling) b. detached double cart lodge Location Yew Tree Cottage The Street Great Bradley Newmarket Suffolk   * The meeting noted disappointment that the existing cottage could not be saved, having been, for many years, a distinctive building within the village * PC has no objection to the proposal |  |
|  | **Correspondence - any received to date:**  PRECEPT SURVEY: PCC proposes increase in precept to fund Constabulary in 2023/24   * PC noted. People are invited to respond to the survey (<https://suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/news/precept-survey-pcc-proposes-increase-in-precept-to-fund-constabulary-in-2023-24> )   B1061 Barns-member of the public   * See Item 6.3 |  |
|  | **Recreation Area: To discuss any matters highlighted by the annual and most recent monthly report**   * The cradle seat in the children’s’ play area has been replaced * G Chafer still to fill the holes identified in the report. PS will ask him to prioritise this upon his return to fitness * People are asked not to put dog droppings into the bins near the children’s play area, instead using the bins provided at the entrances to the rec. Cllr Spires to note on the village Facebook site | **PS** |
|  | **Village Hall: any matters to report.**  Cllr Sugg reported that at the recent AGM, Alison McClosky stepped down as Chairman, replaced by Barbara Housden, and Adrian Bhreacthnach has joined the committee. Pub Nights will continue, the next being on Friday 3rd February. It transpires that installing solar panels is not economically feasible but the committee continues to investigate possible insulation options. |  |
|  | **Finance:**   1. To set Budget and Precept demand to West Suffolk Council for 2023/24. Chairman to co-sign Precept demand   The PC discussed income and expenditure aiming to balance i) the best maintenance of village facilities and community, ii) maintaining reserves at the current level of about 8 months, iii) accounting for inflation-driven rises in most costs and iv) minimising any increase in precept. Several economies were identified, for example, planting one Himalayan silver birch tree to celebrate the Jubilee instead of the original seven.  The Clerk is happy to continue with her current laptop and so purchase of a new laptop will be delayed until Penny Lewis returns.  Proposals put forward in the last meeting were revisited:   1. Planting of Cedar trees x 3 - postponed to future years 2. Repairs to bench on recreation ground – explore whether cleaning and re-sealing would be a lower cost alternative 3. Webcam for owl nesting box – cancelled as too expensive 4. Village garden – rebuilding the garden is deemed too expensive and the PC decided to continue maintenance instead 5. Illuminated signs for wheelie bin for events – cancelled as too expensive, fluorescent signs will be explored as lower cost.   PC decided that, with the changes discussed, the precept can be limited to a 10% increase to give the best trade-off  Further work will refine the figures to a final budget so that the Precept demand can be signed.   1. Accounts for payment/cheques required to date    * 1. List circulated and reviewed 2. Budget update & bank reconciliation    * 1. Circulated and reviewed |  |
|  | **Projects:**  **Queen’s Green Canopy:** It was agreed that, in order to contain the budget, PC will aim to plant one Himalayan silver birch tree and procure an appropriate plaque. PC will ask Charles Ryder for sources of further advice. | **Whose action?** |
| **17** | |  | | --- | | **Village events**   1. Coronation of King Charles III   PC discussed options including  A children’s event the previous weekend, probably an afternoon event with tea for parents and activities for the children (making crowns / medals etc) with a focus on sustainability (minimise plastic detritus)  A village event on the Sunday or Bank Holiday Monday – seeking alternatives to the Hog Roast (e.g. van offering different food options) and an ice cream van. PS to explore options | | **PS** |
| **18** | **Matters for consideration for the next meeting-**   * Preparation for the Village Meeting * Update on polling arrangements for elections |  |
| **19** | **Dates of next meetings**  Meeting dates agreed and confirmed as 18th January (set Budget and Precept to West Suffolk Council), 22nd March, 19th April (Annual Village Meeting). 17th May (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council), 28th June (approve accounts 2020/21), 20th September, 22nd November (pre-budget planning meeting) |  |
|  | Dates of next meetings: 22nd March 2023 |  |

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 21:27.