BRADFIELD ST CLARE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2024 AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Parish Councillors present: Chair Cllr John Kirk, Cllrs Malcolm Hignett and Sue Partridge. Parish Clerk, Nicola Sturgeon, present. Borough Cllr Sara Mildmay-White present. Four members of the public present.

1. Apologies for absence: Parish Cllr Vice Chair Paul Foster sent his apologises due to work commitments. Cllr Duchesne sent his apologies, also due to work commitments. County Cllr Karen Soons sent her apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest: none

3. Representative from Anglian Water Pipeline Project team: presentation/discussion regarding works in the village (to include a Q and A session):

   Unfortunately on the morning of the meeting the Clerk had received an email from the AW representative stating that she was unwell and unable to attend but she was trying to see if one f her colleagues could come to the meeting in her place, but it was short notice, and no replacement was found.

   AW had confirmed by email that works had stopped in the village as they had a soil management plan in place, depending on the ground in the Winter months. They would be looking to start back up in the Spring (March) and they expected the whole B2C section to be completed in June 2025, then finish the reinstatement works.

   Clerk requested that someone from AW attend the next PC meeting on 11 February 2025.

   Clerk contacted PC Cllrs so that they could inform villagers that they knew who were coming along to the meeting ahead of time. Clerk also emailed some villagers who she had contact details for, and had put details of the AW cancellation on the website.

   At the meeting Cllr Partridge advised that the villagers she had informed were angry and had disbelief that AW had not had a replacement representative and the presentation had not gone ahead. They felt that AW were not communicating with villagers. Clerk asked Cllr Partridge to pass on the Clerks contact info so that those villagers could email her with any questions they had for AW and she would forward them to Dan Stewart at AW to try to get a reply.

Cllrs advised that they had heard from some concerned villagers that part of the Sheepsgate Lane public footpath (bottom area) had been changed by the AW workers and that it was difficult to get through there, and that the footpath at the back of the church to the wooded area had been significantly reduced by AW.

Clerk said that she would liaise with AW and Rights of Way Officer at SCC.

In the meantime the Clerk would set up another meeting. It was suggested by the Borough Cllr that other villages may want to come along such as Stanningfield, Felsham and Rushbrooke as they also had villagers with questions for AW. Clerk will contact their Parish Councils to see if they were interested in setting up a larger meeting.

In the meantime, any villagers who have a question for AW Pipeline Team please contact the Clerk on bradfieldstclarepc@gmail.com and she will forward your questions on to the team and try to get a reply.

4. Minutes: to consider and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 13 August 2024.
   Cllr Hignett proposed that the draft minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting. Cllr Partridge seconded. Minutes of meeting on 13 August 2024 approved.

5. Matters arising:

Matter	**Update**	**Any next steps**
Anglian Water pipeline works in the village	AW representative unable to attend PC meeting on 10th December due to illness but Clerk has liaised for a representative to be at the PC meeting on 11th February 2025. In the meantime the pipeline team have confirmed that works have ceased in the village now until approximately March 2025 as they have a soil maintenance plan in place. Once works have recommenced they anticipate that they will conclude in approximately June 2025 and then reinstatement works will commence.	Clerk arranging for a rep from the AW Pipeline team to give a presentation and do a Q and A session at PC meeting on 11th February 2025. Will raise concerns about footpaths with the SCC Right of Way Officer.

		15/2024
Anglian Water Treatment Plant near the Village Hall	(1) Maintenance and schedule records for the last 25 years, as there is a suspicion that the frequency of emptying has decreased causing the foul odours (do request under a FOI if necessary); (2) Enquire whether the alarm on the aerator pump has been repaired; (3) How many homes in the village are served by the plant?	Further correspondence sent to Anglian Water requesting this information. Trying to ascertain cost of copy documents for 25 years and if too much money for that length of time then PC will need to reconsider the number of years records they want.
3 x grit bins	Locality Budget Application form submitted to County Cllr Karen Soons. Total sum requested is £745.35	Await outcome of the locality budget application. If approved before next meeting then Clerk will get on with ordering the grit bins once monies received from SCC. Grit bins will be delivered to Chairman John Kirk and he will install and Clerk will then apply for new grit to be put in the grit bins.
Village sign, bench and notice board	Clerk noted at the meeting on 13 August 2024 that Parish Cllrs were in agreement that these items needed attention. Clerk has looked at other parish website but no details of workmen carrying out work. Clerk is aware of the work of a sign writer Wayne Tanswell in Sudbury and has instructed him at another parish some years ago. His workmanship was very good, and he may be the right person to repaint the metal part of the sign.	Cllrs to consider whether they want Clerk to get a quote from Wayne Tanswell for the work to the metal part of the village sign. Do Cllrs want the village notice board replaced or repaired. If replaced then Clerk will get some quotations if repaired then to look at local handymen that might be able to repair the notice board and the bench. *Cllrs wanted to defer this matter to the next meeting as two Cllrs were not present. They asked the*

		16/2024 *Clerk to get an indication of the cost of a new Notice Board for that meeting so that it could form part of the discussion, and indeed any other quotes for works, so they could also be considered.*

6. County Cllr and Borough Cllr reports:

   County Cllr Karen Soons and Borough Cllr Sara Mildmay-White reports are on village website at bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net/

7. Public Forum:
   Members of the public comments/questions. Four members of the public present.

   Villager had written to the Parish Council in advance of the meeting and wanted to discuss the speed reduction that was now not going ahead. Clerk had replied to the email. This decision by SCC had a direct impact on his home. The volume and speed of traffic travelling out from Cockfield particularly because of the volume of new builds, and they had not all been built yet. He had sat in his garden in the Summer and listened to more traffic and was very aware of the high speeds at which some of that traffic was travelling.

   The villager and his Wife both commented that there had never been a speed survey along the stretch of road in the village by their home. The number of new build homes in the village of Cockfield, they felt was significant and was having an impact on both speed and volume of traffic.

   The PC said they agreed with everything that they were raising but had tried extremely hard to get a speed reduction in that area of the village and other areas. The PC was not a decision maker in this process, it was subject to the rules of SCC and highways, and they had made the decision that they did not believe the application to the speed panel would be successful as it had not been several years ago and they did not think the number of new build homes and therefore increased traffic was significant enough to have a different outcome with the speed panel. The PC were reliant upon financial help from County Cllr and if she was being advised it most unlikely to succeed then the PC to see why she would choose to use her budget in other villagers. The PC could simply not afford to do this project without the majority input of funds from the County Cllr.

Following discussion, the PC did agree to contact the County Cllr, who unfortunately was not able to be at the meeting that evening, and explain that there had never been a speed survey conducted on the stretch of road by the villager (the road leading directly out of Cockfield village) and whether she would be able to fund a speed survey there. PC will await outcome of that request and discuss further at the next meeting.

8. Correspondence: (all correspondence has been forwarded to Cllrs ahead of the meeting);
   (i) Correspondence from villager expressing disappointment that the speed reduction project in the village cannot go ahead now. *Matter discussed within the public forum section of the meeting with the villager who sent the communication.*

9. To consider and approve a draft Precept for 2025/2026, ahead of Precept being submitted to West Suffolk Council by 22 January 2025 deadline:

Clerk had provided various options for the 2025/2026 Precept including how they compared to the Precept of £4100 for the 2025/2025 Precept. After consideration all Parish Cllrs present agreed to keep the Precept at £4100 for 2025/2026. Clerk will prepare the paperwork for the Chair and the Clerk to sign and submit the West Suffolk Council by the January 2025 deadline.

Although the Precept would remain at £4100 for a second year, because the tax base which is set by WSC changes yearly it meant that 2024/2025 compared to 2025/2026 as follows:-

	2024/2025	2025/2026
Precept	4100.00	4100.00
Tax Base	71.66	73.19
Council Tax (Band D per year)	57.21	56.02

This is a decrease per Band D household of £1.19 for the year on the Parish Precept. It is a percentage decrease of -2.08% for the year on the Parish Precept.

10. To consider and approve meeting dates for 2025:

Cllrs agreed the following meeting dates (which are subject to additional meetings when required):

11th February

13th May – Annual Parish Meeting followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting

12th August

11th November

11. Planning: Application DC/24/1560/HH Clarecote Bury Road, Bradfield St Clare. Householder planning application – a. creation of porch to front elevation b. insertion of two new windows to ground floor, two new dormer windows c. removal of front elevation rooflight d. single storey side extension e. single storey rear extensions (following demolition of existing conservatory) f. roof light to rear elevation g. alterations and replacement of windows and doors to all elevations h. replacement roof works and relocation of chimney i. replacement render and cladding j. detached garage extended and first floor created with external staircase.

    Cllrs considered the application paperwork and drawings provided. They had concerns about the size and scale of the proposed works, and on that basis could not approve the application and therefore objected to the application.

12. Clerks report:

    (i) Schedule of payments

Schedule of Invoices paid since the meeting on 13 August 2024:				
CAS	webhosting fees	£60	chq494	LGA1972
ICO	data protection fee	£40	chq495	LGA1972
CAS	PC Insurance	£288.26	chq496	LGA1972

Invoices to be approved at the meeting:				
VH hire	annual fee	£100	chq497	LGA1972
N Sturgeon	salary from 14 Aug to 10 December	£549.12	chq498	LGA1972

    All Cllrs present approved the payments.

13. Cllrs reports:

    Cllr Hignett raised the issue of funding from central government to local governments for the specific purpose of improving bus services. There was a considerable sum of money being given out by central government and Cllr Hignett enquired whether Bradfield St Clare could be reinstated on the bus route. Therefore not a brand new bus being purchased just an extension of the route on market days to give the village back the bus route it used to have. *Clerk will email County Cllrs Karen Soon so that she can enquire about this.*

14. Date of next meeting: Next scheduled meeting on 11 February 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Signed…….. Dated…….