BRADFIELD ST CLARE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Parish Councillors present: Chair Cllr John Kirk, Cllrs Malcolm Hignett and Sue Partridge. Borough Cllr Sara Mildmay-White and County Cllrs Karen Soons present.

Anglian Water Pipeline Project presentation team: Mr Dan Stewart (Stakeholder Engagement Lead), Andy Hatton (Site Manager) and James Brindley (Site Manager).

Three members of the public present.

1. Apologies for absence:
   Cllr Paul Foster – due to work meeting;
   Cllr Alex Duchesne – stuck in traffic travelling back home and not able to get to the meeting in time;
   Clerk Nicola Sturgeon – unwell/chest infection.

2. Declarations of Interest: None

3. Representative from Anglian Water Pipeline Project Team: presentation/discussion regarding works in the village. This will include a question and answer session that attendees can take part in along with Cllrs.

   Presentation given by:
   Andy Hatton – Site Manager
   James Brindley – Site Manager
   Dan Stewart – Stakeholder Engagement Lead

   Slides for the presentation are attached to these Minutes and also on the village website at bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net/

   Question and Answer Session:

   Question 1: Where have the stated 63km of pipe been laid?

   Answer: Around Bury St Edmunds. Work has been delayed by the wet weather; Anglian Water (AW) are working with farmers but some have declined to allow AW onto their land. Currently laying pipe in between 2 and 2.5 days per week, around

Cockfield, Felsham and Hadleigh. Expectation is that all pipework will be laid by the end of June 2025.

Clive Leal quoted an article which stated that AW had run out of money for the project – representatives said that they were aware of this article which was erroneous, and they were awaiting its retraction.

Question 2: What was the tender process?

Answer: Contract was awarded to a 'Strategic Pipeline Alliance' of 5 companies, with AW as the client. Tenders were submitted by the Alliance, with companies bidding to be involved.

Question 3: How is the contract managed? (a) Are there KPIS and penalties?

Answer: Yes- 'stretch' targets. (b) Will delays add to the costs? – yes in some areas.

Question 4: What is the financial situation – questioner had been informed by one of the pipeline workers that the project was short of money?

Answer: No, but some problems are anticipated in the North with land (?access or acquisition). There have been some unanticipated costs and constraints because of ecology e.g. the need to build dormouse bridges across hedges.

Question 5: (a) With the expansion of local housing (mandated by Government) which increases the requirement for water, will central Government funding be available for the pipeline project? – No
(b) will the public have to pay through their water bills? – Yes

Question 6: What about the condition of the raised footpath between the Church and the Moat [this matter has already been flagged to AW and the Footpath Officer by the Parish Council]. Also the condition of the artificial 'bat hedge' by the side of this footpath?

Answer: 'We will address this'. Councillor Partridge asked that the Parish Clerk was formally notified when this has been done.

Question 7: What about the restoration of farmland, which can take 10 years to recover?

Answer: AW have an agricultural liaison officer. The method of reinstatement depends on the farmer's preference. An area in Lincolnshire, and some land east of the A12, have already been reinstated.

Question 8: What is the reason for the planned closure of Felsham Road 17/2/25? This was closed to allow the construction of access points.

Answer: Access points have to be removed. All road closures are approved and coordinated by the County Council.

4. Minutes: to consider and approve the Minutes of the meeting on 10 December 2024. Approved by all Parish Councillors present at the meeting.

5. Public forum: for other matters the public wish to raise other than that discussed under item 3.

   (a) Keith Payne summarised his emails to County Cllr Karen Soons, and the responses from Matthew Fox and Highways. A further Traffic Survey could be performed, but this is not recommended in light of the Survey done in April 2023. County Cllr Soons stated that she is not denying that here has been an increase in the volume of traffic, but that insufficient of the criteria for changing a speed limit (number of entrances, community buildings, collision history, economic benefit, adverse environmental impact, consistency across routes…) are met in the case of Bury Road. She also highlighted the cost of a repeat survey, and indicated that, having paid for the April 2023 survey, it would not be fair to those in the 21 other villages who she represents to spend more on this from her limited budget. It was noted that the cost of a Traffic Survey quoted by Matthew Fox was not the same as the figure given to County Cllr Soons; apparently the cost of the survey does not include the additional cost of a report interpreting the survey. Figures were quoted which differ from those obtained by the Parish Clerk (from Matthew Fox) and as shown in 'matters arising' below].
   Chair of the meeting stated that there was a risk that the PC would be accused of wasting public money if we funded another survey (in light of the advice from Highways).
   County Cllr Karen Soons stated that she will review her position on this matter if the criteria for speed limits change. Also expressed her view that it is unfortunate that the impact on neighbouring villages construction work in Cockfield is not taken into account.
   Cllr Partridge suggested that enquiry is made to determine the actual costs of a further Traffic Survey and what it included in that cost (i.e is the report an additional cost?). Also to ascertain whether we would be able to determine the timing of the survey?

   (b) Keith Payne asked if more information about the Parish Council meetings could go into the Grapevine, particularly dates – the annual schedule of meetings. Discussion that release of the minutes/information from the meetings would

depend on minutes being approved, which does not take place until the next meeting.

6. Matters arising:

Matter	**Update**	**Any next steps**
Anglian Water pipeline works in the village	Clerk arranged for an AW representative to give a presentation at the PC meeting on 11th February followed by a Q and A session.	Presentation arranged for meeting on 11th February 2025.
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?	Letter of response received from Anglian Water together with data from 2005-2025. *See Councillors Reports at item 10 of the Minutes.*
3 x grit bins	Locality Budget Application successful and the sum if £745.35 received from County Cllr Karen Soons budget. 3 x grit bins ordered and placed in the following locations: 1 x Junction Bury Road with Bradfield St George Road;	Clerk is organising grit for the grit bins. Clerk has sent an article to the Grapevine re: grit bins. Grit bins have not yet been filled – Parish Clerk to chase please. Also that the old grit bins have not yet been removed.

	1 x Opposite the Water Tower; 1 x on the bend at Pitchers Green.	
Village sign, bench and notice board	Cllr Hignett has sent photographs of village sign, notice board and bench to Clerk as agreed at the meeting on 10th December 2024. Clerk made some online research into notice boards and asked Cllrs to have their own look online as pries varies. The amount the PC are able to spend on this project, this year, may depend on what happens with the speed limit matter (please see below), and whether any expenditure is required there.	Due to clerks limited working hours and ongoing other matters this matter has not progressed further than this at this stage. Matter to be progressed later in the year.
Speed reduction.	This is in relation to junction of Bury Road and Bradfield St Goerge Road area and as raised by Mr and Mrs Payne. As agreed Clerk made enquiries with County Cllr Soon and therefore SCC Highways, as to whether a speed limit survey could be conducted by their home. There has been in the PC view and their view significant number of new homes built in Cockfield and Mr and Mrs Payne feel that this is having an impact on the volume but also the speed at which vehicles are passing their home.	Clerk has made the following follow up enquiries for the use of the Parish Council when they are considering any next steps:- 1. Can a speed survey be funded by the Parish Council? **Yes** **2.** How much would it cost for the speed survey in that location? **If using Suffolk Highways equipment the cost of a single surface detection radar**

Signed…….. Dated……..

	The response from SCC Highways ha been sent to all Cllrs and in summary is as follows:- 1. A Speed Survey could be carried out; 2. However, it is highly unlikely to alter previous decisions that have been made in relation to this location. Even given the development works in Cockfield, SCC highways do not consider that this section of road has changed fundamentally, and a reduction of the existing speed limit here would not be supported. *This means that if the matter ever got to the stage on a speed panel, the panel ask whether the Highways Department support the application and they are saying that they would not.* 3. They are stating that this requested extension does not meet sufficient criteria in the SCC Speed Limit Policy to justify a lower speed limit. 4. Cockfield planning - the relevant planning department would have consulted SCC Highways on the planning applications to comment and identify any issues with speed limits. 5. Even if under the planning application SCC Highways had recommended an extension of the reduced speed limit the usual length of these extensions is around 400 mtrs, and they consider it highly unlikely that future/further developments in Cockfield would be significant enough to	**would be £390 plus VAT, with additional survey locations in the parish costing an additional £155 plus VAT each.** 3. Would the findings of any privately funded speed survey by the Parish Council be taken into account by the Highways Team and what would be the likely cost of that enquiry with them once we had that data? **SCC Highways would review any data gathered. However speed of traffic is only one aspect that is considered when looking at a speed limit change/extension. There are multiple other criteria that must be met – number and density of properties or development in the section of the road in question, the volume of expected pedestrian traffic, the number of key buildings – such as schools, doctors, places of worship, shops/public houses, the number of adjoining**

Signed…….. Dated……..

	extend a 30 mph limit to the vicinity of Bush Green. 6. With regards to the comments on a lack of speed survey in the vicinity, they are stating that the previous one funded by County Cllr Soons was in the vicinity of Bush Green and the junction of Bradfield St George Road – and showed that despite the National Speed Limit here, the majority of traffic was travelling far slower that this; over 7 days of the survey, the average speed of vehicles in both directions was 36mph. County Cllr Karen Soons has considered this information from SCC Highways and has advised the Parish Council that unfortunately she will not be able to fund something that has almost no ability to be delivered, and that she has to prioritise areas that can be changed.	**junctions, and the number of adjoining private accesses. If these criteria are not met then a speed limit change will not be considered. The previous speed limit report that was commissioned here confirmed that this area DID NOT meet these criteria for a 30mph limit.** **To report on the findings of the data would cost between £800 to £1500.**
Funding for Bus Services	Enquiry with County Cllr Soons as to whether recent central government funding to could be used to reinstate a bus service in Bradfield St Clare. Looking to have a bus services on market days to Bury St Edmunds which was cut in 2010/11. Not asking for a new bus to be purchased, but instead some monies spent from the funding boost for bus services to be spent on reinstatement of the market day bus service in BSC.	Awaiting a response. County Cllr Karen Soons is chasing the matter at SCC. County Cllr Karen Soons had left the meeting before this so no response at the meeting.
Planning: DC/24/1560/HH Clarecote	The application was amended before it was considered by a Delegated Panel at WSC Planning Dept. The amendment to the application meant that the application regarding the detached garage being extended and	Matter was considered by a Delegated Panel as opposed to just a single planning officer and the amended application was GRANTED.

Signed…….. Dated……..

	first floor created with external staircase was removed from the application, which in turn reduced the size and scale of the application.	
Query around restrictions on the number/brightness of security lights	Clerk had very recently raised this with SMW the day before the meeting.	SMW indicated that she will follow this up.

7. County Cllrs and Borough Cllrs reports:
   Reports available on the Parish Council website at bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net/

8. Correspondence (all correspondence has been forwarded to Cllrs ahead of the meeting):
   (i) End of Year Neighbourhood Watch report (added to the village website).

9. Clerk's report:
   (i) Schedule of payments:

Income since meeting on 10 December 2024

SCC grant	BACS	£745.35	contribution towards 3 x grit bins

Invoices paid since meeting on 10th December 2024

Glasdon	chq499	£745.35	3 x grit bins	LGA1972
Glasdon	chq500	£149.07	VAT on grit bins	LGA1972

Invoices to be approved at the meeting:

N Sturgeon	chq501	£274.56	salary	LGA1972

10. Cllrs reports:

    Cllr Partridge has raised with the Clerk between Parish Council meetings that it appeared that there was some works being carried out on the bridge. Clerk had made enquiries with the Historic Railways Estate Officer for National Highways who had confirmed that:-

(a) AMCO Giffin were carrying out a brickwork repair scheme;
(b) The works will deal with the longstanding damage to the parapets and then repairs and pointing to the rest of the structure where necessary;
(c) The contractor will also install some tab dates and this is to provide a better idea as to whether there is any continued movement at the bridge;
(d) Historical fractures in the brickwork is being monitored and date tabs will assist with this.

The Clerk has sent this information on to the Grapevine so that it can be in the next issue.

Cllr Partridge had sought (and received) the Parish Clerk's assistance in contacting Community Policing services about a car which had broken down and been abandoned outside her neighbours house. The owner had failed to arrange its removal despite numerous promises to do so. The vehicle was finally removed as Cllr Partridge was on the phone to one of the Community Police Officers!

Cllr Hignett reported that he had undertaken an initial analysis of the 20 years worth data received from AW about the Water Treatment Plant; he presented some graphical data which made the information much more comprehensive, and was thanked by the other councillors for his work on this. Key points were:

- 2024 – no documentation of tanker visits/emptying/cleaning. This was not thought to be accurate, so the accuracy of the other data was therefore questioned. Tanker visits historically occurred c. monthly, as remembered by those living nearby.
- Data does not clearly show the number of tanker visits, or the number of cleans.
- Agreed to request the Parish Clerk to contact AW again – 1. Querying the accuracy of the data (quoting 2024); 2. Stating that the villagers need transparency as to what level of service AW are required to provide; 3. Asking how AW know when the Plant needs emptying/maintenance – is it remotely monitored?

11. Date of next meeting: Clerk will arrange an additional meeting as requested by Cllrs at this meeting so that the issue of the speed reduction can be discussed with Clerk present and any up to date information.

Next scheduled meeting thereafter will be the Annual Parish Meeting followed on by the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 13th May 2025 starting at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Signed…….. Dated……..