BRADFIELD ST CLARE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2019

The Parish Council Meeting was held on Tuesday 12th February 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The Chairman Cllr J Kirk welcomed the following Cllrs: M Newlands, G Thomas and M Hignett, and P Foster, together with the Parish Clerk- N Smith, County Cllr Karen Soons and Borough Cllr Sara Mildmay-White. Three members of the public were also present.

1. Apologies for absence – None

2. Declarations of Interest – none.

3. Minutes – Cllr Hignett proposed and Cllr Thomas seconded that the Minutes of 27 November 2018 were a true and accurate record. All Cllrs agreed.

4. Matters Arising:

   Two lighting units on the junction of Bury Road and Bradfield St George Road – the signs advising of road closure on 24 February 2019 are up at the junction and therefore it is hoped that finally UKPN will now disconnect the old unit which has been alight 24 hours a day and connect the new unit.

   Blocked drains on Bradfield St George Road – SCC are indicating that as one of the drains are now unblocked then they will not undertake work to the other blocked drain as they are in close proximity to each other. It is noted that the farmer has dug a ditch to assist with drainage but Cllr Thomas though that the drainage pipe was ineffective there. Clerk will take photographs and Cllrs all agreed that they would like the PC to raise a formal complaint with SCC Highways. Clerk will do this and update at next meeting.

5. County Cllr Karen Soons Report – "Appendix A" and please see website at bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net/ for details of the report.

6. Borough Cllr Sara Mildmay-White's Report – "Appendix B" and please see website bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net/for the full report.

7. Public Forum:

   (i) Following extensive discussion, all three parishioners present asked of the PC and of the County Cllr as to why the five houses on the Bury Road (heading from Cockfield and before or at the junction of Bradfield St George Road) were not included in the speed limit reduction.
   Cllr Newlands explained that the PC had tried to amend the initial recommendations of the Speed Limit Panel, and as a result had had a site meeting in the village in September 2018. They had walked that part of the village with a member of the SCC Local Highways Team and the County Cllr had also been present.
   The Parish Council had sought to:-
   (a) Extend the proposed 40mph speed limit on the Bury Road but this had subsequently been refused. The report stated that "Although there are many social reasons why the findings of the Speed Limit Cases Panel should be

changed to meet the wishes of the Parish Council, officers believe that the remoteness of the 5 dwellings from the rest of the village in either direction makes it difficult to depart from the County Council's current speed limit policy. To do so may limit the level of compliance achieved with a new speed limit which may, in turn, affect the level of compliance within the originally agreed extents."

(b) The PC had also requested that the 30mph speed limit on the Bradfield St George Road be extended further than the current suggested starting point (just prior to the first dwelling coming from the South) but instead it should start down at the junction with Bury Road. This request was approved.

The Chairman also expressed his disappointment that the SCC Highways Officer would not agree (a), but following discussion with County Cllr Soons the next option would be a Judicial Review which could costs in excess of £10,000 and the PC does not have those kinds of financial reserves, and this would not guarantee that (a) would eventually be agreed in any event.
The Chairman hoped that once the speed limits were in place then either a Speed Watch or a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) could be installed within the speed limit and that may have some benefit to the five dwellings. County Cllr Soons indicated that she would be willing to consider assisting with the purchase of a VAS in due course out of her LHB.

(ii) Parishioner reported that someone (unknown) had moved the signs at Sheepsgate Lane and the footpath sign had broken and was attached to the back of one of the signs. Clerk will take photographs and report to the Footpaths Officer to get the signs moved back to their original place and also provide a new post for the footpath sign.

8. Correspondence:

i. January 2019 – communication from parishioner regarding joy riders (possibly Quad Bikes) at Sheepsgate Lane. The parishioner had been referred to the NHW team and the Community Engagement Officer PC Paul Fox at the time. Clerk will put PC Paul Fox in contact the public footpaths officer to see if they can discuss a way forward to improve this situation whilst also acknowledging that there is a public right of way. *Clerk will report back at the next meeting.*

ii. Email from NHW Area B – Local Crime Stats for December 2018 and the 2016-2018 Annual Reported Crime Comparison:

Bradfield St George:1 x Criminal Damage

Cockfield: 6 x violence/sexual; 2 x burglary; 1 x Criminal Damage; 1 x Public Order offence; 1 x "Other"

Great Whelnetham: 1 x anti-social behaviour; 1 x violence/sexual

Lawshall: 1 x anti-social behaviour; 1 x violence/sexual; 1 x burglary; 1 x criminal damage/arson; 1 x "other"

Nowton: 1 x criminal damage/arson

Rougham: 1 x violence/sexual

Sicklesmere: 2 x violence/sexual; 1 x burglary; 1 x criminal damage/arson

The 10 villages in which Bradfield St Clare is one = on average 6 reported crimes per month during 2018. Fortunately BSC is lower than the average reported crime figures.

2016-2018 Area B (including Bradfield St Clare) total Annual Figures for the 4 most common crime categories:

Year	*Burglary*	*Violence and Sexual*	*Criminal Damage/Arson*	*Vehicle*
2016	*11*	*25*	*15*	*9*
2017	*28*	*32*	*10*	*6*
2018	*10*	*27*	*7*	*5*

Figures include minor to serious crimes, and includes domestic violence.

iii. Email dated 11 January 2019 from NHW regarding an email to the Police Commissioner about the 101 system and incidents of is not working. *NHW team will provide an update on any response received.*

iv. Email dated 15 January 2019 from Borough Cllr Sara Mildmay-White, Cabinet Member for Housing regarding the update to the housing register from 1 April 2019 and the bid for properties on the Home-Link website. Every customer will need to re-apply to this updated, simpler system and they will be contacted directly. The Home-Link Scheme itself remains unchanged. *Clerk confirmed details had gone on to the website as bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net/*

v. Email dated 23 January 2019 from NHW regarding signing up to the Nextdoor.com social networking site in order that residents in the area may share useful information and recommendations. *Please contact andrewtucker7@btinternet.com if interested in joining.*

vi. Email dated 31 January 2019 regarding School Travel Policy changes. *Information is available on the village website bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net/*

9. Clerk's report:

Income

St Eds BC (grant)	Kit Café hall hire	400.00

Schedule of invoices awaiting approval

N Smith	salary	174.80	chq 410	LGA 1972
BSC Village Hall	kit café hall hire	400.00	chq 411	LGA 1972
BSC Village Hall	PC hall hire	73.50	chq 412	LGA 1972
N Smith	re-imburse printer ink	11.72	chq 413	LGA 1972

		660.02		

Cllrs approved all invoices awaiting approval.

Clerk reported that Cllr Hignett had highlighted with her a potential issue with Superfast Fibre Broadband to some part of the village. Cllr Hignett has, at the Clerk's request looked in to this. Cllr Hignett prepared a report for the meeting and the current position is as follows:-

Superfast Fibre Broadband Infrastructure, Bradfield St. Clare

At the December 2018 Kit Café community gathering in the Village Hall, Bradfield St. Clare some residents raised an issue with Cllr Hignett regarding their problems in trying to upgrade their existing ADSL broadband connection to BT's superfast fibre broadband. It has come to light that 5 houses along the Bury Road beyond the T-junction to Bradfield St. George Road do not appear to have been included in BT's recent infrastructure roll-out.

A resident provided Cllr Hignett with the email thread they had had with Steven Perkins and asked if the Parish Council could investigate the issue. The response from BT Openreach Fibre Infrastructure Solutions Dept. concluded that *'FTTP is not available to your property at the moment and there are no plans in place to alter that in the immediate future'*. So, despite there being fibre cables and an apparent connection box strapped to telegraph pole TP72 only 100 metres from Bush Cottage five houses in the Village cannot upgrade to superfast broadband.

Cllr Hignett made initial contact with BT on 16 January 2019 to ascertain the current status and check the position. He has queried that if a direct fibre connection is not possible (FTTP) from TP72, why can't a FTTC connection be provided from Cabinet 9 as with many other residents in the Village? It is clearly unfair that some residents are not able to upgrade to superfast broadband due to apparent 'shortcomings' in BT's Openreach fibre infrastructure serving the Village.

With no response a reminder was sent on Monday 4 February 2019. A reply has now been received from Aaron Smith acknowledging that there is an issue and is proposing that they should migrate the existing telephone lines from Cabinet 1(which is not fibre enabled) to Cabinet 9 (which is fibre enabled). This should enable the resident who initially raised the query, access to superfast broadband. The migration will also allow other residents currently being fed from Cabinet 1 to upgrade to fibre if they wish. Aaron Smith will keep Cllr Hignett informed on progress once he's been able to further discuss the issue with his team.

Definitions:

FTTP - Fibre to the Premises (This is where the fibre cable is fed directly into the property)

FTTC - Fibre to the Cabinet (This is where the fibre cable goes to a street cabinet and the existing copper telephone cable is used to connect to the property)

TP72 – Telegraph Pole number and connection point.

10. <u>Update on proposed 30mph and 40mph speed limits on Bury Road and Bradfield St George Road</u>

On the 11th September 2018 Parish Councillors met with a member of the Local Highways Team, together with County Cllr Soons. The reason for the meeting was to discuss the

decision of the Speed Limit Cases Panel as to the start and end points of the proposed 30mph and 40mph speed limits.

The Parish Council were seeking to:-

(a) Extend the proposed 40mph speed limit on the Bury Road, coming from Cockfield direction so that it started before the group of 5 houses on the Bury Road and before the Bradfield St George junction; Refused.
(b) Start the 30mph speed limit on the Bradfield St George Road further than the current suggested starting point (just prior to the first dwelling coming from the South) but instead it should start down at the junction with Bury Road. Agreed.

The Parish Council made the following representations:

- There is a group of five properties at the junction which under the current proposals would be excluded from the village speed limit;
- Children board and alight the school bus at the junction walking from the properties in Bradfield St George Road. This is the only bus stop for the use of home owners in the same road;
- This section of the road is part of the National Cycle Route (route 13);
- There are no footways within this area, particularly at Bradfield St George Road;
- The lack of footways adds to the risks that school children are exposed to, especially in the Winter months;
- There are three field entrances along the stretch of road after the junction and before Church Lane.

The Community Works Senior Design Technician at LHB Team, Suffolk Highways took the report to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs and the Assistant Director Operational Highways and put the case forward for the proposed amendments in light of the parish concerns. The outcome is that (a) has been refused and (b) agreed.

Consultation process

Suffolk Highways wrote to the Parish Council on 1 February 2019 to advise that the consultation process has started on the proposed 30mph and 40mph speed limits (as amended where appropriate above). The letter explaining the proposals and a plan showing the locations are now on the village Notice Board and on the village website at bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net/

Any feedback, comments or concerns should be sent for the attention of Philip Wright to email: Communications@suffolkhighways.org by 1st March 2019.

11. Footpaths
Cllr Newlands had bought to the attention of the Clerk that any unregistered footpaths and bridleways across the country will be lost forever, if they do not become registered by 1 January 2026. The footpaths and bridleways need to be on official maps. Chairman and parishioner who reports on the footpaths are working together to identify whether there are any footpaths or bridleways in the village that are not registered, and there will be an update at the next meeting.

12. Report on 2019 Parish elections
Clerk reported the following timetable:

22 March 2019 – Election Notice will be issued by West Suffolk Council and Clerk will put it up on the village notice board and village website.

3 April 2019 – any person wishing to submit a nomination pack to become a candidate in the parish elections must submit their paperwork, in person, by no later than 4pm on 3 April 2019. Paperwork cannot be submitted prior to the 25 March 2019. Clerk agreed to hand in existing Cllrs nomination packs if they wanted her to at West Suffolk offices, but Clerk advised that this would be before 3rd April and she was not permitted to amend any information that was incorrect on the form.

2 May 2019 – Parish elections.

13. Planning

i. Application DC/19/0177/LB – Retention of (i) the removal of existing sanitaryware internal partitions and associated services (ii) re-instatement of previously removed staircases (iii) internal partitions and blocking up of existing doorway (iv) new sanitaryware and associated services – Bush Green Farmhouse, Bush Green Farm, Elm Green Lane, Bradfield St Clare.

Cllrs considered the document provided with this application and had no objection, but would of course be led by any comments the Conservation Officer made.

14. Date of next meeting – 14 May 2019 (Annual Parish Meeting followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting)

Meeting closed: 9.30pm

Appendix A

County Councillors Report

Green light to develop more specialist education placements in Suffolk

On 29 January 2019, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet agreed recommendations to move forward with creating more specialist education places in Suffolk.

Suffolk will need between 300 to 400 places for children with additional needs between now and 2020, and this figure is likely to continue to increase. The demand for specialist education places in Suffolk is rising rapidly due to the county's population growth, advances in medicine, and the increasing complexity of specialist needs.

The recommendations include three new special schools and 36 specialist units attached to existing mainstream schools, which combined will create over 800 new specialist education places in the

county. The Cabinet also agreed that a clarified education pathway for specialist provision is created to assist families in understanding what the local offer is.

Following the approval of the recommendations, the proposal to borrow up to £45.1 million to fund the new places will now go to the county council's Capital Strategy Group to be reviewed. If agreed, the decision will go back to Cabinet in the Spring for final sign-off so the recommendations can be rolled out.

Councillor Gordon Jones, Suffolk County Council's cabinet member for children's services, education and skills, said:

"I welcome today's decision. Suffolk County Council is committed to ensuring all of Suffolk's children and young people are able to attend a good local school, one that meets their individual needs and supports them to achieve their full potential regardless of the challenges they may face.

"The decision today will help to create hundreds of more specialist school places across the county, reducing our dependence on placements outside of Suffolk, which come at a high cost, and transforming the experience of education for our children and young people with SEND."

Suffolk's roads warming to £300,000 thermal patching technology

Suffolk Highways is celebrating road repair success following a £300,000 investment in Nu-phalt Thermal Patching technology.

The investment, which has been funded from the extra £9.67 million received from central government in the autumn, has aided the county's Highways teams to carry out more effective, longer-lasting repairs to Suffolk's road surface.

Over the last month, Suffolk Highways has deployed three thermal road repair machines which have repaired approximately 1,700 potholes county-wide.

The process includes an eight-minute heating cycle of the road surrounding the defect allowing for the existing road surface to be heated to 200 Celsius. The surface is then raked, topped up with bitumen binder and pre-heated material, then compacted. This all takes place within the service's much-favoured 15-minute temporary closure.

The process does not require excavation of the highway, meaning no dust or noise, and better still, no waste material. The result also means there are no surface joints, which can be prone to faster deterioration.

Following its success, Suffolk Highways is now looking to accommodate this technology by adapting some of its own fleet to self-deliver this repair technique from March.

Beyond the investment in Nu-phalt Thermal Patching technology, the £9.67m of funding will enable a programme of work. This includes improvements and repairs to the pavements in the town centres of Stowmarket, Felixstowe and Haverhill and drainage work to solve long-term flooding problems on the A12 – Wangford bypass, the A143 – Bury St Edmunds Compiegne Way, and the A1120 – Cedars Link Stowmarket.

The funding will also be used for better quality, long-lasting white lining on the:

- A146 Lowestoft
- A1092
- A1021
- A1141
- A1095
- A1120.

On rural roads, when preparing roads for next summer's surface dressing, the funding will allow for work to clear drains and gullies, cut back hedges, cut grips and clean signs.

Department for Education recognises outstanding performance by Suffolk students

On 24 January 2019, the Department for Education published revised GCSE and A Level results.

GCSE

Suffolk has risen in national league tables for students in the county achieving the standard GCSE pass in English and Maths.

Today's validated figures from the Department for Education confirm that 1% more students in Suffolk are achieving the expected standards in English and Maths at GCSE compared with last year.

Since 2015 there has been a change to the way that English and Maths GCSEs are graded. Results are now graded from 9 to 1, (previously A to G) with 9 being the highest and 1 being the lowest.

The expected standard for pupils to achieve is now a grade 4 (a standard pass) and above (previously a C grade and above), with grade 5 considered a 'strong pass'. These changes will be phased in to cover all subjects by 2020.

64% of students in Suffolk are now achieving the expected standard in English and Maths, putting Suffolk in the top half of authorities achieving this standard.

GCSE progress remains above average and Suffolk students have seen a steep increase this year with a Progress 8 score of +0.08, compared with -0.02 nationally. This figure puts Suffolk in the number 1 position in our statistical neighbour group.

Progress 8 measures how well pupils of all abilities have progressed by comparing them with students who achieved similar levels in Key Stage 2 across the country. Suffolk is in the top half of authorities for this figure, ranked 42nd out of 151.

The percentage of disadvantaged pupils in the county achieving the standard pass in English and Maths is in line with national figures. The Progress 8 figure for disadvantaged pupils is also above the national level and is in the top half of authorities, ranked 42nd out of 151 (up from 67th in 2016).

A Level

The validated A Level figures confirm that Suffolk pupils have once again performed well with the number of A*- E grades remaining above the national average figures.

The figures show that 98.1% of A Levels taken in the county have been awarded an A*-E grade, compared to 97.6% nationally. A Level attainment is measured by the Department for Education using a points system. Points are given based on the type of A Level and the grade achieved. For example, an A Level at grade A is worth 50 points, whereas an AS Level would be worth half of this.

Suffolk's A Level average points per entry this year has risen by 0.3 to 30.3 compared with this time last year.

10,000 Suffolk homes say 'no' to cold callers on their doorsteps

Suffolk Trading Standards recently gave out its 10,000th No Cold Calling sticker, just four years after launching the campaign.

The stickers are placed on a homeowner's front door to declare that the resident does not want uninvited traders to call at their property.

The Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008, state that traders who approach a resident after having seen the sticker, are committing an offence.

Further details on No Cold Calling zones and how to get a No Cold Calling sticker can be found at **www.suffolk.gov.uk**.

Energy project awards its 100th grant to help businesses be more environmentally friendly

On 2 January 2019, it was reported that 100 Norfolk and Suffolk businesses have now received a grant from The Business Energy Efficiency (BEE) Anglia project. The project provides free support to eligible organisations to help them become more energy efficient.

Screenworks Limited, one of the UK's leading promotional textile suppliers based in Haverhill, recently received the 100th grant having successfully applied for £16,240 to help fund two new gas dryers. This new equipment will provide huge energy saving results, reduce their carbon footprint by 21 tonnes and cut costs by £5,700 every year.

The BEE Anglia project has now delivered £540,000 in similar grants, with £1.8million spent in total on green projects. Local organisations are still able to apply for these grants.

Grant funding is just one of the ways that the BEE Anglia project supports businesses to reduce their carbon footprint and save money. It also offers free energy reviews and the chance for organisations to work towards a Carbon Charter.

Businesses interested in the BEE Anglia Project can find out more and register online **www.beeanglia.org** or call 01473 350370.

Appendix B

Borough Councillors report

£14 million package to improve safety and reduce congestion on the **A1307** from Haverhill through Linton starts this month. St Edmundsbury has long campaigned for improvements to be made on this road.

1. **Next year marks 1000 years since The Abbey of St Edmund** was founded, people can discover more about the history when the findings of two major studies are unveiled for the first time this month. Both studies were commissioned by the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership of which the Borough Council is a partner. A summary of the studies are available at the Cathedral tourist information point, library, Apex or on line at www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/abbeyofstedmund

2. **Extension to the Lark Valley Path** British Sugar has agreed a long-term lease with the Council for a piece of land that runs alongside the Bury St Edmunds factory and the River Lark, so it can be opened up. This will create an attractive nature walk running from Barton Hill to Bury Train Station and create an extension to the Lark Valley Path.

3. **Smart energy pilot.** West Suffolk councils made a successful bid for £335,500 to pilot smart energy solutions including developing a local smart grid, installing solar power on buildings and new battery technology and storage including that planned for the Mildenhall Hub.

4. Work continues on the move to one **West Suffolk Council.** For instance, a single licensing policy, work on the new constitution, and West Suffolk Taxi and Hackney Carriage policy to name a few.

5. **Suffolk Internship Programme** is now open for applications. Anyone currently studying at university and is interested in gaining paid experience in local government these are 12week placements at all Suffolk Councils including West Suffolk. Applications need to be submitted by 24th February more information available from rising high Suffolk-internship programme information.

6. **Housing Register** From February 1st people on the housing register in St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath will need to re-register if they wish to remain on the housing register. They must do this by 28th February to ensure they remain on the housing register from 1st April. Councils across the Cambridge sub-region are changing IT provider for the data base it uses for its choice based letting scheme, Home-Link as the contract with the other supplier comes to an end. All people at present on the register are being contacted to tell them about the change and offer help where needed. The scheme itself remains unchanged and priority banding will not be affected. It is only if there has been a change in their circumstances that their banding may change as happens now. People can re-register from 1st February at www.home-link.org.uk more information will be available on the Council's website at www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/housingregister

7. **Budget for investment and growth** Next week the budget for the new West Suffolk Council will be proposed for a decision by the Shadow Authority. The new council will continue the policy of investing in our families and communities work, supporting new businesses coming

Signed..... Dated.....

to West Suffolk and pioneering work in areas such as clean energy generation and the continued performance of the largest solar farm of its kind. It is also proposed to adopt the Suffolk wide policy to help care leavers. This will give 100% council tax discount to young people in West Suffolk aged 16-25 who were previously under the care of Suffolk County Council. As part of the creation of the new authority council tax levels will be harmonised over seven years. This means that St Edmundsbury Council Tax Payers will see no increase in the Borough's part of their council tax bill for this coming year.

Signed..... Dated.....