BRADFIELD ST CLARE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2019

The Parish Council Additional Meeting was held on Thursday 12TH November 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The Chairman Cllr J Kirk welcomed the following Cllrs: M Newlands, G Thomas, P Foster and M Hignett, together with the Parish Clerk- N Smith. Also present: Borough Cllr Sara Mildmay-White and County Cllr Karen Soons. Two members of the public present (one of which being the Footpath Warden for the village).

1. Apologies for absence – all present.
2. Declarations of Interest – Cllr Thomas declared an interest regarding any discussions about Pitchers Green Farm.
3. Minutes – Cllr considered the draft Minutes of 8th August and 22 October 2019. All Cllrs present agreed that the Minutes were a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.
4. Matters arising:

   Rights of Way Parishioner had written to the PC to flag up issues with two rights of way.

   Reported on the SCC Highways Reporting Tool on 11/08/2019 under the following reporting numbers for the Rights of Way Officer to look into. County Cllr Karen Soons made aware of the reporting numbers and the issues.

00250328	Footpath parallel to St Clare Hall is impassable and in a "dangerous state" *Response from SCC Area Rights of Way Officer on 21/08/19: "Thank you for your report. The route has been inspected by one of our Area Rights of Way Officer and as assessment was undertaken. Whilst we understand the points made in the report, in our opinion we do not consider the route to be dangerous. We are currently in the bird nesting season so any vegetation cutting work cannot be actions until mid September, the landowner will be contacted regarding the vegetation after this time. The definitive line of the public right of way must be legally diverted for the route to move so cannot move within the line of fir trees"* ***Footpath Warden for the village present at the meeting. She indicated that in parts along the footpath there were tree roots which made it difficult. Clerk will email ROW Officer and copy in Footpath Warden so that the Warden can take up this matter with the ROW Officer.***
00250329	Footpath at Elm Green Lane always went straight through to Felsham Cockfield Road but now there is a padlocked gate. *Response from SCC Area Rights of Way Offier on 21/08/19: "Further location detailed needed from customer. Route inspected all of the routes nearby to the plot and description of gate location. There are locked gates on the private drive to St Clare Hall but these are not on or affecting any public rights of way. I found no locked gates on the rights of way in the area. If further details of location can be provided of the problem gates I'm more than happy to go out to inspect the route".. Clerk*

	30/19 *asked Cllrs Newlands and Kirk to clarify location with the ROW Officer.* ***Following discussion at the meeting Cllrs and the Footpath Warden advised that in fact this is not an official footpath. Matter closed.***

Broadband – the current update from the Programme Director at Suffolk Better Broadband is as follows:-

"Openreach are arranging for the telephone line serving Bush Cottage, Bradfield St Clare to be re-arranged onto a fibre-enabled street cabinet (P9), which is approximately 300m from Bush Cottage, which should result in Bush Cottage getting a Superfast Broadband speed. The aim is to complete the work within the current quarter ie by the end of September 2019.

Cllr Hignett advised that he had been in contact with parishioners at Bush Cottage. The works had not been carried out. Openreach now had to submit an application for a road closure to complete the works. That is now supposed to take place on 2nd December 2019. County Cllr Karen Soons will make enquiries as to whether or not the application for the road closure has been submitted by Openreach.

Speed Limit – (21 October 2019) The current update is:-
"The professional services/design element of the above project has now been completed and we have now ordered the construction/implementation element of the work on the 21/10/19. The project has now been handed over to the Operations Team to plan schedule and deliver within a maximum period of 14 weeks from the date of the Order."

Overgrown trees – West Suffolk Council have investigated ownership of the parcel of land where the trees are situated using the records that they hold. It does not appear to be registered so they doubt that it formed part of the transfer to Havebury Housing as it did not belong to the Local Authority to begin with. West Suffolk Council provided a plan with the land registry overlay, the havebury overlay and the havebury grounds maintenance overlay all of which appear to omit any details when it comes to the piece of land in question. It is also not included on the West Suffolk ownership overlay or West Suffolk grounds maintenance overlay.
On the same piece of unregistered land stands a pumping station which is indicated in the attached screen print so it may be that the land is either highways land or Anglian Water land. Anglian Water confirmed that they were only responsible for the pumping station. County Cllr Karen Soons made enquiries at County Council. *It was arranged for a Tree Officer to survey the trees and for any works recommended by the Tree Officer to be passed to the Winter and Cyclic Team. The Clerk has made enquiries with the County Cllr about an update, but to date no details.* ***County Cllr Soons to make enquiries as to (a) whether the Tree Officer has visited the site, (b) what recommendations (if any) are being made in relation to the tree maintenance, (c) when any works are to be carried out.***

Planning application DC/18/2005/HH and DC/18/2006/LB – St Clare Hall Farm, St Clare Hall Road – application for (i) two storey side extension (following demolition of existing garage) and (ii) internal and external alternations to windows and doors.
PC considered at meeting on 6 June 2019. Clerk raised the points queried by the PC with the relevant planning officer who confirmed that it was the Conservation officer comments which had led to the re-consultation.
Conservation Officer report now available on the planning website at https://planning.westsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=PG43MFPDJ9W00
Consent has been **approved** by the planning department.

5. Borough Cllr Sara Mildmay-White's report:

Changes to bin collection days. I hope everyone is getting to grips with the changes starting this week. Some households will see no changes but a different time, so bins must be out by 6.30am. Others will have a completely new collection day. Since 2010 we have an additional 7,000 households. We use software to work out the most efficient routes to collect the blue and black bins from all 81,000 households in West Suffolk. By re-routing the collections, we make the routes more efficient, delay an increase in the number of vehicles and crew we need for the next 2-3 years, equivalent to a £175,000 saving per year and ensure that routes are organised to manage the recent and future housing growth. From 11th November we will be taking the blue and black bin waste to the new transfer station in Bury St Edmunds rather than the sites in Red Lodge and Thetford thus reducing the distances travelled. Once the new transfer station is operating well the household waste station will transfer there too. No date yet as to the opening of that facility.

Bury St Edmunds old Post Office. Planning permission has now been granted for our project to redevelop 17-18 Cornhill. This multi-million pound development will keep the historic front of the building while widening Market Thoroughfare, improving St Andrews Street and supporting the local economy and town centre. The redevelopment of the former Post Office site will include ground floor business units with 12 flats above. This will deliver some of the key aspirations of the Bury St Edmunds Town Centre Masterplan, improve the flow through Market Thoroughfare as well as hopefully acting as a catalyst to other businesses to see what further improvements are possible in the area. The Council will now be working to appoint contractors to carry out this exciting redevelopment.

Green Energy. A truly green glasshouse project is being built in Ingham. This £120 million project will reduce CO2 emissions, secure food production and bring hundreds of jobs to West Suffolk. We have supported this ground breaking scheme as part of our drive to encourage economic growth and it is another example of environmentally friendly initiatives in West Suffolk.

Rapid Charger. We are installing a rapid charger in Newmarket to allow drivers to recharge their vehicles in as little as half an hour. The charger is being installed in All Saints Car Park. This is part of wider work to install chargers in our car parks as well as on streets, including from lampposts. This will see 22 charge points across West Suffolk and has been made possible by us securing government funding from the Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV). This is of course just part of our ongoing work to reduce CO2 and help the environment as well as supporting West Suffolk in tackling the Climate Change Emergency.

Social prescribing in Mildenhall and Brandon. I am told that even before the official launch we had people signing up and this is a project that is truly changing lives. It is a partnership between the Council, Health Services, the County Council and local organisations. It is a real success story and once again shows how we are willing to not only do things in a different way but to forge ahead and deliver real benefits for our communities.

Winter Provision for Rough Sleepers. As with last Winters, we do not feel it is necessary to open a Winter night shelter because we will be offering a range of different options in a variety of locations, all of which offer alternative accommodation. In addition to the 10 bed spaces we use all the year round. We currently have 20 rough sleepers across West Suffolk. All are offered accommodation but there are still a number who refuse to engage and do not take up any offers of support from our rough sleeper outreach team. The council is seeing an increased demand for temporary accommodations due largely to the new homelessness duties. Therefore, it has been investing in temporary accommodation in order to reduce the use of bed and breakfast accommodation. Lack of affordable housing and social rented properties continues to be a challenge for all councils.

Looking for Change. The council continues to support this campaign operating in Bury and Newmarket. This encourages people who want to help to give to a charity to support vulnerable and homeless sleepers, rather than giving to those who are begging, most of whom are housed and receiving help.

6. County Cllr Karen Soons report: Attached to these Minutes and also available on the Parish Council website at www.bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net/

7. Public Forum:
   (i) Parishioner query with regards to Pitchers Green Farm planning application. If a reasonable offer is submitted to purchase as ongoing concern on agricultural basis what happens if the Applicant refuses a reasonable offer just because they might want to hold out for a change of use to residential which would realise the Applicant more money. How does the planning department view refusals of reasonable offers in these circumstances? Borough Cllr Sara Mildmay-White said that was not sure but would make enquiries with the planning department and revert back to the parishioner once she had a response.
   (ii) Parishioner advised that over the next week or so the beets would be lifted from the fields and there will be a movement of agricultural vehicles around the village, but it should only be for a very short period of time.

8. Correspondence:
   i. Email from Safer Neighbourhood Team providing the most up to date statistics for local reported crimes. Bradfield St Clare had one reported crime.

9. Clerk/RFO Report:
   Clerk confirmed that the 2018/2019 audit had been approved by way of a Certificate of Exemption with the external auditors.

A payment to the PC Insurers have been made since the meeting on 6 June 2019 in the sum of £162.40.

Schedule of Invoices awaiting approval

ICO	Data Protection renewal fee	40.00	chq421 LGA1972
N Smith	Salary from 06/06/19	294.00	chq422 LGA1972
WSC	uncontested election costs	21.34	chq423 LGA1972

All Cllrs present approved the expenditure and cheques were duly signed.

10. To consider and approve Precept for 2020/21

Cllrs approved a Precept in the sum of **£2439** for 2020/21 based on the following expenditure:

Clerk's salary (incl tax and NI)	765.00
Clerk's Office rent	0.00
Admin Costs (postage/paper/ink etc)	60.00
Audit Fee	0.00
Council Insurance	180.00
SALC subscriptions	150.00
CAS subscriptions	0.00
CAS website	60.00
ICO subscriptions	40.00
Grass Cutting (PCC)	120.00
Grass Cutting (Mr Morley)	100.00
Grapevine costs	80.00
Village Hall rent (PC)	84.00
Mr Spall (grass cutting)	200.00
Sundries	500.00
Election costs (4 yearly cycle)	100.00

	2439.00

11. To consider and approve 2020 PC Meeting dates

The following dates were agreed:

11th February 2020
12th May 2020 – (Annual Parish Meeting followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting)
11th August 2020
10th November 2020

12. Cllrs Reports: Cllrs had given relevant reports during the "matters arising" section of the meeting. In addition, Cllr Newlands reported that there were quite a few potholes developing on the village roads. Clerk will go around village and take photographs and report on the highways reporting tool.

13. Date of next meeting – next scheduled meeting on 11 February 2020.

Meeting closed: 8.55pm

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