

BRADFIELD ST CLARE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 11 JULY 2023 AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Parish Councillors present: Chair Cllr John Kirk, Cllrs Paul Foster, Malcolm Hignett, and Sue Partridge. Parish Clerk, Nicola Sturgeon, present. County Cllr Karen Soons present. Borough Cllr Sara Mildmay-White sent her apologies.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllrs Duchesne sent his apologies. Apology accepted.
2. Declarations of Interest: no declarations of interest for any of the Agenda items.
3. Minutes of Meetings: To consider and approve the Minutes of the meeting on the 9 May 2023. Cllr Hignett proposed they were a true and accurate record and Cllr Partridge seconded. All Cllrs present agreed.
4. Matters arising:
Matters arising would be dealt with under agenda items 6 and 7 at this meeting, to provide an update and any steps going forward.
5. Public Forum: no members of the public present.
6. Update on Speed Surveys and to consider any next steps:

The Speed Survey had been undertaken between 15 April 2023 and 21 April 2023.

Pitchers Green

SCC Highways states that “the position chosen was at the point most representative for vehicles passing through Pitchers Green...we can only apply 30mph limits in areas where there are properties or driveways adjoining the highway...on either side of Pitchers Green there are far too few adjoining driveways/entrances etc for us to consider a 30mph limit appropriate. The only section of this road that may be considered for a 30mph limit was the specific section where the houses are – the speed of vehicles passing through this area is far more relevant to the request to lower the limit.”

Pitchers Green – survey results

“The vast majority of traffic travelling through pitchers Green, in either direction was well under the current national speed limit here. The fastest recorded speeds were between 30-35mph, with the highest percentage of vehicles travelling between 20-25mph.

Signed.....

Dated.....

As it currently stands, Suffolk Highways would not consider the introduction of a 30mph limit through Pitchers Green”.

“I am happy to arrange further surveys here – one on each side of Pitchers Green, but it is unlikely that this will help progress this.”

Clerk reported that she had forwarded this information on to the residents at Pitchers Green that had originally raised the matter with the Parish Council. It was disappointing news. Those residents enquired “when do we try another speed survey”. The Parish Council considered this enquiry and it was agreed that it would not make sense to spend more money on a speed survey at this moment in time, but with new homes being built locally perhaps in another years time it would be something for the Parish Council to consider and revert to the County Cllr to see if they could fund another speed survey but it was noted that the opinion is that if there are not noticeable changes then it is unlikely to change matters.

Clerk also reported that another villager asked “Where do we stand if we put our own ‘slow down’ notices/signs up?” County Cllr Karen Soons had responded to this enquiry and advised that “As long as they are more than 1.2 metres from the edge of the road and on private land with the land owners permission.”

Bury Road

“With regard to Bury Road site, I believe there is a decent case to put forward to extend the existing 30mph limit onto Bury Road – likely 200metres either side of the junction and the cluster of properties around Linden House and the bus stop etc.

I must stress that this request will be heavily based on safety concerns regarding children and other pedestrians crossing Bury Road to use the bus stop – as although the speeding data shows a few outliers travelling over the limit, the majority again are well within the limit – the highest percentage travelling 35-40mph.

This request would have to be put to our Safety and Speed Team for their consultation – and a source of funding would need to be identified for the Traffic Regulation order and signs that would be required for this.

With regards to the speeding concerns in the vicinity of the Church and the cluster of properties, this would require an additional survey here to see if this would meet out criteria to consider changing the speed limit/installing a buffer zone etc – but as previously mentioned, a blanket 30mph on Bury Road would not be considered due to the gaps between the cluster of properties.”

The Parish Council considered this. Firstly, the cost of progressing with the section of Bury Road by the junction near Linden House. County Cllr Karen Soons estimated approximately £8,000, and she would have approximately £4,000 (possibly more if

Signed.....

Dated.....

other projects in other villages failed to get approved). The PC noted that last time they raised the funds over several Precepts and the balance would need to be funded partly from savings and partly from temporarily raising the Precept over several years.

Second concern with regards to costs is that if the junction by Linden House would be approx £8,000 if the location further along Bury Road was also successful that would be another sum of money and how would the PC afford that. Following discussion it was agreed that in the first instance Karen Soons would fund a speed survey on the second location on Bury Road and that Matthew Fox at SCC Highways would be asked if the speed data was favourable for a speed reduction at that location if both locations could be dealt with in one application therefore reducing the overall costs. Clerk to update later in the year.

Finally, Cllrs felt that the increase in the actual volume of traffic was being displayed in the speed data survey results compared to those taken on the speed survey a few years ago. Clerk will try to get that data to analyse.

7. Grit bins

At earlier meetings in the year the issue of the state of grit bins had been raised.

Cllr Partridge had kindly looked at all the grit bins in the village to see what needed replacing, although it was noted that generally the grit bins were not used by individuals in the village in bad weather and that may be because they think they are not permitted to use the grit. They are. SCC do not come out and use the grit it is there for residents.

Following a discussion the following was agreed:-

- (a) The remaining funds from the jubilee monies (£770.98) is not held by the Parish Council;
- (b) SCC have approved that it can be used towards grit bins;
- (c) In the meantime, the Village Hall Committee (holding the funds) have decided they would, if possible, like to retain the £770.98 and put it towards the improvement works at the Village Hall;
- (d) The Parish Council agreed with the VH Committee that this was a good use of the £770.98 in updating the VH;
- (e) Karen Soons indicated that the PC could make an application to her locality budget for the cost of grit bins (the PC decided there was definitely 1 bin needed replacing and possibly 2);
- (f) It was noted that the £770.98 would need to be used by March 2024 or it would need to be returned to SCC. If the Locality Officer approves the VH use of the monies then the PC will make an application under the Locality Budget for the grit bins.

8. Correspondence : (all correspondence has been circulated to Cllrs)
- (i) Email from West Suffolk Council re: update on amended consult date for the final draft of the Local Plan for West Suffolk planning. This will now be January 2024 rather than November/December 2023 to avoid consulting during the holiday period. Draft Local Plan available at https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/Planning_Policies/upload/Local-Development-Scheme-web-June-2023.pdf

Cllrs noted the information.

9. Clerk's Report:

Items awaiting payment

Clerk's salary £260.64 chq 474 LGA 1072

All Cllrs present approved the payment.

10. Cllrs Reports:

Cllr Hignett enquired whether the PC could look into getting the village sign and the post cleaned next year. Also, the bench near the sign needs a good clean. Following the meeting Chair John Kirk and Cllr Hignett looked at the sign, post and bench, and it needs a good clean down.

It was agreed that (a) Clerk will put an article in Grapevine to see if any villager wants to quote for the works, (b) if no-one in the village then Clerk will look further afield to try to get some quotes.

The blue enamelled piece on the sign may need some additional attention but will deter once it is removed during the cleaning process. Clerk is aware of a sign writer, Wayne Tanswell in Sudbury who may be able to do any necessary works to the blue area which is appears can be removed from the rest of the sign.

11. Date of next meeting: 8 August 2023 at 7pm in the village hall.

Meeting closed: 8.15pm

Signed.....

Dated.....