

BRADFIELD ST CLARE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 8 AUGUST 2023 AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Parish Councillors present: Chair Cllr John Kirk, Cllrs Malcolm Hignett, Alex Duchesne, and Sue Partridge. Parish Clerk sent her apologies. Borough Cllr Mildmay-White was present and County Cllr Karen Soons sent her apologies.

1. Apologies for absence: Parish Cllr Paul Foster sent his apologies.
2. Declarations of Interest: None
3. Minutes of Meetings: To consider and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 11 July 2023. The Minutes were not available for this meeting but will be considered at the next scheduled meeting.
4. Matters arising:
 - (a) Jubilee monies. These need to be spent by the end of March 2024, and the VH works are not due to commence until April 2024. Clerk has contacted Karen Soons to see if there is any extension of time, and if not then the VH will need to consider liaising with Karen Soons with regards to a Locality grant. Meeting was informed that Anglian Water are currently reviewing whether a defibrillator could be placed on the wall of their building (following a direct approach from parishioners to AW). It was agreed that if AW gave approval in time then the Jubilee money should be spent on a defibrillator, otherwise possibly on grit bins. It was noted that defibrillators have been seen on green Openreach boxes and PC asked if Clerk could look into this as a possibility. An alternative use of the Jubilee monies is of modifications to the entrance door of the VH. Councillors to consider this at their next meeting. When Councillor Mildmay-White arrived, she was asked about funding for the VH modifications, as Chairman had sent her the estimate. She will review this with Jon Eaton in September.
 - (b) School Bus: Cllr Hignett had contacted Vertas (route no TN) re: possibility of bus stopping at Pitchers Green; he did not hear back. The bus timetable lists only a stop at Bush Green. There are, however, now no children who would need to use the bus in the coming year. Parishioner indicated that she had, when working as school secretary, herself contacted Vertas to request additional stops. It was agreed that if a need for an additional stop arose again, then parents would be directed to ask the school to request this.
 - (c) Grit bin near Hagglesdon House – Chairman Cllr John Kirk has not yet had a chance to look at his, but will do soon and report back.

Signed.....

Dated.....

5. Public Forum: 1 member of the public present who had spoken during the matters arising section with the consent of the Chairman.
6. Correspondence: (all correspondence has been circulated to Cllrs)
7. To consider issues regarding odour from the Water Treatment Plant near the Village Hall:

It was noted that in addition to the problems of odour, the vegetation and fencing has not been maintained. Cllr Hignett provided the following report of his dealings with Anglian Water.

For several weeks, a foul odour has been emanating from the Anglian Water Treatment Plant. It has been progressively worsening each day, culminating in a formal complaint made by Cllr Hignett on Wednesday July 26th 2023. The complaint was submitted in the form of an email to Anglian Water Customer Services. In response, an email was received from Ryan Foster of the Customer Relations Team, indicating that they would respond as promptly as possible, ensuring a response no later than Monday, August 7th 2023.

Dissatisfied with the somewhat 'relaxed' response, Cllr Hignett called the Anglian Water emergency number displayed on the gate that evening (0345 714 51450). During the call, he requested the dispatch of an engineer to review and rectify the issue the following morning. This request was promptly addressed, and on Thursday, July 27th 2023, at 7.30am, Graham Clutten, one of Anglian Water's 'Optimisers' arrived. Upon investigation, he identified that the aerobic bacterial process had malfunctioned due to the intermittent operation of the aeration pumps. Consequently, on the same day, a tanker was employed to empty the primary tanks of the 'deactivated' sludge. Subsequently replenishing it with active sludge sourced from another treatment facility.

Another resident approached Graham Clutten to discuss the state of the fence and the bothersome brambles that have become a nuisance when using the Village Hall. While some corrective measures were taken, the fence remains in need of ongoing maintenance.

It should be noted that properties in the village situated downwind of the Water Treatment Works are susceptible to foul odours when the bacterial process breaks down. Therefore, it is recommended that if any residents encounter unpleasant sewage smells near the Water Treatment Plant they should they should file a formal complaint with Anglian Water using the provided emergency number. In addition, Graham Clutten gave Cllr Hignett his mobile number, with the suggestion that he is called directly if there is an issue.

Signed.....

Dated.....

The Councillors would like to request the maintenance schedules and records for the last 25 years, as there is a strong suspicion that the frequency of emptying has decreased over time. If necessary, then to be requested under a FOI. Also, to enquire whether the alarm on the aerator pump has been repaired. Apparently, automation is planned, but it is not clear what part of the system will be automated?

An additional question for AW is how many homes in the village are served by the plant?

Councillors considered whether information could be usefully provided in the Grapevine about what not to put into the sewage system, as wet wipes, in particular, are a problem causing blockages.

8. Clerk's Report:

Items awaiting payment

N Sturgeon	salary	chq475	£130.32	LGA1972
BSC VH	grapevine	chq476	£100	LGA1972
BSC PCC	grass cutting	chq477	£120	LGA1972
A Spall	grass cutting	chq478	£200	LGA 1972
M Morley	grass cutting	chq479	£100	LGA 1972
WSC	local election costs	chq480	£81.91	LGA1972

Items approved for payment.

9. Cllrs Reports (if any available):

Borough Cllr Mildmay-White advised that the WSC Local Plan is being reinvigorated, with formation of a new Group in Council. The final consultation will be on areas which are identified as acceptable for building, or could be built on. Requirement is to build 800 houses per year, 10% being on small sites (less than one hectare) and therefore likely to involve villages/countryside. She also noted that 2 of the Planning Officers are leaving. Finally, application received for a new (replacement) feed mill (British Sugar) near the Waste Transfer Site on Eastern Way. Although recommendation for refusal because of its visual impact, the Council recommended approval of the application.

Parish Cllr reports:

Cllr Partridge asked Cllr Mildmay-White if there had been any update to PCs in BSGeorge or Rougham, or at Borough Council, about the progress of consultation on the new water main – as work has started in Little Whelnetham. Cllrs Mildmay-White said that she would make enquiries.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Cllr Partridge enquired whether the PC meetings could be more evenly spread throughout the year (3 monthly intervals). *Clerk has since confirmed that it was an inherited situation and the dates can be amended to be more evenly distributed throughout the year, and she will organise that with the PCs approval.*

10. Planning:

- (i) DC/23/1159/HH – Weeping Ash, Bury Road, Bradfield St Clare. Householder application – detached outbuilding with roof mounted PV array (following demolition of existing shed).
Cllrs considered the application and felt that the new application/design shows very little difference from the original application, the only changes being a change of the door, and a more angled roof line, plus weatherboarding. The footprint is unchanged. Cllrs felt that the same objections as were made to the original application still apply, and suggested that the terminology used in the Council’s rejection letter be used in our response. Cllr Mildmay-White advised that if the PC refuse the application but Planning Officers recommends it then it will go to a delegation panel which she can attend in order to represent the PC views. In the meantime, she will discuss the PC concerns with the Planning Officer.

11. Date of next meeting: 14 November 2023 at 7pm in the village hall.

Signed.....

Dated.....