

**BRADFIELD ST CLARE PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2022**

**AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

The Chairman Cllr J Kirk welcomed the following Cllrs: Paul Foster, Malcolm Hignett and Alex Duchesne. No members of the public attended the meeting. Clerk was not present at the meeting, due to ill health, but had continued to work on behalf of the Parish Council and prepare work for the meeting, and brief Cllrs on Agenda items ahead of the meeting. Clerk should be present at PC Meetings as from May 2022.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Partridge sent her apology due to an unforeseen family matter. Apology accepted.  
County Cllr Karen Soons sent her apologies as she was recovering from surgery.  
Borough Cllr Sara Mildmay-White sent her apologies as she had to attend a West Suffolk Council Cabinet Meeting.
2. Declarations of interest: No declarations of interest.
3. Minutes: Minutes of Parish Council Meeting on 9 November 2021 were approved to include the one amendment requested by Cllr Partridge.
4. Matters arising:

<u>Matter</u>	<u>Update</u>	<u>Next steps</u>
In response to Andy Tuckers email from Neighbourhood Watch on 6 December 2021 regarding the accident involving 2 lorries on Bury Rd near the Bury Road/Ixer Lane junction, Cll Hignett informed the PC that he had sent a	Concerns about accidents occurring and the number of them.  SMW recommended that the PC write to:- (a) Chair of development control at Babergh; (b) Cllr Stephen Plumb with copies to the 2 Cockfield Cllrs;	The Parish Council agreed that it should contact the named contacts that Borough Cllr Sara Mildmay-White had suggested. <b><i>Clerk will draft letters for approval to send.</i></b>

Signed.....

Dated.....

personal letter of objection to the Babergh & Mid Suffolk County Council Planning Authority regarding further housing development in Cockfield (Planning Application DC/21/02296 ) warning that: “The most dangerous section of the Bury Road is the sharp bends near Maynards House just before the turning to Water Lane. With increased residential and commercial traffic on a road with no markings and unrepaired potholes there will be accidents.”

- (c) Matthew Hicks – Leader at Suffolk County Council;
- (d) Richard Smith – cabinet member for Highways.

		03/2022
Strip of land in front of the Anglian Water Treatment Plant	In September 2021 Clerk wrote to the owners regarding tidying the area and whether they had any objection to the PC helping with tidying the area for the time being. Owners had until 9 November 2021 in which to respond, failing which the PC would assume they did not mind any assistance from the PC.	<p>One response received and that owner did not have any objection.</p> <p>PC can assist in tidying that area.</p> <p>Cllrs discussed various options:-</p> <p>(a) Continue to allow it to be a wild area for flora and fauna, insect etc, but just cut around the edge of the plot to show this was a deliberate attempt to let it grow wild and demonstrate that it is being looked after ie. in Spring and Summer, regular mowing around the edge of the plot and in the Autumn scything down the long grass to keep it looking tidy for with Winter months. It was pointed out that the PC were willing to help the owners if they wished to be involved in the regular maintenance, but it is really their responsibility. However, there is no objection to the PC taking this on, on their behalf.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>(b) The PC ask Andy Spall to add this grass plot to his cutting schedule when he cuts the grassed area around the Village sign and the PC pay him an additional sum to look after this area of grass. However, it was pointed out that the PC would be paying for the upkeep of somebody else's garden and by rights; the owners should be paying for this. <b>It was proposed that we should ask Andy Spall if he could give us a quote for adding this grass plot to his regular grass cutting schedule and this was agreed.</b></p> <p>(c) While it was accepted that parish councillors themselves were willing to voluntarily mow around the edge of the grass when necessary any</p>

Signed.....

Dated.....

		04/2022
		<p>decision the PC make should be formalized, with owners given a chance to respond if they had any objections.</p> <p>(d) In concluding, the PC agreed that since we have not receive any further responses or objections from the owners, the PC will do what they think is best for the village with the proviso that it is easy to implement and not be too costly for the PC.</p>
<p>Flooding within particular areas of the village.</p>	<p>Clerk has liaised with County Cllr Karen Soons and Simon Curl (Flood and Water Manager at SCC). The Environment Agency has passed the Parish Council's enquiry to SCC as it relates to surface water flooding issues. Mr Curl considers that the incidents of flooding that the PC reports "appear to be a combination of ditch flooding/capacity and road drains/gullies not working properly." Mr Curl has offered a site meeting to discuss the matters.</p>	<p>Following on from Simon Curl's proposals regarding the PC initiate a 'Self Help' maintenance team to carry out maintenance on gullies, ditches, verge tidying etc. within the village, it was emphasized that since we all pay Council Tax, we expect this to be part of SCC's normal routine maintenance plan. With an elderly community in the village it would be impractical to expect villagers to initiate such a scheme. Any local volunteers are likely to be untrained individuals who could potentially become injured or not do the job as required to be effective, and they would not be insured. Passing the responsibility on to members of the community would raise serious health and safety concerns.</p> <p>With some sympathy, it was noted that due to the Parish Clerk's ill health, there hasn't been any progress in this matter but she will progress the issue once she has recovered.</p>
<p>Community Speed Watch</p>	<p>See next column for current position.</p>	<p><i>(1) Accepted offer from PC Lee Andrews-Pearce for him to come to the village and carry out speed enforcement which he has confirmed that he will do.</i></p>

Signed.....

Dated.....

		<p style="text-align: right;">05/2022</p> <p>(2) Clerk has emailed <a href="mailto:communityspeedwatch@suffolk.police.uk">communityspeedwatch@suffolk.police.uk</a> in order to register the PCs interest to start up a CSW. Need enough volunteers before we can progress to the next steps.</p> <p>(3) County Cllr Karen Soons had made email contact with Tuddenham PC to see if they were interested in sharing or selling their CSW 'speed gun'. No response. Clerk chased and the Tuddenham PC Clerk is on indefinite leave at the present time. Clerk telephoned their Chairman and left message for a call back. <b>Still no response.</b></p> <p>(4) PC Lee Andrews-Pearce confirms that he is happy to do a community event in village to give information about CSW scheme which may prompt people to volunteer. <b>Clerk is awaiting a response to see if PC Lee Andrews-Pearce is able to attend the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 10 May 2022 to give information about the CSW. It was noted that there are mixed views within the village about undertaking a CSW.</b></p> <p>(5) <b>At least 6 volunteers needed as next step of the CSW scheme before we can progress any further. We are still at least 2 volunteers short of the number required.</b></p>
Litter Pick	Organised for Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> March, starting at 10am and meeting at the carpark near the Village Hall.	Two articles have gone into the Grapevine and information has been put on the village notice board. The PC will provide all necessary equipment ie litter pickers, high visibility jackets etc. The PC agreed to organize refreshments for the litter pickers in the Village Hall afterwards and pay for the Village Hall hire and cost of teas/coffees/milk/sugar for this event.

Signed.....

Dated.....

5. Borough and County Cllrs reports: on the website at [bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net/](http://bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net/)
6. Public forum:
7. Correspondence (all correspondence has been forwarded to Cllrs ahead of the meeting):

- (i) Distribution of leaflets to some households in the village regarding anti-social behaviour.  
Cllrs advised that it was not a leaflet that had been distributed but an “ABS Community Survey” and was distributed to households by a uniformed police officer.

Andy Tucker SNWA BSE Area B Network Coordinator or PC Simon Collins had been invited to attend this meeting and explain why this survey had been distributed, why it wasn't to every household in the village and what has happened in the community to require this. PC Simon Collins, who it is understood was responsible for the distribution of the survey was away on leave so Andy Tucker was not able to find out the details in time for the meeting. It was thought the survey might have been triggered by large vehicle parking issues.

It was pointed out that in Andy Tucker's Neighbourhood Watch Report for 2021 for this village it was noted that there were 3 reported crimes: 1 x violence/sexual, 1 x criminal damage/arson and 1 x anti-social behaviour, so maybe the survey was related to one or all of these incidents.

This survey was delivered to households along Bradfield St George Road and its first question asks, “Within the local area (15 minute walk from your home) how much of a problem is Anti-Social Behaviour? At this moment in time, it is unsure how many households have received it. The view of the PC is that the survey should have gone to every household in the Parish but it is know that many parishioners didn't receive it. It was suggested that maybe the police were conducting an ABS survey across a number of neighbouring villages and we were just part of this exercise. This is why the PC felt it was important to have a police representative present at this meeting. Following this discussion, it was proposed to invite PC Simon Collins and Andrew Tucker to the next PC meeting on 10 May 2022 or if they're not available on that evening, invite them to a meeting with councillors to discuss the issue.

- (ii) Email from WSC dated 26 January 2022 advising that the timeline for the preparation of the West Suffolk Local Plan has been amended and the preferred option consultation is now scheduled to take place between May-July 2022.

This was noted by the Parish Council.

8. Clerk's report:

(i) Schedule of items for payment.

Village Hall hire	Nov & Feb	28.00	chq455	LGA 1972
Church hire	July	14.00	chq456	LGA 1972
N Sturgeon	clerk's salary	423.54	chq457	LGA 1972

Cllrs agreed the items for payment.

(ii) Schedule of Income and Expenditure from 01/04/2021 to 08/02/2022. Cllrs were provided with the cashbook entries for this period. The meeting agreed the schedule.

9. Cllrs reports/updates (if any available): None10. Planning: no new planning matters.11. Date of next meeting: 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm, followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Signed.....

Dated.....