

BRADFIELD ST CLARE PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2020**

The Parish Council Meeting was held on 11 February 2020 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 and County Cllr Karen Soons. One member of the public present.

1. Apologies for absence – All Parish Cllrs present. Borough Cllr Sara Mildmay-White sent her apologies as she was at a West Suffolk Borough Council Cabinet meeting.
2. Declarations of Interest – None
3. Minutes – Cllr considered the draft Minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Cllr Hignett proposed and Cllr Newlands seconded that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting. All Cllrs present agreed.
4. Matters arising:
  - (i) Speed restriction signs – are there supposed to be 40mph roundels on the road as there is in the 30 mph area, if so they are not yet painted on the road, and there is still only one national speed limit sign on the post by the property known as the Old Rectory, the backing sign is missing. Clerk will email County Cllr Soons so that she can speak with the relevant Highways Officer.
  - (ii) Overgrown Trees at Bradfield St George Road – 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 land 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.  
Anglian Water were contacted but confirmed that they are only responsible for the pumping station building and nothing else.  
County Council Highways were contacted and the Community Liaison Engineer reported back with the following:-

“Update on the Arboricultural survey on the trees at Bradfield St George Road, Bradfield St Clare. I have spoken to the Winter and Cyclic supervisor who arranged the survey. Apologies that he did not send you an update as requested.

The survey carried out raised no immediate concerns about the health or condition of the trees. At the time of survey all were judged healthy and disease free. The leaves and branches were all in good condition and there were no branches assessed as needing trimming. The survey concluded that there was minimal risk to the Highway or to Members of the Public. No specific recommendations were made for future works.

The assessment did not mention the overhanging branches across the residents property. Current guidelines state that the overhanging branches may be cut back by the property owner/occupier as long as there is no detriment to the health of the tree and there is no Preservation order on it. The Borough Council holds records of

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these. The dropping leaves, sap and seeds etc is considered part of the normal ecological process. There was no flagged concerns regarding the risk to the customers property/fence etc.

The ownership of the trees and the land they stand on is the same issue as the trees on Twites Corner on Gt Saxham. The land is unregistered and the trees are well beyond confirmed Highway boundary (which was confirmed by Land Registry and our records). This space could be considered public for pedestrian passage and crossing. Our survey was not an admission of ownership or liability. Having read the email trail it states that the PC planted trees historically. If this is the case, they are responsible for the trees, if not the land which is likely WSDC, given its location and unregistered state – again, an identical case to Twites Corner.

We will continue to respond to future reports of issues in this location and they will be assessed as they come but currently there are no plans to perform any maintenance works on the trees in this location.

I am happy to meet either yourself or the PC onsite to discuss this.”

*Please note that WSDC are stating that they are not responsible (see above), and Clerk reverted to parishioner who advised that the PC had been donated trees by SCC years ago. He was unsure where the PC planted the trees but it was not at Bradfield St George Road as this area was already populated with trees.*

***Clerk will provide parishioner with the response from SCC. PC wish to meet with the officer, and would like the County Cllr present at that meeting. They would also like to invite the parishioner to that meeting.***

5. County and Borough Cllrs reports: both available on the parish website at [bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net/](http://bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net/)
6. Public Forum:
  - (i) Discussion regarding footpath along by St Clare Hall Farm. Parishioner pointed out area where there are issues in using the footpath on the definitive map that Clerk had at the meeting. Clerk will (a) find out who the Rights of Way officer is, (b) send an email with photographs and relevant area on the definitive map to the officer and copy in the village footpath officer, asking that the footpath be sufficiently repaired/established by the land owner so that villagers can start using it, as they have started to stop walking along it because it is difficult to use. Update at next meeting.
7. Correspondence: (all correspondence has been forwarded to Cllrs ahead of the meeting)
  - (i) New West Suffolk Local Plan programme (first consultation due to take place in May-June 2020). Discussion that it would be important to see what the proposed New Local Plan states in relation to the village once it is available.
  - (ii) 2019 Neighbourhood Watch Reports. These are available on the parish website at [bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net/](http://bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net/)

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8. Clerk/RFOs Report:

(i) Schedule of items awaiting approval was agreed as follows:-

|              |                         |        |        |          |
|--------------|-------------------------|--------|--------|----------|
| CAS          | website hosting         | 60.00  | chq424 | LGA1972  |
| N Smith      | salary (since Oct 2019) | 235.20 | chq425 | LGA 1972 |
| Village Hall | annual hall hire costs  | 77.00  | chq426 | LGA 1972 |

(ii) Confirmation that the Parish Council wish to file a Certificate of Exemption for the 2019/2020 audit period. Cllrs agreed that a Certificate of Exemption should be filed for the audit.

9. Cllrs reports

(i) Resignation of Cllr Glyn Thomas. All Cllrs and the Clerk thanked him for his many years service as a Parish Cllr working on behalf of the village and its parishioners. He will be greatly missed. Clerk will arrange for the relevant Notice of Co-option to be advertised.

(ii) Planning matters in neighbouring villages. In particular it was noted that Cockfield village comes under the remit of Babergh District Council and that a new planning matter there on the outskirts of their village and almost bordering Bradfield St Clare would lead to increase in traffic through the village. Babergh should have advised West Suffolk Planning Department of the matter so that they could then advise Bradfield St Clare who could then be consulted on the planning application. This had not happened. Clerk to contact Planning Department to see how this can be dealt with.

10. Planning Matter: (no new planning matters)

11. Date of next meeting – next scheduled meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – Annual Parish Meeting starting at 7pm, followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed: 8.20pm

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