

**Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield Parish Council**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th December 2013  
in the Methodist Schoolroom, Bradfield Combust

Members present: Councillor D Staff in the Chair, Councillors M Bluett, M Duchesne, D Green, T Langan, R McKenna, C Mears and C Walters. Also present was Mrs V Waples (Clerk) and six members of the public.

1.	<p><u>Chairman’s Welcome &amp; Apologies for Absence:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Apologies of absence had been received from Cllrs. R Mckenna (Annual Leave) and C Walters (Work Commitments) and the Bury Rural SNT.</li> <li>ii. Council consented to accept these apologies.</li> </ul>	
2.	<p><u>Declaration of Members Interests:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. There were no declarations of interest for the agenda under discussion.</li> <li>ii. There were no requests for dispensations.</li> </ul>	
3.	<p><u>Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013:</u> The previously circulated minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Co-Option to the Council: Section 87 of the LGA 1972:</u> It was proposed, seconded and agreed by all that, under the LGA 1972 Section 87, Mr. Andrew Tucker be co-opted onto the Council to fill the vacant seat. As Mr. Tucker was able to attend the meeting his Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor was signed in front of the Clerk as Proper Officer for the Council. He was notified of the requirement to complete, sign and return a Register of Interests to the Clerk which would be completed after the meeting.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Public Forum:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. County Councillor, Mr. Terry Clements was invited to submit his report in which he made reference to the cross-border partnership that is being signed between Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils as a memorandum of understanding to pledge to simplify health and social care for people living near the county boundary. He also made the meeting aware that plans to save £39m from the budget were being explored by the county council's scrutiny committee which could include cost cutting proposals. It was expected that the leader of the County Council would be meeting with the government the following month to make Suffolk's case for receiving part of a £250m pot of money. He confirmed that Realise Futures celebrated its first birthday and provided advice, training, skills development and paid employment for people who are disadvantaged or disabled. He also mentioned that 18 organisations across Suffolk had been recognised for their outstanding service to local people. Locally he confirmed that the A134 would be redone when the weather improved and that Highways would be working through the list of potholes it had recently received. It was also confirmed that requests for a VAS in Bradfield Combust should be submitted to the relevant authorities.</li> <li>ii. Borough Councillor, Mrs. Mildmay-White was invited to submit her report during which she informed the meeting that the Vision 2031 documents had now been sent to the Inspector. It was anticipated</li> </ul>	Clerk

	<p>that hearings would take place in 2014 and some modifications were expected. The Borough was aware that the Inspector might rule that there was a lack of provision for Gypsy and Traveller pitches which could possibly result in the document being judged to be unsound. She also made the meeting aware that the Borough had managed to get a pre-emptive injunction on all car parks and open spaces in Bury St Edmunds in light of recent incidences with a group from the travelling community. A piece of land had now been formally designated as a temporary solution and the family was allowed to stay there under licence until the end of March. It was confirmed that St Edmundsbury needed to look for a site for 12 pitches which needed to be reasonably close to a settlement. She mentioned that the Borough had originally turned down a Waste Transfer Site at Rougham but the County had given planning permission. However SCC had given the Borough an agreement that if it could come up with a suitable alternative the County would reconsider. She further mentioned the developments at Suffolk Business Park with regards to extra housing between Moreton Hall and the link road at Rookery Cross Roads; new Upper School and Football Club and a joint area with school and public facilities joining up and being brought together. It was noted that the Records Office was now staying in St Edmundsbury and that there were changes to Development Management Shared Services and representations at Development Committee Meetings.</p> <p>iii. A written report had been received from the Bury SNT in which it was confirmed that there had been 1 crime of interest in the Parish - theft of a nail gun from premises overnight 4-5<sup>th</sup> November in Stanningfield. It was confirmed that the current priorities for the SNT were dealing with speeding issues; preventing and deterring hare-coursing and to detect, prevent and deter offences of burglary. The SNT brought the Council's attention to ongoing complaints relating to parking around schools and a leaflet that had been produced by the SNT which was being handed out to all schools and parents.</p> <p>iv. Comments/questions from the floor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns were raised once again at traffic driving along the footpath at Smithy Close to access some of the properties. The meeting was made aware of the response from St Edmundsbury and the SNT. It was discussed as to whether the Parish Council should initiate a solution to the problem. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Park Operations Manager to ascertain what his reaction would be if the Parish Council was to do something to sort out this problem.</li> <li>• Signs for Hoggards Green and The Green - the Clerk confirmed that she was in the process of sorting this out with the Borough and a solution would be forthcoming.</li> </ul>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>To discuss the Parking Issues within Smithy Close</u>                  The SNT confirmed that it had visited the area twice to view the problem and on both occasions there had been no vehicles parked outside Nos. 2 and 3 on the grassed area. It was also confirmed that with regards to driving on the grass and footpath you were allowed to drive other than on a road to gain access to park for a distance of 15m. You can drive on or over a pavement, footpath or bridleway to gain lawful access to property or in the case of an emergency. As per the discussion under the Public Forum,</p>	

	<p>County Cllr. Clements and Borough Cllr. Mildmay-White agreed to organise a visit from the relevant authorities to look at the problems associated with this area.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>To discuss the Installation of the VAS</u>                  The Clerk confirmed that Stanningfield was now in the system for the deployment of the VAS which would be week 22 of a programme that commenced on 21th November 2013.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p><u>To receive the Clerk's report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The financial report was presented to the Council. Current funds stood at £6,060.12. Income in the sum of £108.00 had been received since the last meeting: Allotment Rent £24.00 and Stanningfield Comm. Association £84.00. The following payments had been raised since the last meeting: BT £56.90 ddr (LGA 1972 s111) (Nov and Dec). It was noted that £550 would be coming to the Parish Council from the Village Hall Association.</li> <li>ii. The following items were approved and presented for payment: St. Edmundsbury £2072.09 cheque 650 (Open Spaces Act 1908 s9&amp;10); Abbey Fire £317.38 cheque 651 (LGA 1972 s111); V Waples £49.15 cheque 652 (LGA 1972 s111); V. Waples £339.28 cheque 653 (LGA 1972 s112).</li> <li>iii. To consider projects to be supported from the balance of monies within the NIP account: it was noted that this would now be discussed further in the New Year. Council was made aware that it was already a member of the Community Action Suffolk which was an umbrella of groups associated with funding and projects.</li> <li>iv. To consider further the request to agree in principle to the erection of a memorial to recognise those who had died during WW1 and WW2 in Bradfield Combust and to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of WW1: it was confirmed that local masons had been approached for further prices for the memorial plaque. Following the circulation of a previously drafted letter on request for donations from residents, it was agreed that this should be extended to parishioners of both villages with the money being put towards the new memorial and the upkeep of the memorial in Stanningfield. It was agreed that an article should be inserted into the next Newsletter with a short piece on WW1 and that the anniversary should be recognised in both parishes. It was also proposed and agreed that both public houses should be approached for a collection box to be sited in both for donations. Cllr. Tucker made the meeting aware that he had researched the stories of those who had died in WW1 and that he had approached Bury Free Press to start discussions as to how they would cover the event locally. Cllr. Tucker agreed to contact the Bury Free Press for possible funds.</li> <li>v. Basis for the allocation of future allotments - provided that there was space Council was in agreement that future allotments for those outside the village should be offered at a rate of £30 per annum.</li> <li>vi. Quotation for Grass Cutting Services - Council was in agreement to accept the quotation for grass cutting services from West Suffolk as per previous years for the sum of £1726.74.</li> <li>vii. Snow Clearance, Salting and Gritting - as agreed at the last meeting and following the letter from the Council's insurers detailing policy guidelines and cover in preparation for cold weather, the Clerk had obtained a copy of the guidance given by Suffolk County Council. A copy of this guidance was circulated to all present and it was agreed</li> </ul>	<p>AT/CM</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>that a copy would be uplifted to the website.</p> <p>viii. Play Area Inspection Report - the Clerk confirmed that she would be meeting with the equipment manufacturer to obtain quotations for the repairs that had been identified as necessary following the recent Annual Inspection organised by the Borough.</p>	
9.	<p><u>To consider matters to be included within the Precept for 2014/15 noting recent correspondence from St Edmundsbury and SALC:</u></p> <p>Following further correspondence from SALC, NALC and St Edmundsbury on the LCTS grants and Parish grants from the Borough, Council reviewed the draft precept that had been previously circulated which indicated that an increase in the precept levied on the parishioners might be necessary just to standstill. It was agreed that, subject to any further information being received from the DCLG and NALC, Council was minded to set a precept in the sum of £10,200 which was the same as the previous year but due to the changes in funding would equate to an increase of approx. £3.70 per annum on a Band D property. This would be finalised at the meeting in January 2014.</p>	
10.	<p><u>To receive reports from the Councillors:</u></p> <p>i. Cllr. Mears made the meeting aware of the problems that have been encountered by those using the bridlepath outside of a property along Saxes Lane at which building works were being carried out. It was noted that the Clerk had liaised with the owners and that it had been agreed that parking would be allowed at the village hall on the rare occasions when the car park at the property was full and that a local contractor had been asked to use his mechanical sweeper to clean up on a weekly basis. It was noted that, given the season and the lay of the start of the bridlepath this point always collected water.</p>	
11.	<p><u>Planning Issues:</u></p> <p>i. Forest Heath &amp; St Edmundsbury - Strategic Environmental Assessment Addendum - summary appraisal of alternative options - consultation from 5th December to 30th January 2014.</p>	
12.	<p><u>Correspondence:</u></p> <p>i. SALC - LAIS 1360 - new Standing Orders - it was noted that Council would need to review its existing Standing Orders and adopt the revised ones prior to the end of the Financial Year.</p> <p>ii. St Edmundsbury Newstalk - request for donation. It was agreed that as per previous years the Council would not be making any charitable donations but would leave such support to individuals within the community.</p> <p>iii. SALC - Newsletter of the Year Competition 2013 - Council was informed that it had not been placed in the competition and that the winner of the smaller category was Pettistree People, Pettistree.</p> <p>iv. General correspondence was brought to the Council's attention. Updated copies of The Good Councillor's Guide was issued to all present.</p>	
13.	<p><u>Closing Comments from the public:</u></p> <p>There were no further comments from the members of the public present.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.05pm</p>	

Date of next meeting 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014 in the Village Hall, Stanningfield.