

Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 23rd June 2014
in the Village Hall, Church Road, Stanningfield

Members present: Councillor D Staff in the Chair, Councillors M Bluett, M Duchesne, R McKenna, C Mears, A Tucker and C Walters. Also present were Borough Councillor Sara Mildmay-White (in part); County Councillor Terry Clements (in part), PCSOs Claire Teakle and Rebecca McDavid (in part), Mrs V Waples (Clerk) and two members of the public.

1.	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome & Apologies for Absence:</u></p> <p>i. There were no apologies of absence received. Council was made aware that D Green had resigned in writing from the Parish Council which had been accepted by the Chairman. The vacancy would now be advertised according to legislation. Cllr. Tucker made the meeting aware that a person from Bradfield Combust had indicated an interest in the vacancy.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Declaration of Members Interests:</u></p> <p>i. There were no declarations of interest for the agenda under discussion nor were there any gifts of hospitality exceeding £25.</p> <p>ii. There were no requests for dispensations.</p> <p>iii. Council was reminded that although not required under the Localism Act, the <i>Suffolk Local Code of Conduct</i> required councillors to disclose Disclosable Pecuniary Interests of Local Non Pecuniary Interests in any matter being considered at each meeting it arises, even if it is already registered.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th May 2014:</u></p> <p>The previously circulated minutes for the previous meeting were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Public Forum:</u></p> <p>i. Bury Rural SNT: a report was provided in which there were no crimes of interest for the 2 villages. The meeting's attention was brought to the current priorities for the force which included speeding and burglaries. Residents were asked to be mindful of security. The next tasking meeting was confirmed for 9th September 2014. It was discussed and agreed that PCSO Ken Ruston would liaise with Cllr. Tucker over traffic arrangements that might be relevant for 2nd August 2014.</p> <p>ii. County Cllr. Terry Clements was invited to submit his report in which he made the meeting aware that he had been meeting with SCC Officers to see how the current situation with Highways could be improved. It was acknowledged that the situation was unsatisfactory and that the current contractors were around 4-6 weeks behind schedule with repairs and grass cutting. He confirmed that the schools consultation on the transfer from 3 tier to 2 tier was ongoing and that from this a number of new academies had been proposed along with further options for some of the schools to opt into certain educational pyramids. It was anticipated that the new school proposed under Bury's Vision 2031 documents for Morton Hall would have a significant impact on the pyramid system. He made the meeting aware that he was proposing to purchase a VAS and asked for confirmation that the Parish Council would be interested in sharing a sign with Great and Little Welnetham.</p> <p>iii. Borough Cllr. Sara Mildmay-White confirmed that the planning committee would be undertaking a site visit to the planning application submitted for Maplebank, Ixer Lane as agreed by the delegation panel. It was noted that this application would then be considered by</p>	

	<p>the Planning Committee the following week. She asked that the Parish Council kept her informed of any broken or dirty road signs and she would pass this on for action - the following signs were noted for action: sign to Bradfield St George in Bradfield Combust; Rokewood Place, Church Road opposite Old Lane and Church Road opposite the War Memorial both in Stanningfield. She also mentioned that the Borough was waiting to find out if it had been successful in applying for government funding for the relief road at Rougham - this was expected on July 8th. She concluded by making the meeting aware that she had a small Locality Budget - £2500 which she could put towards part funding of Community Events or items that would bring benefit to the community. It was agreed that the Village Day to be held in August, which was an attempt to get all within the village involved with a Fun Day on The Green in Stanningfield, would qualify for this type of funding. It was agreed that in the first instance forms would be sent to Cllrs. Staff and Mears and the Clerk for completion and return to Mrs Mildmay-White.</p> <p>iv. The Council was asked for an update on the signs for The Green and Hoggards Green. It was confirmed that these were ready to be erected following a site meeting to ensure they would be erected in the correct place.</p>	
5.	<p><u>To review the Council's Financial Regulations as per the Draft Document previously circulated:</u> With reference to the new Financial Regulations of 2014, Council proposed and agreed the adoption of the previously circulated document that had been adapted to meet the needs of the Parish Council.</p>	
6.	<p><u>To review and adopt the revised Suffolk Local Code of Conduct following changes to legislation:</u> Whilst there have been no subsequent changes to the legislation, further guidance had been issued by the Government which addressed three issues that should help improve efficiency and reduce bureaucracy for local councils:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A suggested amendment to the Code currently used by local councils, removing an unnecessary restriction around the granting of dispensations • The current thinking on councillor interests and precept setting • An often overlooked restriction which councillors need to be aware of if they have Council Tax arrears <p>With reference to the above it was proposed and agreed that the Council would re-adopt the Suffolk Local Code of Conduct with effect from 23rd June 2014, aif.</p> <p>It was also agreed that the Clerk would email all Councillors the link to the Register of Interests as published on the website to check for inaccuracies and all would advise the Clerk of any corrections necessary.</p>	
7.	<p><u>To receive the Clerk's report:</u></p> <p>i. The financial report was presented to the Council. Current funds stood at £14,772.72. Income in the sum of £12,741.59 had been received since the last meeting: Donations (x8) towards for the WW1 Memorial; Village Hall Association re Doors; St Edmundsbury Precept and LCTS and Uk Power Networks Wayleave. The following payments had been raised since the last meeting: D Staff £76.80 cheque 663 (Open Spaces Act 1906 s9&10) ; BT £29.82 ddr (LGA 1972 s111) (April); AJ Joinery £878.40 cheque 664 (LGA 1972 s111) and BT £29.82 ddr (LGA 1972 s111) (May).</p> <p>ii. The following items were approved and presented for payment: SALC £221.00 cheque 665 (LGA 1972 s143; CAS £30.00 cheque 666 (LGA</p>	

	<p>1972 s111); Aon Insurance £831.13 cheque 667 (LGA 1972 s140(1); Anglian Water £10.90 cheque 668 (Open Spaces Act 1906 s(10)); V Waples £80.37 cheque 669 (LGA 1972 s111); V. Waples £339.28 cheque 670 (LGA 1972 s112) and A Tucker £50.00 cheque 671 (LGA 1972 s137).</p> <p>iii. To consider projects to be supported from the balance of monies within the NIP account: it was confirmed that there was now a balance of £1387 and that whilst the ground had been cleared and the new slab would shortly be installed for the BBQ area behind the Village Hall further works on a shelter had now been suspended. It was agreed to discuss this matter further under agenda item 8 and consider the proposal to divert monies from the NIP to restorative work required on the fabric of the Village Hall, aif.</p> <p>iv. To receive an update on the project to erect 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 donations were still coming in and that the plans were being finalised for the unveiling of the new memorial on the Saturday followed by refreshments at The Manger in Bradfield Combust and refreshments at the Red House followed by a Memorial Service on the Sunday in Stanningfield. It was noted that either the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor were hoping to be in attendance for the unveiling ceremony. It was felt that it would be more appropriate for either one of them to say a few words at the event at the event to be held after rather than during the ceremony. It was anticipated that the sum of money to be handed over to the poppy appeal would be in the region of £1700.</p> <p>v. Annual Review of the Clerk's Employment Contract & Annual Appraisal: it was confirmed that this had been carried out by the Chairman and a note made in the file as to any applicable changes/actions required.</p> <p>vi. Governance & Accountability Guide 2014 - Council was made aware that the fifth edition of the Practitioners' Guide for local councils had just been published. The Guide details proper practices for local council accounting statements relating to accounting periods beginning on or after 1 April 2014. The Clerk informed the Council that she had downloaded a copy and would ensure that the Council was fully compliant.</p>	
8.	<p><u>To consider and approve the setting up of a Working Group to raise fund for the restoration of the Village Hall:</u></p> <p>It was agreed by all present and with reference to the terms of reference supplied that Cllrs. Staff and Mears would make up the working party with two members from the Stanningfield Village Hall Association. Regular updates would be provided to both the Parish Council and the Village Hall Association.</p> <p>It was further agreed by all present that £1000 from the NIP project would be allocated into the funds for restorative works to the Village Hall with matching funds to be also given by the Village Hall Association. This would help going forward and the group would source further funds to enable the building to be preserved for the future. It was noted that match funding was available from both the County Councillor's and the Borough Councillor's Locality Budgets.</p>	
9.	<p><u>To receive reports from the Councillors:</u></p> <p>i. Cllr. Bluett made the Clerk aware that No 2 The Green appeared not to have received the letter with regards to the footpath. The Clerk agreed to provide the Chairman with a copy so he could speak to the owner direct.</p> <p>ii. Cllr. McKenna made the Clerk aware of a number of overgrown verges around the Village.</p> <p>iii. Cllr. Langan asked for an update of the waystone and was informed that</p>	<p>Clerk/ Chair</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>Highways had accepted responsibility and would be replacing said stone.</p> <p>iv. Cllr. Tucker asked for confirmation that, once the final sums were agreed, he would be able to have the large presentation cheque printed. It was agreed that this would be acceptable once confirmation had been given by the Clerk as to the sums involved.</p> <p>v. Cllr. Mears made the meeting aware that 6 people had attended the litter pick and that a total of 6 bags of rubbish had been collected. It was noted that there was a bin missing from Norse Avenue and agreement was given for Cllr. Staff and Mears to mention this on the Stanningfield walkabout with Havebury the following day.</p> <p>vi. Cllr. Mears made the meeting aware that someone from Stanningfield had indicated that they were willing to take on the Neighbourhood Watch Liaison for the village. He would soon be making contact with Cllr. Tucker for further advice and information.</p>	Highways
10.	<p><u>Planning Issues:</u></p> <p>i. Planning Application DC/14/0840 - retention of rear extension @ Harmony, 3 The Green, Stanningfield. It was proposed and agreed by all that the plans be recommended for approval, aif.</p>	
11.	<p><u>Correspondence:</u> General correspondence was available from the Clerk</p> <p>i. Lawshall Woodland Project - a request had been received to include links and share events on respective websites. Agreement was given that a short piece could be inserted onto the PC's website but that the PC had the right to editorial governance.</p> <p>ii. St Edmundsbury Borough Council - review of Council Tax Support Grant - it was agreed that Cllr. Walters would discuss this further with County Cllr. Clements and in particular how finances could be accessed by the Parish Council</p> <p>iii. Havebury - Pride in your Postcode - invite to join the walkabout on 24th June 2014</p> <p>iv. WW1 Centenary Art Commissions - invitation to join the Nationwide Lights Out Campaign between 10-11pm on 4th August 2014</p> <p>v. Stanningfield Community Association - invitation to nominate 2 Cllrs. to join the Association Committee - Cllrs. Staff and Mears would be re-elected as the PC nominees and would attend the AGM on 9th July 2014.</p> <p>vi. Requests for financial assistance under s137 of the 1972 Act - it was agreed by all that whilst those applying were worthy causes the Parish Council did not consider that it had the mandate to spend money raised from the public purse by singling out individual charities. It was agreed that charitable donations should be down to the individual.</p>	<p>CM/Clerk</p> <p>CW/TC</p> <p>DS/CM/MD</p>
12.	<p><u>Closing Comments from the public:</u> There were no further comments from the public present.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.58pm</p>	

Date of next meeting Parish Council Meeting on 4th August 2014 commencing at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Stanningfield.