

Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 19 January 2015
in the Village Hall, Church Road, Stanningfield

Members present: Councillor D Staff in the Chair, Councillors M Duchesne, T Langan, C Mears, S Parker and C Walters. Also present were County Councillor T Clements (latterly), Borough Councillor Mrs S Mildmay-White (in part); Mrs V Waples (Clerk) and two members of the public.

A statement was read out indicating that, in accordance with the changes in legislation, the public and councillors were permitted to film, record, photograph or use social media in order to report on the proceedings of the meeting.

A full transcript of the statement is available from the Clerk upon request.

1.	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome & Apologies for Absence:</u></p> <p>i. Apologies of absence were received from Cllrs. Mckenna (personal commitment) and Walters (work commitment).</p> <p>ii. Council consented to accept these apologies.</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>	
3.	<p><u>Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th December 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, following a change under Agenda Item 6i which should read Saxes and not Donkey Lane, aif.</p>	
4.	<p><u>To receive and consider applications for the vacancy in the post of Councillor with reference to s87 of the 1972 Act:</u></p> <p>The meeting was informed that as the Parish Council elections were less than 6 months away it was down to the Council itself to co-opt a member to its vacant seat and that no further elections would be called in this period. The meeting agreed that, although there was a parishioner interested in the vacancy, it would hold off the application until after the election when the Council would be able to co-opt should there prove to be a vacancy.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Public Forum:</u></p> <p>i. <u>County Cllr. Terry Clements</u> was invited to submit his report which had previously been circulated to all Councillors. In particular he mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Road potholes - he was on the case and regularly flagged this up to Highways. • Moreton Hall New High School - online for opening within the given timescales. • New gritters join Highways - 9 new had been purchased and 29 upgraded • Suffolk's Energy from Waste Facility - now open on time and on budget • School Admissions Consultation - consultation on SCC's proposed admissions policy for 2015/16 • County Council to discourage use of sky lanterns and balloon releases on local authority owned land and at events licensed by the council. <p>ii. <u>Borough Cllr. Sara Mildmay-White:</u> was invited to submit her report in which she reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application for Crendon Barn, Olivers Barn had been refused on design grounds and location in that it was located within the countryside. • New prior approval rules under the National Planning Policy Framework had recently come into force which allowed for agricultural buildings to be given approval to be turned into an agricultural dwelling. • Spring Parish Council Conference would take place on 26th March 2015 	

	<p>in Honington and Sapiston Village Hall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities - Council needed to be aware of timescales to be compliant • Election training briefing - 16th February 2015 • Locality Budget - balance of £900 left - applications needed to be submitted by 28th February and agreed by 16th March 2015 - it was confirmed that she could promise money for the Fun Day to be paid out in May. • Get Suffolk Moving - grants available from Suffolk Community Foundation for certain projects • Women's Cycle Tour - 17 - 21 June - this time would start in Bury St Edmunds • Expressions of interest were being sought for the running of the Bus Station Building in Bury St Edmunds • Suffolk Energy Action - grants were available once again for insulation etc. • St Edmundsbury portion of Council Tax - recommending a nil increase in their portion - noted that only 12% of the Council Tax collected was destined for St Edmundsbury. <p>iii. <u>Bury Rural North SNT</u> - a belated written report had been submitted in which it was confirmed that there had been one crime of interest for the period since the last meeting: theft of a chainsaw from outside of a dwelling in Stanningfield. Mention was made of the continuing trend of burglaries of both dwellings and outbuildings/garages across the County. It was noted that the next Priority Tasking meeting would be at 7.00pm on 10th March 2015 at Bury St Edmunds Police Station</p> <p>iv. <u>Members of the Public:</u> there were no comments from the public present.</p>	
6.	<p><u>To receive the Clerk's report:</u></p> <p>i. The financial report was presented to the Council. Current funds stood at £8,087.12. Income in the sum of £1,000.40 had been received since the last meeting: £1,000 from Stanningfield Village Society and £0.40 Interest. The following payments had been raised since the last meeting: BT £59.64 ddr (LGA 1972 s111) (January). Council noted the financial position as at January 2015 taking into account the budget expenditure versus actual incurred to date.</p> <p>Council was in agreement that it should consider the cancellation of the Broadband Contract for the Village Hall with BT as it was rarely used. Borough Cllr Mildmay-White agreed to support a Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme application for a screen and equipment to be used for Bingo Nights at the Village Hall. The form would be sent to Cllr. Mears for completion. Once the equipment had been received and installed the Broadband contract would be cancelled.</p> <p>ii. The following items were approved and presented for payment: St. Edmundsbury Borough Council - Grass Cutting £2,072.09 cheque 706 (Open Spaces Act 1906 s9&10); Anglian Water - allotment water £16.15 cheque 707 (Open Spaces Act s9&10); V Waples - Clerk's Salary £192.76 cheque 708 (LGA 1972 s111); V Waples - Clerk's Expenses £52.06 cheque 705 (LGA 1972 s112) and HMRC - PAYE due £159.80 cheque 800 (Corp Taxes Acts).</p> <p>iii. To receive an update on the funds being raised for Stanningfield Village Hall and works required: it was noted that the sum promised to date stood at around £12,193.71 of which £4,000 came from the successful application submitted to St Edmundsbury's Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme. The Council was made aware that application to the Suffolk Empowering Community Fund, following a request for further information, was to be considered on 27th January 2015. At the next Parish Council</p>	

	<p>Meeting, samples of the materials being suggested by the two tendees would be available to all to compare. The Clerk was asked to chase the Locality Officer at Suffolk County Council for the release of funds from County Cllr. Clements' Locality Budget.</p> <p>iv. To consider the budget for 2015/16 - Council reviewed the reworked draft precept that had been previously circulated. It was agreed that Council should take the opportunity in the coming financial year to ensure that it was in a position going forward to be able to fund its expenditure and maintain all the services and facilities currently enjoyed by the two villages.</p> <p><i>The Chairman closed the meeting to ask those members of the public present whether they would look at percentage figures or actual £s in terms of increase. It was noted that they would look at the actual monetary figure. The meeting was reopened.</i></p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr. Mears and seconded by Cllr. Duchesne and agreed by all that a budget of £13,253 be set for the financial year 2015-16, aif. It was noted that this would result in a precept of £11,825 being levied on the two parishes with a Parish Revenue Support Grant of £1,040 and a Local Council Tax Support Grant of £369 which would leave an underspend of £19 being funded from reserves. It was acknowledged that this would be an increase of 48.13% or £17.99 per annum on a Band D dwelling. The Clerk advised that the Council should be prepared to write a positive statement covering the reasons behind such an increase.</p> <p>v. Grass Cutting quotation for 2015-16 - Council was made aware of the two quotations that had been received from 2 tenders. It was agreed that as there was a third contractor who would be interested in tendering the process would be suspended until the third quotation had been sourced. It was agreed that once the third quotation had been received an email would be circulated to all Councillors for comments. Should there be overwhelming support for one quotation, Council, on this occasion, would accept a majority decision by email and the Clerk would be asked to accept that quotation.</p> <p>vi. Transparency Code for councils with an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000 - Council was made aware of the provisions within the new code which would require financial information to be published in a recognised format. The code also stated that draft minutes of a meeting of full council would need to be published no later than one month after the meeting had taken place. The recognised format as specified in the Code is on a website. The timescale by which the information should be published in the specified format was noted as 1 July 2015.</p>	
7.	<p><u>To receive reports from the Councillors:</u></p> <p>i. Cllr. Langan asked for and was given confirmation that the BT Kiosk in Bradfield Combust had been flagged up with BT as requiring works and painting. Both of which would be conducted in later months.</p> <p>ii. Cllr. Langan asked that the issue of the missing milestone in Bradfield Combust be flagged up to County Cllr. Clements for further action.</p> <p>iii. Cllr. Langan asked the Clerk to chase the Bury Rural SNT / Highways for recommendations regarding traffic calming measures suitable for Ixer Lane.</p> <p>iv. Cllr. Staff made the Clerk aware of issues with regards to drainage on Church Road. It was noted that this was the first year of problems but that, after periods of rain, there was standing water on the highway. It was agreed that Highways be invited to attend a site meeting to advise as to what remedial actions may be necessary.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Planning Issues:</u></p> <p>i. Planning Application: DC/14/2256/HH - retention of cart lodge @</p>	

	<p>Oldfields, Main Road, Bradfield Combust. Council had no objections to the planning application based on design; impact on surrounding and neighbouring properties.</p> <p>ii. There were no further planning matters to come before the Council</p> <p>iii. Council was informed of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Application DC/14/1640/FUL for works at Gold Star Kennels, Brands Lane, Bradfield Combust, which the Council had supported, was being referred to the Delegation Panel for the end of January 2015. It was noted that the application had Officer Recommendation for refusal. • Planning Application DC/14/2295/PMBPA - planning permission had been refused for works to Crendon Barn, Olivers Barn, Donkey Lane, Stanningfield <p>iv. West Suffolk - NPPG on planning obligations - noted that changes to amend the threshold for contributions to affordable housing and tariff style contributions meant that financial contributions should not be sought from developments of 10 units or less and which have a combined gross floor space of no more than 1000sqm.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Correspondence:</u> General correspondence was available from the Clerk</p> <p>i. SALC - Parish Polls Consultation - Council noted the consultation deadline of 30 January 2015</p> <p>ii. Elections 2015 - Council was made aware of the legal context of elections; costs to be budgeted for and the election timetable. Further information will be made available once received.</p> <p>iii. There were no further items to be brought to Council's attention.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Closing Comments from the public:</u> There were no further comments from the public present.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 9.20pm</p>	

Date of next meeting Parish Council Meeting on 16th March 2015 commencing at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Stanningfield.