MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRAILES PARISH COUNCIL

MONDAY 24th FEBUARY IN THE VILLAGE HALL, BRAILES

Present: Cllr Saint

Cllr Seccombe

Cllr Drury (Chairman)

Cllr Righton

Cllr Jervis

Cllr Bailey

Cllr Ashall

3 Members of the Public

Disclosure of Interest.

Members are asked to declare personal interests in any item on the Agenda. You are reminded that the Code of Conduct, which took effect from August 28th 2012, provides that if you have a prejudicial interest in any matter under discussion you should withdraw from the room and not seek improperly to influence a decision in the matter.

Cllr Righton disclosed an interest when discussing his quote submitted for mowing

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| Approve discuss and sign the Minutes of the January Meeting  The Minutes were amended and approved and signed. |  |
| Members of the Public - None |  |
| Matters Arising   * Clerk Pay Rise – the clerk explained that she had been asked to look into the structure of clerk’s pay. It is a system of SCP (Spinal Column Points) where the profile of the village and job specification, along with the clerk’s abilities, qualifications etc are put on a chart that dictates the pay of a full time clerk. For part time hours this is scaled down accordingly. Based on this the proposal was to pay the clerk according to SCP 25 which equates to £11.296ph based on working 10 hours per week. This was proposed by Cllr Righton, Seconded by Cllr Jervis, agreed by all, bar one abstention. * Street Light Maintenance. To approve the new street light maintenance contract. There had been a very slight increase on the previous years’ contract. Proposed by Cllr Drury, seconded by Cllr Bailey. * May elections – Cllr Seccombe clarified – there will be elections on a District level on the 22nd may 2014 but no parish elections until 7th May 2015, when there was a General and more District elections. The number of councilors on a District level was to decrease from 53 to 36. * Update on Parish Council vacancy – The clerk updated that the closing date for the parish vacancy applications was the 28th Feb and we would have to wait to see if enough people applied to hold an election for the vacancies or not. * Bench – Orbit had sent an e-mail to Cllr Bailey stating that they were prepared to help fund a new bench opposite Jeff’s Close in the Banbury direction. Jeff Morris from the Highways had been contacted as the land is owned by Highways but as yet had not responded. * War Memorial – there had been a leaflet recently about grants for War Mamorial maintenance | Clerk – chase Jeff Morris and put bench on March agenda.  Clerk to investigate grants |
| Floodwatch Report  Cllr Righton reported that Mrs. Pogmore had been able to dig out a letter from a meeting that had been held regarding Betty’s Field from 2008. It stated that the newly created watercourse will become part of the existing watercourse and its maintenance is up to the riparian owner under the land Drainage Act. This will now be passed to the new owner, Mr. Howard Taylor so that maintenance can now be undertaken.  Ken Taylor reported that we have had a lot of persistent rain in the last month with just over an inch in 24 hours. The ditch came into its being for 3-4 hours at one point, and there was some more dredging to do. Highways – Jeff Morris said he had jetted the gullies from the School down to School Lane, and was supposed to be attending running water at the junction of Traitors Ford down Holloway Hill today (Mon) but they hadn’t been there. The clerk added that they had also jetted the gully in Upper Brailes by the dip, and was going to contact the land owner by the dip on the way to Caution Corner up Castle Hill Lane as the gully was blocked on private land. Mr Taylor went on the little grip form the road to the brook by the Coach House was eroding the wall beside it and the PC was liable for this.  Jeff Morris had said that he wasn’t happy with the contours of the new road surface up Sutton Lane.  Cllr Seccombe asked if any houses flooded in the recent rain – NO  And without the recent work of the Floodwatch team would they have – YES  Cllr Bailey asked if Roundhills Farm is allowed to allow the runoff from their drive to run down and flood the main road? Cllr Saint said that this had been raised years ago and there had been a meeting to have some work done.  Cllr Righton reported that the road had collapsed along Traitors Ford Road not far after the Sutton turning. | Clerk to write to Mr. Taylor enclosing copies of the letter  Cllr Drury to fix  Clerk – letter to KT thanking him for his work  Clerk – letter to Caroline Warren raising points of concern  Cllr Righton speak with Jeff Morris |
| County and District Reports  Cllr Seccombe reported that District Council Tax will have a 0% increase. Council Tax bills will rise by 1.99%.  If there are any old or ill people about there is a service where they can get their bins put out.  Planning – lots through the whole area, not just Brailes  Cllr Saint – County Council Precept will increase by 1.99%. There will be problems when bills come out as the computer rounds 1.99% up to 2%. New bills should be out I about 2 weeks. The County Council is a hung council and the government has cut a grant by freezing it which at a county level wouldn’t present a problem, but there are small service increases. But on the positive side the tip is not closing and the library is not closing. There will be extra money to deal with gully problems, but while the gullies are being cleaned the culverts are not always being done or not effectively, so more money is needed to deal with this properly.  Basic services are maintained or enhanced.  Cllr Saint was attending a meeting tomorrow to look at merging County and District Councils as has been done in or near some cities to reduce costs, although Eric Pickles is against this.  Cllr Righton asked about the funding for the Fire Service, and he was concerned that the Banbury Service was getting smaller. Cllr Saint replied that there was a small decrease in funding but no change in service as it is now possible to send smaller, cheaper pumps for small fires. The number of fires is decreasing, there is cross border co-operation and whilst there is a decrease in pert time fire service persons, there are no plans to reduce the service. |  |
| Maintenance   * The Clerk has reported the pot holes to Highways, as has Cllr Drury, and we are awaiting Highways to fix them * Cllr Drury suggested installing ROAD LIABLE TO FLOODING SIGNS on the road to Shipston. This was proposed by Cllr Righton, seconded by Cllr Ashall. * Update on Millers way – the clerk reported that after contacting Neil Gilliver from the Housing Association, she was told that the road, and therefore the street light had been adopted by Highways, and Highways stated that they hadn’t adopted the road, so she got back onto Neil Gilliver and is awaiting a response.   Cllr Drury stated that until the runoff issues are sorted out by the Housing Association, the Parish Council won’t accept the road to be adopted so Highways can’t adopt the road. Cllr Seccombe noted that it is taking longer and longer for Highways to adopt these developments. Cllr Drury noted that the PC is waiting for a downpour to see how the water runoff is.   * Cllr Jervis reported that there was a pot hole along Saltway Lane beneath Winderton, and the road was subsiding beneath the Church. | Clerk to contact Jeff Morris  Cllr Saint to speak to Neil Gilliver and Neil Bennison (Cllr in charge of adoption) – clerk to e-mail Cllr Saint to remind him.  Cllr Drury was going to catch Jeff Morris while he was in Brailes on Tues 25th Feb to show him the maintenance issues. |
| Reports of other meetings/committees – NONE |  |
| Correspondence   * Cllr Righton submitted a quote for mowing between the graves in the cemetery for £50/cut and strimming at £25/cut. This was proposed by Cllr Ashall, Seconded by Cllr Jervis, agreed by all. * The clerk read out a letter from Mr. G Warmington * The Clerk read out a letter regarding EU proposed changes to the way that VAT can be claimed back. The agreement unanimously was to keep the status quo. |  |
| Planning   * 14/00184 – Shires Edge Extension – PC was in favor * 14/00217/FUL – Land Off Castle Hill Lane – PC Objects as an enforcement order is just that * 14/00399/DDT – The Moorlands – Dangerous/Dead Tree Notification – PC Not Involved * Cllr Righton also raised the matter of the tree that had been cut in half at the Old Police House – had the paperwork been submitted? | Cllr Righton to check |
| Finance   * Receipts * Payments   Cheque No 101170 Clerk’s salary £358.38  DD BT £93.73 |  |
| Date of next meeting  **March 31st in the Village Hall** | Items for next meeting:  Maintenance for defibulators  Oak Posts for Burial Ground  War Memorial  School Govenors  Signage for Village Hall events? One for the VH Committee?  Trees on Playing Fields – Ivy  White Gates at Village entry? |