MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRAILES PARISH COUNCIL

MONDAY 27th OCTOBER 2014 IN THE VILLAGE HALL, BRAILES

Present: Cllr Drury (Chairman) Apologies – Cllr Ashall

Cllr Jervis Cllr Lloyd

Cllr Bennett These were accepted

Cllr Righton

Cllr Seccombe

Cllr Saint

Around 20 Members of the Public

Before the meeting opened the chairman announced that in an effort to cut down on discussions, he would ask each councilor in turn their comments on a decision point, and then a vote by hands would happen.

The clerk announced that due to recent legislation changes the meeting could now be recorded and was being recorded by the Parish Council.

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| 1. 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 declared an interest in discussing the Village Hall finances, and the cemetery  Cllr Bennett declared an interest in discussing Stuart Cottage in Planning as she is a neighbour. |  |
| 1. Approve discuss and sign the Minutes of the August Meeting   The minutes were approved by all and signed |  |
| 1. Members of the public   Peter Binns – asked once again for the Parish Council’s assurance that a public meeting be called should an application for development of Betty’s Field be submitted – the Chairman assured him that was the case.  John Grieves – objected to the complaint details and his wife’s signature being put on the website, but thanked the Parish Council and the clerk for their prompt removal at the complaint.  Sharon Thomas asked how many houses had been built post 2011 to present – the clerk responded that she would let her know.  She also thanked the clerk for updating the website to include a link to SDC website regarding the register of interests of the councilors; however Cllr Lloyd’s was missing. The clerk replied that it was in the process of being updated, but Cllr Lloyd is currently away.  Mike Russell-Carter asked why the dates for filling the vacancy post had changed according to Graham Raspin at Stratford District Council, which meant that not enough people had had the chance to respond to the notice to call for an election. The clerk explained and appologised for the fact that this was an error on her part. The notice was put to the Feldon news in time to be in the dec issue to gain maximum exposure, and by the time Graham Raspin pointed out this error, the item had gone to print. Several e-mails and discussions between the clerk and Graham Raspin took place where the clerk took the outcome of the conversation to be that the action of giving too much time to respond on the advert was one that wasn’t lawful, but that there wasn’t much that could be done about the situation but to wait and see. This caused much comment, and criticism from the members of the public, the outcome of which was that the chairman was going to see Graham Raspin the following day and the results of the conversation and action going forward would be put on the website. |  |
| 1. Reports from other Committees/Sub Committees  * Neighbourhood plan – There was no meeting in Nov as there weren’t enough committee members to make the meeting quorate. The next meeting is on Dec 8th????? A Notice Board was requested and approved by vote by all Councillors. A max spends of £150.00 without authorization was approved by unanimous vote. A list of the committee members consisting of Tony de Maillet (chair), Maggie Goren (secretary), Cllr Lloyd, Cllr Bennett, Mark Moore, Louise Appleton and Cheryl Dudfield were proposed. Cllr Drury questioned whether it is right to have the secretary also as a voting member, Tony de Maillet assured him it was fine, all voted unanimously to accept the members. * Village Hall – Paul Hoff from the Village Hall Committee gave an update regarding the village hall finances. Last year the Village Hall had an income of £21,634.01 and an expenditure of £19,734.43. There are several large projects going on including an upgrade to the projector system. The £3,000 that the parish Council donates is important especially as some costs such as grass cutting are high (£6,000 per year). The clerk asked for clarification as to whether the £3,000 was given in lump sum to the Village Hall, or as and when so that larger invoices including those with VAT can be paid direct by the Parish Council. Rather than make a decision now Cllr Bennett asked that it be moved to the next month’s agenda so that the planned projects can be explored to give a fuller picture. All Agreed. | Councillors to look at VH accounts sent on by the clerk. |
| 1. Floodwatch Report   The clerk had written a letter to Mr. Ferris in response to his letter last month. All Agreed by a show of hands to send it.  The Chairman then explained that he had been requested to have a meeting with Craig Edwards of Orchard Close and Paul Ryman of Stratford District Flood Team and also Cllr Righton. He was concerned about a lip in the middle of the Flood Relief Channel. This meant that the water might not flow effectively down the channel. A long discussion followed about the best course of action. Paul Ryman suggested that the top was taken off the far end of the brook. This maintenance should be carried out by the riparian owner, Mr. Howard Taylor, but he is not carrying out the work at the minute so the parish council would have to foot the bill carry out the work, and look into the possibility of recovering the money from Mr. Taylor at a later date. All voted by show of hands in favour of this action. There is a meeting proposed on Sat 6th Dec at Sutton Brook to see what’s needed | Clerk to contact Paul Ryman re notification of outcome.  Clerk to ask Mr. Taylor for permission to cross his land |
| 1. Matters Arising from the last meeting  * Standing Orders – all agreed to adopt the model standing orders by a show of hands * Transparency – the clerk explained that the new legislation allows for the use of recording devices in a Parish Council meeting. The councilors debated whether to allow mobile chatter and social media during a Parish Council meeting, or not. The councilors all voted to move this item to the next month’s agenda * Clerk’s pay – Although the clerk regularly does more hours than contracted it was proposed by Cllr Righton that the item be looked at again next month. Al agreed. * Cllr Lloyd was absent so the update was moved to next month. All agreed * Cllr Bennett updated the Parish Council on the recent planning training that she attended. She explained that Parish Councils should consider SIL (Sec 106) money in advance of an application, and also that right across the country areas like our village is facing applications for larger housing developments. * Precept – This was moved to the next month as time was getting late. The clerk asked the councilors to e-mail ideas that were relevant to the precept. The chairman briefly outlined an idea that would require an increase in the precept of tennis courts. This was identified as the most popular request when the village survey was done a few years ago. A business plan needs to be put together for it, but it is a goal for the next few years. * Cheese and Wine evening – Cllr Righton, Cllr Saint and Cllr Seccombe added their apologies. It was suggested that David Ash, someone from planning and Nadim Swahala would be useful to invite along as well. |  |
| 1. County and District Reports   Cllr Saint – There is a primary school competition to name a gritting truck underway that closes on the 12th Dec. Dale Packer, the chair of governors was at the meeting so Cllr Saint said he’d forward on the details.  There is movement underway to potentially form a cluster Council made up of various Councils in the area. Birmingham and the Black Country are getting together and are inviting Coventry and Warwickshire to join them. Warwickshire often comes with Coventry but Warwickshire is a 2 tier council and the alliance will make it the only 2 tier super council. The County Council will also set its precept soon.  Cllr Seccombe had nothing to report, but wanted to add that individual comments to planning applications are better than one letter with lots of signatures. |  |
| 1. Maintenance.  * The road in Winderton and the drains have all been done. There are a few pot holes at the bottom of the hill. * The dog bins need emptied | Clerk to report |
| 1. Correspondence  * Maggie Goren had written to ask if the parked cars beside the new bench opposite the entrance to Jeff’s Close could get moved. The Chairman pointed out that this is a highways matter and not one for the Parish Council and she should contact the police. * Paul Clarke received a letter back from the clerk in response to his letter last month. He wished to point out that while delegated functions could be given to the parish clerk any decisions still had to be made in public when referring to planning applications. * Instruments – the clerk has been contacted by David Birch of Shipston Town Band regarding the musical instruments. The Councillors voted to sell the instruments to them by a unanimous show of hands | Clerk to write to Mr. Russell thanking him for his time |
| 1. Planning  * 14/02794 – Stuart Cottage, Lower Brailes, Demolition of existing car port and works to existing lean to. Decision needed by 02/12/14 – Support the application – voted by hands – all except Cllr Bennett (Abstain due to interest) * 14/03207/Tree – subcommittee meeting on 6.12.14 to discuss and decide. Cllr Jervis suggested a tree other than Sycamore be used to replace – like for like? |  |
| 1. Finance   Receipts – Headstone £110  Payments –  Cheque no 101198 – Royal British Legion £200.00  101199 – Clerk’s Salary £489.67 101120 – Alan Harvey – Bench and dog bin £150.00  101121 – Greyhound Leisure – Playground (VH) £459.60  101122 – Brian Ascott – JCB Hire – DRC £379.00  101123 – Edward Bowes – Delivering childcare q £60.00 |  |
| Date of next meeting – Monday 5th Jan at 7.30pm in the pavilion |  |
| Items for next meeting – Precept, |  |
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