

GREAT BRICETT **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH**

*Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held on
Tuesday 23rd May 2017 in Great Bricett Village Hall at 7.00pm*

Present: Cllr S Burnett, Cllr D Payne, Cllr G Cooper, Cllr Ford
In attendance: Vivienne Pratt (Clerk), 3 members of the public, Cty Cllr A Whybrow, Dist Cllr D Whybrow
Apologies: Cllr R Morley

GBAPM1/0517	Opening – The meeting was opened at 7.00pm and all present welcomed by Sue Burnett, Chair to Great Bricett Parish Council. The Clerk explained that the representative from Ringshall School had another Parish Council to attend the same evening and the Chair agreed to move this item to be the next item	
GBAPM2/0517	<p>Report from Ringshall School – Ian Paige, the Associate Head Teacher, advised that he had been in post since 16th January 17. He explained that the former Head, Monica Gibbs, had retired last year and that her replacement had been unable to take up his post in January due to ill health. Mr Paige advised that he is employed by Suffolk County Council and sent in to schools on a temporary basis where there is no Head, however, he was delighted to advise that a new Head, Miss Charlene Morgan, had been appointed and will start the role in September. Mr Paige advised that the school currently has 111 pupils which should increase to 122 in September. He advised that the school has a capacity of 210 and is, therefore, only half full and that approximately 70% of the numbers are made up of children from Wattisham Base. He explained that the reception, year one and year two classes are run as separate classes but that years three and four are combined as are years five and six. This is due to the number of families who take up the MOD boarding school arrangements which reduces the Key Stage 2 numbers accordingly.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that there had previously been communication with the school regarding a 'Wear Something Bright at Night' campaign which was to coincide with the installation of the new street light in the village. Mr Paige advised that this was something to continue with the new Head in September.</p> <p>A discussion then took place regarding the number of cars that speed past the school and that, although there is a '20 is plenty' sign on the approach to the school, it was felt that this is too close to the school for drivers to have enough time to take adequate effect. At this point, the newly elected Cty Cllr Anne Whybrow introduced herself and suggested that she might be willing to look into the possibility of additional signage. Clerk to contact.</p>	<i>Clerk</i>
	At this point, Mr Paige left the meeting	
GBAPM3/0517	Receive apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllr Morley (work commitments)	
GBAPM4/0517	<p>To approve the Minutes from the last Annual Meeting of the Parish on 24th May 16 –</p> <p>Decision - It was noted that only Cllr Payne had attended last years Parish Meeting and the minutes were agreed without amends</p>	
GBAPM5/0517	<p>Matters arising from the last Annual Meeting of the Parish on 24th May 16 –</p> <p>Decision – No matters outstanding</p>	
GBAPM6/0517	To receive Chairman's report from Cllr Susan Burnett – Cllr Burnett provided an informative report as a brief overview of the Council's activities over the last year - copy attached	
GBAPM7/0517	To receive Report from Dist Cllr Whybrow - Copy attached	
	At this point, Cty Cllr Anne Whybrow, explained that she has been in post for approx. 2 weeks now and had not, therefore, prepared a formal report and confirmed she would be meeting with Julia Truelove in the near future. She advised the Council that if there are any issues, they should not feel they have to wait until the next meeting and are welcome to email or call in between.	

GBAPM8/0517	<p>To receive report from Oliver Cooper regarding his historical research about Great Bricett and the lost village of Little Bricett. Oliver Cooper gave an extremely informative overview of this project which started about 5 years ago with him starting to write the book. He has established that Bricett Hall was home to French Monks after the Norman Conquest and three years ago, a published historian, Edward Martin, took over the project and has currently written approx. 60,000 words. During this time, the building's age and construction had been questioned and tests have been made to try to date more accurately, which through database matching has now been confirmed as 1326-27. Mr Martin visited the French village in June last year and had met with the current Parish Council to obtain further information, pictures etc. Mr Cooper advised that a geophysical survey of the lawn and part of the Church Vault and Nunnery Mount had taken place but had not established anything conclusive. He advised that the basic research for the book is now completed and everything needs to be 'tied' together and that a timber frame specialist from Historic England is due to re-visit site following the re-dating of the building. At this point, Mr Cooper advised that during his research, he has collected many photographs and documents relating to Great Bricett that are extremely interesting but not able to be used for the book. He suggested that if there was anyone interested in copying and co-ordinating the information, he was willing to allow access to his scanner with the possibility of preparing the information for release to the public. A member of the public also advised that he is currently in the process of taking photographs in and around the village to match the same photographs previously taken 20 years ago. Decision - It was agreed to invite Mr Martin to update the Parish Council at a later meeting and to advertise the Co-Ordinator Volunteer position in the Parish magazine.</p>	Clerk
GBAPM9/0517	<p>To receive report from PCC (Parochial Church Council) – The PCC representative, Arland Shawe-Taylor, gave a very helpful brief on the PCC and Church. He gave thanks to the Parish Council for their continued support with the grass cutting of the Churchyard and illuminating the Church in the winter. He also thanked Mr Cooper for allowing overflow parking on his land. He advised that the new Vicar, Dan Harrison, has re-organised and re-scheduled the service schedule to allow for the fact that he now covers 8 parishes. He advised that the Church in surveyed and inspected every 5 years and there is a need to repair the roof, which is estimated at a cost of £65,000 and that a Heritage Lottery Grant has already been applied for and a decision is due in June.</p>	
GBAPM10/0517	<p>To receive report from Neighbourhood Watch – The NW representative, Arland Shawe-Taylor, advised that the Police Commissioner, Tim Passmore, is in the process of undertaking a local tour of the parishes. He also advised that the best way to keep informed of crime in the area is via the Police Connect service (an internet based communication process), which is free and available to all.</p>	
GBAPM11/0517	<p>To receive report from the local Tree Warden, David Payne – David provided a very informative and humorous report (copy attached)</p>	
GBPC329/417	<p>To receive report from the Community Speed Watch Team – Sue Burnett reported that the scheme has been running for over two years now and currently has two volunteers with one new member currently going through the checks and training required. She advised that Barking has pulled out of the scheme and that the Somersham scheme has been temporarily suspended due to the ill health of one of the volunteers. Ringshall are currently in the process of coming on board with the shared scheme. She also advised that they are currently catching 6-8 speeding incidents per hour of carrying out the Speed Watch. At this point, another member of the public volunteered to join the Speed Watch team.</p>	
	<p>Date of Next Meeting - The date and time of the next Annual Parish meeting has not yet been set but is usually the fourth Tuesday in May.</p>	
	<p><i>The meeting closed at 8.25pm and was immediately followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting</i></p>	

Chairman

Date



Councillor David Whybrow (Conservative)
Mid Suffolk District Council Member for Ringshall Ward

Report to Great Bricett Annual Parish Meeting 2017

Tuesday 23rd 2017

End of Year Report for Civic Year 2016/17

Top 10 Achievements

- ✓ Recycling UP: 20 tonnes of glass being collected and recycled a month, with 6 ½ % increase in our business waste service customer base.
- ✓ New Council Homes UP: we are building 65 new council homes across the districts, with 14 already in the hands of their new occupants.
- ✓ Funding for Community-led Housing UP: Grant of £430,000 secured from government to promote community-led housing and kick start the delivery of new affordable homes.
- ✓ Green Energy income UP: This year solar panels installed by our Solar PV Project generated £460,000 of income, up by almost 70% on last year. The project has now reduced CO2 emissions by 3.7 million tonnes since June 2014.
- ✓ Opportunities for businesses UP: 2,400 new jobs could be created at the Enterprise Parks we have established at Stowmarket and Sroughton where there is capacity to attract up to 293 new businesses.
- ✓ Number of empty homes DOWN: we brought 97 empty homes back into use, generating £130,000 of income to the local economy this year.
- ✓ Avoidable convictions DOWN: Our Financial Inclusion Project has received over 150 referrals, helped tenants claim £33,106 more in benefits that they are entitled to, and averted 13 convictions.
- ✓ We've empowered communities to bring forward Neighbourhood Plans. Across the districts 3 Plans have been Adopted and 14 further communities have started the formal process.
- ✓ Following our Annual Electoral Canvas 97% of those surveyed feel well informed about electoral matters.
- ✓ The Councils provided over £725,000 in grants to community groups, comprising £492,184 in revenue funding and £233,526 capital funding. The capital funding supports and 'pump-primes' wider project funding and represents 12% of over £2million total project costs.

CLLr David Whybrow 07799 068 926 david.whybrow@midsuffolk.gov.uk

The Old Rectory, Stowmarket Road, Ringshall. IP14 2HZ

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT - May 2017

As in previous years I would first like to record our thanks for the support from the Parish Council with churchyard mowing during the year and for providing the church illumination during the winter months.

At the beginning of September last year we were delighted to have the Rev Dan Harrison appointed to Priest in Charge of our group of eight parishes replacing Bernard Rose who retired the previous August. Dan has some prior knowledge of the area as his father was for a time Rector of Elmsett. He is now running a revised pattern of services amongst the eight giving us on average two per month and including Morning Prayer and Evening Service as well as Communion. Details can be found in the Parish Magazine and with signs in the Street ahead of each Service.

As reported previously the 5 yearly surveys of the church building have highlighted the need for significant repairs to the roof. The cost of the work will be in excess of £65,000. We have so far applied unsuccessfully for grant support for this to the governments Listed Places of Worship (LPoW) Roof Fund (twice) and to Heritage Lottery. We currently have a further application being considered by Heritage Lottery. They rightly require their grant to include the engagement of more people with the heritage and our proposal includes building on the unique opportunity presented by the results of Oliver Cooper's research into the history of the priory.

Arland Shawe-Taylor
Churchwarden

ANNUAL REPORT FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - May 2017

As usual I would like to record our appreciation for the work of the Police Neighbourhood Watch Team during the year. As part of his support for Neighbourhood Watch Tim Passmore, Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner, is holding an open meeting in Elmsett this Thursday evening which will include the opportunity for Questions and Answers.

The police continue to issue regular emails under the "Police Connect" program giving information about local crime incidents often including CCTV images of those they are seeking to locate as well as other crime prevention advice. This is an invaluable service and is available to everyone. If you have not already done so I recommend that you subscribe via the Suffolk Constabulary website.

Finally of course please don't forget the importance of secure locks on doors and windows and of marking valuable items with postcodes as well as noting serial numbers. If you would like additional individual advice this is available free from the police via the Mid Suffolk Crime Reduction Officer.

Arland Shawe-Taylor, Neighbourhood Watch Chairman

Great Bricett Annual Parish Meeting
Chairman's Report Great Bricett Parish Council 2016-17

During the year, personal circumstances forced several Cllrs to resign however, we are delighted that they have been replaced and that, as of May 17, there are currently six Cllrs and one vacancy.

There have been a number of challenges with the Village Hall, the most significant of which were a long battle with the Insurance Company to replace the old, subsidising Cesspit and replace with a new one and the current situation with the repairs required to the roof, chimney and internal ceiling. The PC has recently introduced an Inspection report which will hopefully act as an early warning system for future maintenance issues.

There have been significant improvements made in and around the village including the installation of a defibrillator on the VH with another one due to be installed at Base Garage in the near future. A new street light has also been ordered which is due to be installed near the Mace Shop in the coming months. The PC has applied to adopt the BT phone box, which is currently under consideration by MSDC along with a large number of boxes in the area. The Council also donated towards the street party to celebrate the Queens 90th Birthday celebrations.

The Budget for 2017 and 2018 has been set at a level to meet current expenditure and it should be noted that the spend for 2016-17 came in under budget. The precept has been increased overall by only £250 and the proposed use of any savings is now allocated to specific earmarked funds, one of which recommended is reserves of at least 50-150% of the precept received.

Gt Bricett 5 Year Improvement Plan – The Parish Council continues to push forward with key objectives on the Improvement Plan. These are based on the issues raised that matter to our villagers and will guide activity over the next five years. We have already seen considerable success in a relatively short amount of time:-

- The Dog Bin in Chestnut Avenue is successfully being maintained by the Parish Council
- Funding raised/equipment received for two defibrillators
- Additional street light in the Village
- The Community Speed Watch Scheme is now undertaken every month. Many thanks to those involved, Sue Burnet and Bill Dewick

The Parish Website - Our thanks to Richard Morley for managing the site.

The Future – Installation of the street light in Lower Farm Road, installation of the second defibrillator, repairs to the VH roof and internal ceiling, reducing speed in the village, adoption of the BT phone box, refurbishment of the Village sign and two noticeboards.

Cllr Julia Truelove – The Council wishes to thank Julia for her hard work and dedication over many years and offer their gratitude for her contributions to many of the improvements made around the village.

Sue Burnett
Chairman, Great Bricett Parish Council, May 2017

Village Hall Management Committee Report 2016/2017

The Great Bricett Village Hall Management Committee are a group of volunteers the dedicate their time to keep the village hall a valuable amenity for the community. To do this we need to raise money by hosting varying events throughout the year to be able to pay the bills.

Recent issues with the building has hampered this effort somewhat. Many events had to be cancelled/postponed due to the Cess Pit last year for health and safety of the community and the environment. However, we have managed to raise enough to still be able to pay our bills to keep the hall operational.

The Monthly Coffee Morning has been a great success in bringing the community together for chat with friends and neighbours, this has helped massively with our income.

We are striving to reach a wider audience with events that will appeal to all.

Ideas for future hall improvements that will improve the ambiance of the hall

- Ceiling and dimmable energy efficient lighting to improve acoustics and lighting suitable to varying events.
- Re-decoration of the hall.
- Garden improvements to make it much more welcoming - before this can happen external repairs to the wall and stairs is required.

These will I'm sure be able to happen in due course. The Village Hall has agreed with the Parish that a Premises Inspection should be done at least twice yearly, to be able to foresee potential problems and to ringfence finance to cover these. We have within the VH Committee nominated two members to be Premises Inspectors, reporting findings to the Parish.

Futures events planned:

Summer BBQ with Line Dancing
Rally Treasure Hunt

Ideas for future events:

A Village Auction of unwanted items, Services and Activities with Refreshments, Raffle etc
Dressing in Drag Evening/Party
Table Sale and Craft Fair alongside November Coffee Morning
Bingo
Murder Mystery Evening
Race Night
Psychic Evening
Casino Royale Evening
Medieval Banquet
Cheese and Wine
1940's Evening

We also, need to try harder to attract more bookings to the hall – however the lack of parking facilities does prevent this somewhat – most people attending hall need to be in walking distance.

Great Bricett Tree Warden report by David Payne year ending April 30th 2017

VILLAGE TREE WARDEN reports often focus on large trees in and around our Domesday village, but this year I am asking local residents to take note of a healthy horse chestnut sapling that former parish councillor Charles Horne planted in meadowland next to his pretty freshly thatched bed and breakfast home at Riverside Cottage. It started life in a pot in a neighbour's garden. Now it takes pride of place in our village centre encircled by a wrought-iron seat, now festooned with flowering candles heralding the arrival of spring.

Tree-enthusiast and carpentry hobbyist Charles thoughtfully planted the tree to commemorate the Queen's diamond jubilee of her accession to the throne in 1952, after the sleeping princess climbed a mgugu tree in Kenya and next morning descended from its branches as Queen. So, thank you, Charles, for providing the village with our own home-grown "royal" tree closeby our village sign, expertly crafted by local master builder Felix Wilding who, sadly, died in October last year at the age of 83 just nine months after the death of his wife Rebecca, who was 82. Felix also served as a parish councillor.

We hope that one day our Diamond Jubilee Tree will grow into a stunning mature pyramid-shaped mass of dense horse chestnut foliage, ablaze every spring with shimmering white candles, followed in autumn by shiny conkers beloved in the childhood memories of past, present and future generations.

Oliver Cooper, who farms a thousand acres of fields and woodland around Great Bricett Hall and Manor Farm in adjoining Elmsett, planted three horse cheshunt trees almost 50 years ago next to his stunning Elmsett garden and farmhouse, all of which still flower, despite one having bleeding canker on its trunk.

MOST OF US can recall a favourite tree. I have one . . . a horse chestnut tree still growing on picturesque White Webbs golf course on the leafy border of Hertfordshire and Middlesex. I fondly recall the boyhood fun I had every autumn hurling thick sticks into its lofty branches, waiting for the sudden thrill of pocketfuls of pristine polished conkers noisily cascading to the ground.

A horse chestnut tree in Amsterdam became world famous after concentration camp victim Anne Frank mentioned it in her celebrated diary three times, the last time on the May 13th, 1944, when she movingly wrote: "Our chestnut tree is in full bloom. It's covered with leaves and is even more beautiful than last year." Reckoned to be aged 160 years, the tree was blown down in 2010 due to rot at the base of its trunk.

NEWS CLIPPINGS ROUND-UP: Using a cherry-picker, UK Power Networks cut back, free of charge, the upper branches of a Norway maple that provides welcome shade across The Green after concerns that branches were chafing against a power cable supply to our ancient parish while tree warden David Payne lopped off drooping lower branches to create more public space underneath; Ash dieback has spread all over Suffolk, including Great Bricett; Now landowner Oliver Cooper worrying warns our community about "chronic and acute oak decline caused by bacterial infections and sudden-death staghorn oaks with uppermost bare, dead branches" but is pleased with the "success" of a tree and shrub-planted bund gradually camouflaging his huge new metal grain-storage barn alongside The Street; A hollow-trunk veteran oak stricken with bracket fungus at Base Garage in Lower Farm Road is still very much alive following drastic pollarding two winters ago; Close Neighbours Residents' Association now have a Norwich-based landscape firm by the name of Just Ask carrying out high-spec grounds maintenance of their Releet Close development of 20 Genesis Housing Association homes built around a bullrush-choked former farmhouse pond fringed with majestic leaf-quivering hybridised black poplars at the T-junction of The Street and Lower Farm Road.

Tree warden email: davidpayne1815@btinternet.com