

BRADFIELD ST. GEORGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD  
AT BRADFIELD ST GEORGE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024

Present: Cllrs P Squirrell (Chairman), C Stainer, A Therin, T Wright, C Croot & G Mulley.  
C Hibbert (clerk). WSC Cllr S Mildmay-White.  
No members of the public.

*The meeting opened at 7.30pm*

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Cllr J Peck and SC Cllr Karen Soons.

**2. PUBLIC FORUM**

N/a.

**3. INTERESTS**

**3.1 To receive Councillors' Declarations of Interest on any item in the agenda;** CS, CC & GM declared an interest in items 5.3 as Trustees of the VHMC; AT and PS declared a pecuniary interest in item 7.1 (grass cutting tender); TW declared a pecuniary interest in item 6.2 (planning application).

**3.2 To consider any applications for dispensations.** No dispensation applications were received.

**4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATED 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023.** The minutes of the Council meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** and signed as a true and accurate record.

**5. REPORTS**

**5.1 Suffolk County Council report.** In her absence, SCC Cllr Soons' report was received and will be uploaded onto the website.

**5.2 West Suffolk Council report.** WS Cllr S Mildmay-White presented her report, a copy of which will be uploaded onto the website. Discussion followed about the closure of the BSE Records Office. A question was raised about the Hessett Bells – no information known.

**5.3 Village Hall report.** The Chairman of the VHMC presented her report (copy attached).

**6. PLANNING AND APPEALS**

**6.1 To receive planning notifications.** The following notifications were received:- Appeal Ref: APP/F3545/W/23/3319757 Land off Freewood Street, Hollybush Corner, Bradfield St George IP30 0AY re application Ref DC/22/1293/FUL; **creation of gravel access road and improvement works to existing field access, Land Off Freewood Street, Bradfield St George, Suffolk.** Appeal dismissed.

*TW left the meeting*

**6.2 DC/23/2055/HH Householder planning application – carport and store at Abbott Hall, Smallwood Green Bradfield St George, Suffolk IP30 0AL** The meeting unanimously agreed to **SUPPORT** the proposal.

*TW rejoined the meeting.*

**7. TO CONSIDER**

*PS and AT left the meeting. CC chaired this item.*

**7.1 Grass cutting tender for 2024** Four tenders were received from Top Garden Services, T Melvin, D Gilbert (J&H Squirrell & Sons) and A Therin ranging from £440 exc VAT to £1,920pa exc VAT. The two lowest tenders were identical, namely £440pa exc VAT. It was **AGREED** to (i) decline the more expensive tenders from TGS and T Melvin; (ii) invite those who had submitted the lowest identical tenders to re-tender (sealed bids); (iii) any re-tenders will be considered at an extraordinary meeting to be convened on 17 January 2024 at 7pm at the village hall; (iv) if the tenders remain identical, there will be a draw to determine the successful contractor.

**7.2 Emergency Community Plan update** AT confirmed he has submitted the first draft emergency plan to WSC – comments are awaited.

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**7.3 Thermal imaging camera project** The meeting heard that councillors had undertaken around 20 surveys using the loaned thermal imaging camera. Discussion followed about the extent to which this had been a useful exercise.

**8. FINANCES**

**8.1 To receive and approve the quarterly return to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023;** received and **APPROVED**

**8.2 To receive and approve the bi-monthly financial summary for November-December 2023;** received and **APPROVED**.

**8.3 To approve payments to be issued;** the following online payments were **APPROVED**.

Detail	Cheque no/online authorisation	Payment	Net	VAT	Gross
1.	BT	DD - TBC	23.94	4.79	28.73
2.	BT	DD -TBC	23.94	4.79	28.73
3.	CH	online	579.00		579.00
4.	HMRC	online	131.80		131.80
5.	VHMC	online	20.00		20.00

**9. CORRESPONDENCE AND CIRCULARS** The following correspondence was received;-

- 9.1 SALC e bulletins December/January;
- 9.2 Neighbourhood watch newsletters;
- 9.3 WSC Surviving winter leaflet;
- 9.4 Headway appeal for funding;
- 9.5 Email from WSC leader re strategic aims;
- 9.6 Fit Villages Information;
- 9.7 WSC grass cutting service review;
- 9.8 History of brooch in Moyses Hall – copy attached.
- 9.9 PCC precept survey – circulated by email 5Jan.
- 9.10 Babergh and Mid Suffolk Call for Sites 2024 for local plan purposes.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is **Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 7.30pm**.

**AOB** the meeting heard that there had been a serious car accident along Felsham Road caused by water ingress onto the carriageway which had then frozen making driving conditions hazardous. It was **AGREED** that the clerk would report this issue to SCC in the first instance.

*The meeting closed at 8.30pm.*

**Attachment to item 5.3 Bradfield St George Village Hall Management Committee -Chair’s Report to the Parish Council January 2024**

- Since my last report, bookings at the hall have remained steady with Rougham Pre - School holding their Christmas end of term party as usual and even bookings on both Christmas Day and Boxing Day!
- December’s Bradfield Night took the form of Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings for both meat eaters and vegetarians alike. Sadly, this was the last meal that Lynn Cardale will be cooking at Bradfield Nights (BN) as she has decided to step down from the committee. We are very sorry to see her go but she has been cooking regularly since B N began and, understandably, she wants a break. The committee are currently exploring alternative ideas as we would like to keep Bradfield Nights going as near to their current format as possible. Arnaud is cooking at the February BN.
- The new lights have been changed and are no longer as bright and clinical as before.
- Quiz Nights resume on Saturday 20 January and the first BN of 2024 will be on February 2.
- The Annual General Meeting of the VH will be on Wednesday 17 January 2024 in the VH at 7.30 pm.

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Attachment to item 8.1 Quarterly financial summary to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

**SUMMARY RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ending 31/3/24**

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	2023/24		Variance
	Actual	Budgeted	
	£		
Precept	5,500.00	5,500.00	0.00
Allotment rents	50.00	50.00	0.00
Misc receipts	0.00		
Grnt	0.00		
Santander interest	59.69	6.00	53.69
VAT	193.12		193.12
	<u>5,802.81</u>	<u>5,556.00</u>	<u>246.81</u>

<u>PAYMENTS</u>	Actual	Budgeted	Variance
Misc	190.86		-190.86
Admin Misc -	195.00	100.00	-95.00
Audit fees	169.00	200.00	31.00
BT line VH	226.28	350.00	123.72
Clerk's salary(inc tax)	1,205.60	2,500.00	1,294.40
Clerk expenditure	0.00	100.00	100.00
Donations		150.00	150.00
Footpaths		0.00	0.00
Grass cutting	437.25	350.00	-87.25
Insurance	293.33	350.00	56.67
PCC		0.00	0.00
Repairs/maintenance	0.00	500.00	500.00
SALC Training	0.00	100.00	100.00
Payroll service	19.00	60.00	41.00
Subscriptions	207.46	250.00	42.54
Stationery	0.00	100.00	100.00
VAT	105.17		-105.17
Vhall hire	90.00	120.00	30.00
Grants	220.00	250.00	30.00
Contingency		0.00	0.00
defib	0.00	76.00	
bin			
	<u>3,358.95</u>	<u>5,556.00</u>	<u>2,197.05</u>

<u>Reconciliation of R.&amp; P. Book</u>		<u>Santander account</u>	
Balance b/f 01.04.23	£5,458.63	Balance b/f 1/4/23	£8,976.38
Receipts	£5,743.12	Receipts	£59.69
Payments	-£3,358.95	Payments	£0.00
	<u>£7,842.80</u>		<u>£9,036.07</u>
<b>TOTAL - 2A/cs</b>	<b><u>£16,878.87</u></b>		

<u>Bank Reconciliation balances as at</u>	
Lloyds Balance as at 31.12.23	£7,792.80
<b>less unrepresented cheques</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
	<u>£7,792.80</u>
Santander balance as at 31.12.2	£9,036.07
ADD pending interac tfr	£50.00
<b>TOTAL Bank Reconciliation</b>	<b><u>£16,878.87</u></b>

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**Attachment to item 9.8 – Brooch Article - A Medieval Two-Headed Snake/Serpent Annular Brooch.  
13th Century**

West Suffolk Heritage Service is very pleased to take into its care this beautiful silver gilded annular brooch. The brooch was found by a metal detectorist at Bradfield St George, March 2021. The reward for this piece was paid for by the Bradfield St George Parish Council to make sure it goes on display within West Suffolk. It is with thanks to that detectorist for his diligence in finding the piece, and for approaching the Suffolk County Council Find Liaison Officers with it, and especially to the Parish Council and the people they serve, that Moyses Hall Museum can commit to its protection for generations to come.

The penannular terminals overlap and are soldered together to create the annular form. At just 21.6mm in diameter, it is a small but intricate piece of work.

The two-headed snake/serpent, or Amphisbaena, has symbolism that goes back to ancient Greece, possibly with roots that go even further into antiquity. In mythology, the Amphisbaena is first recorded in Agamemnon by Aeschylus in the 5th Century BC. Medusa is decapitated by Perseus who then flies over the Libyan Desert with her severed snake-haired head. As drops of blood fall, they spawn the first of the amphisbaena. Later, in medieval Europe, we see the beast sometimes depicted as a snake, lizard, or serpent, sometimes with scaly legs and feet.

The image of a snake for Christians, particularly pilgrims, might seem problematic, with the biblical use of a snake/serpent first seen inspiring the ‘the Fall’ of Eden. But the snake is also symbolic of rebirth through the shedding of skin, and through the spitting of venom there have even been connotations of expelling sinful thoughts and words before repentance. However, while we can note these suggestions, many academics suggest the amphisbaena for pilgrims is a depiction of Satan, the two-faced deceiver. Here perhaps a warning that pilgrims should not walk one pious path of pilgrimage while elsewhere living in sin. These brooches in this instance, and if correct, would be worn as a warning to the wearer and other passing pilgrims; an extension to the personal display of piety, a chance to humbly acknowledge human flaws that the wearer is able to keep at bay.

The thought of Christian Europe utilising ancient Greek mythology, and therefore pagan symbolism, might seem at odds to a Catholic movement not lacking its own imagery. This is easily rectified as unproblematic by swiftly looking to Medieval Suffolk collections from that century. For example, we have a 13th Century Chronicle with depictions of cryptids that includes some steeped in ancient Grecian mythology with satyrs and possibly even an amphisbaena walking the margins. These play on myths and superstition rooted in the human consciousness, and as with Shakespeare’s use of them, are readily available tools that are immediate to the viewer. Analysis of pagan mythology within the Christian church is fascinating but vast in scope, with imagery often playing on ideas of the natural world as sacred or acting as something to be suspicious of.

Archaeologists have confidently dated this to the 13th Century, a time when the Abbey of St Edmund loomed large in West Suffolk, with a huge central tower completed early in that century under the infamous Abbot Samson that would dwarf St Edmundsbury Cathedral today. In fact, academics believe that the footprint of the central Abbey church shows that it would have been the fourth longest in the Christian world. With one of the most visited sites of pilgrimage in Medieval England on its doorstep, Bradfield St George would have been no stranger to visitors from far off places within Britain and beyond.

The annular/penannular brooch was first a fashionable choice for pilgrims to fasten their cloaks while they travelled, though later they would become widely used by other Christians and the general populace.

Signature.....