

BRADFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held in the St Lawrence Church Room
on Tuesday 7th March, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**

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| Present: | Cllr. K. Wynn (Chair) | Cllr. K. Burton (Vice Chair) |
| | Cllr. A. Coley | Cllr. R. Scott |
| | Cllr. S. Gunter | Cllr. R. Mitcham |
| | Cllr. T. Weal | Cllr. V. Osborne |
| In Attendance: | 7 members of the public | L. Djuve-Wood (Clerk) |

1. Introduction and welcome

Cllr. Wynn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. J. Welsh.

3. Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 3rd May, 2022 to be approved and signed

RESOLVED that the minutes from the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on the 3rd May 2022 be approved and signed by the Chair.

4. Annual District and County Council Reports

The annual district and county council reports had not yet been received.

Members of the public can access full district and county reports via the Parish Council's website www.bradfieldparishcouncil.org.uk/news-reports/district---county-reports.

5. Annual Reports from Local Clubs and Societies

A member of the Women's Institute gave an update on their behalf. She noted that they had had a membership increase from 34 to 49 in the last year. Activities include walking and they currently have a group of 21 people taking part in this activity, including non-members. They have lots of plans in place for the upcoming year. Their AGM has been scheduled for April. All meetings are held in Bradfield Village Hall.

Mr A. Cutter, Chair of Bradfield Rovers Football Club, provided an update on behalf of the club. The club has had a really good season with their 1st Team ranking top of Division Three and their Reserves Team middle of Division Four. They currently have 70 members. The club is in a healthy situation.

Mr S. Gunter, Trustee and Chair of Bradfield Village Hall CIO, presented a report on behalf of the BVH Committee. Please see **Appendix 1**.

Mr V. Osborne, Chair of the Bradfield Glebe Allotment Association, provided an update on behalf of the Association, noting that he had been involved with the

association since 1998. Having spent the last 10 years as Chair trying to fill every plot, interest in the last few months have grown so much that the association now has 5-6 people on the waiting list. The association currently has 33 members. The allotment land can be dated back to the 1880's when it was bequeathed by a local farmer to the Diocese of Chelmsford. The land became allotments for the village during the outbreak of WW1. The association celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022 by holding a bonfire party. They also held a couple of events where they gathered to cut the hedge along Mill Lane. Overall the association is thriving and they are contributing to village life where they can.

Mr K. Bruce, Scouts leader, attended on behalf of Bradfield Scouts. They are doing very well and currently have 16 regular members, three from Bradfield with the rest from nearby villages, as well as a good, supportive committee mainly made up of members' parents. They have around 12 regular Cubs members. They are still looking for more adult volunteers for the Beavers group (younger group ranging from 5 to 7 years old). Scouts members range from ages 10 to 14 and take part in a range of activities, including adventure activities such as climbing and gliding, community events and volunteering. They meet in the village hall and are very pleased with the facilities and the new committee. The group won the Most Innovative Programme Award for Scouts last year. Anyone interested in volunteering should get in touch with the group.

Mr J. Barrow provided an update on behalf of St Lawrence Church and Friends of St. Lawrence Church. He was pleased that their Church Room is being considered a useful facility by the Council and other societies. As a Church there have been a few developments over the past year. They are now part of a bigger group, Cross Reach Churches, comprising Bradfield, Lawford, Manningtree and Mistley. The Church is open daily and viewed as a community asset with its facilities all available to the community. The Church sees itself as part of the village and attempt to take part in village activities. Properly maintaining the church yard can sometimes be a struggle and the Church are always open to offers of help. Several improvements have been made to the Church during the year, including the renovation of the south porch doors, reordering of the south transept with the addition of a row of cupboards and minor repairs to the north transept, most of which was funded by Friends of St. Lawrence Church. Future projects include looking at the acoustics of the Church Room as well as attempting to improve the access to the tower. Several events are planned for the current year, including a Floral Fanfare, mini tea party and volunteering over HM the King's Coronation weekend of the 6th – 8th May and a Gardens Open Day on the 25th June.

6. Annual Report from the Chair

Cllr. K. Wynn presented her annual report. Please see **Appendix 2**.

7. Questions from members of the public

It was noted that the war memorial in Great Oakley may have had its panels replaced. Cllrs. Wynn and Osborne agreed to have a look at it.

Frustration was expressed over residents allowing their hedges to overgrow and partially blocking pavements. Cllr. Wynn explained that this was a matter for Essex Highways.

A member of the public stated that whereas they are impressed with the Parish Council's work in the community, more pressure should be put on Essex County Council to maintain the local roads, particularly in terms of the many and deep potholes emerging.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7.29 p.m.

Chair..... Date

Appendix 1: Bradfield Village Hall Report

As everyone probably knows this has been a turbulent year for the hall with most of the previous committee members having left over the last financial year. Myself (Chair) and Grahame Points (treasurer and Deputy Chair) remain and we would like to thank Paul Smith and Jean Points for all the hard work they put in keeping the hall running (especially during the pandemic).

We have now expanded the committee and the new members are:

Karen Leigh Burton (secretary)

Trevor Weal

Peter Hunt (Utilities and Maintenance Controller)

Elaine Hunt

I would personally like to thank everyone who has come onboard or remained onboard for all the hard work put in this year to keep the hall running.

We have many a mixture of classes and private hires at the hall including Yoga / Pilates / Cubs / WI etc – unfortunately we have lost 2 classes over the past year – both of which were targeted at pre school age children so we believe Bradfield obviously does not need this sort of class.

In the last year we have hosted a number of larger events at the hall starting with the Queens Platinum Jubilee, A Murder Mystery Evening, A table top sale, The very successful Xmas Fayre and we are planning more events for the future.

Next up we have a play by Eastern Angles on 15th April which we hope the village will support and then the King's Coronation in May and a Craft Fayre at the end of June.

Obviously like everyone we have felt the effects of increased energy bills which has meant we have had to increase our weekend rates from £17.50 an hour to £20 an hour, but, we have kept our weekday rates the same for now, but, this is constantly under review.

We are hoping to complete the successful installation of superfast fibre to the hall soon which should give the hall more opportunities for hiring and would like to thank the Parish Council for their help in this and for providing us with a fantastic new noticeboard in the street.

We have also taken on a cleaner so the hall should now always be looking fantastic and with the new committee carrying out weekly maintenance hopefully everyone using it will notice changes whenever they use the hall.

Our AGM will be held in September now on a yearly basis and this will be notified to the village by all the usual means.

Appendix 2: Bradfield Parish Council, Chair Cllr. Kreon Wynn's Annual Report:

2022 saw the installation of the beacon on the recreation ground, ostensibly to be part of the lighting of the beacons in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, but with the expectation that it will be used for future national events. The next being the 80th Anniversary of D-Day in 2024. The Parish Council alongside volunteers and local businesses and organisations, planned and delivered the Queens Platinum Jubilee weekend incorporating the Big Lunch and Lighting of the Beacons. The weekend was a huge success and was enjoyed by everyone who attended. Thanks to Cllr Karen Burton who ensured events ran smoothly. £2025 was raised for the Herts and Essex Air Ambulance through these events.

Roads and Environment

Following issues surrounding school parking in the Wix Road slip road behind the Village Maid, a scheme to install single yellow lines with timed parking restrictions matching those of the existing yellow lines in the vicinity of the primary school on Heath Road, to be installed on both sides of the road and extending round both corners of the Wix Road / Heath Road junction. The scheme has now been approved and will be delivered sometime in 2023.

Unfortunately, Essex Highways have cancelled the approved Local Highways Panel scheme to improve the Wix Road / Heath Road junction due to the location of a high-pressure gas main.

The long-awaited village gate style signs have taken up many of the clerk's hours this year, what with the seemingly endless Essex Highways hurdles that had be jumped, but I can now inform you that the signs are due to be installed on the 15th and 16th of March! Many thanks must also go to County Cllr Guglielmi and Rose Builders for their perseverance and patience!

A working party has been set up to look at the state of street signs in and around the village, many of which are in dire states. The aim is to try to persuade Essex Highways to replace and clean wherever necessary.

The results of a speed and volume survey conducted in September 2022 on Straight Road were compared to an equivalent study in 2021 and 2019. Whereas the speed and volume survey showed a slight decrease in speed since 2019, it showed that there was a 119% increase in volume of traffic, mainly southbound in the morning and northbound in the evening which most likely reflects an increase in commuter traffic. As this is likely to increase further with the various new housing developments under construction in Mistley and with the impact it is having on the Straight Road/Steam Mill Road junction, the council will request that another survey is conducted in September 2023.

It has been requested that the plastic barriers at the bottom of Brickman's Hill are removed and replaced with something more suitable for an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

A working party has also been formed to investigate further planting an avenue of trees along the bottom end of Steam Mill Road.

Playground

The popularity of Bradfield playground amongst families from across the region has meant that the council has had to increase the regularity of its visual inspections from fortnightly to weekly, with two councillors due to undertake visual inspection training in May.

With the increase in use, it also means an increase on wear of the equipment and this last year has seen a marked increase in maintenance spending.

There has also been the welcome addition of the accessible roundabout, two new litter bins, a new post for the village sign and new signage around the recreation ground and Mill Lane cemetery.

A boules pitch has been considered and potential sites and sizes debated, with the final decision as to whether this project is pursued being taken at the council meeting this evening.

The defibrillator on the village hall was completely replaced and further training days were provided by Ray Ablett, many thanks to Ray for the important work he does within the community.

The field access gate from the car park has been moved to a new more practical position directly behind the village hall.

Village Hall

The BVH committee has had an injection of new blood over the last year including Cllrs Burton and Gunter. This has reopened channels of communication between the council and the BVH to the benefit of the village. The council can now support the BVH wherever they can. The council congratulate the new committee for the excellent work they have done around the hall and in engaging fully with the community.

The council have installed a new noticeboard on The Street for the sole use of the BVH, and also funded the underground cables for fibre broadband to the Hall, hopefully this will be connected in the very near future. And finally, the new lease for the BVH has been completed and should be signed by the council later this evening!

War Memorial

The council had plans to renovate the war memorial back to its original condition by replacing the panels listing the names with like for like Portland stone panels with the names carved in relief as per the originals. Unfortunately, the Diocesan Advisor

Committee (DAC) and now Tendring District Council planning department, would like the War Memorials Trust recommendations to be followed. Their recommendations are that the panels should be left as they are and allowed to deteriorate further.

As you have heard, the last year has been another very busy one for the council and I would like to thank my fellow councillors for the time you give to make Bradfield the attractive village we can be proud to live in, we make a dynamic team!

This last year has not been without its difficulties, a number of unwarranted personal attacks have taken up unnecessary time and energy, but as these issues mainly arise from lack of understanding I hope that the creation of the council Facebook page, frequently updated website and regular Grapevine reports will help to lessen the frequency of this occurring.

The council and I are extremely grateful to our Parish Clerk Line, who along with her great tenacity and attention to detail in carrying out her duties, has also provided great support to me and other councillors wherever and whenever we have required it.

Cllr Kreon Wynn
Chair of Bradfield Parish Council