

BRADFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held in the St Lawrence Church Room, Bradfield Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 7pm.

Present:

Cllr. K. Burton (Chair)	Cllr. A. Coley (Vice Chair)
Cllr. T. Weal	Cllr. S. Webb
Cllr. G. Points	Cllr. S. Cunningham
Cllr. S. Gunter	Cllr. V. Osborne

In Attendance: 7 members of the public
Tendring District Cllr. T. Ferguson
S. Cooke (Clerk)

1. Introduction and welcome

Cllr. Burton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. R. Scott.

3. Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 7th March 2023 to be approved and signed by the Chair

RESOLVED that the minutes from the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on the 7th March 2023 be approved and signed by the Chair.

4. Annual District and County Council Reports

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

5. Annual Reports from Local Clubs and Societies

Of those organisations contacted, the following responded as follows.

5.1 The Women's Institute did not attend, but provided an written report. Please see **Appendix 1**.

5.2 Jon Neal, Chair, accompanied by officers from Bradfield Rovers Football Club, provided a verbal report on behalf of the club. The season had been a successful one, with a healthy core of local players. The Reserves finished ninth in Division 5, and the 1st Team came second in Division 2. This meant that the 1st Team would be promoted to Division 1 for next season. In addition, the 1st Team were in the final of the Tommy Thompson Cup, which was being held on 9th May at Little Oakley.

5.3 Mr V. Osborne, Chair of the Bradfield Glebe Allotment Association, attended and also provided a written report on behalf of the Association. Please see **Appendix 2**.

5.4 Mr J. Barrow attended and also provided an written report on behalf of Bradfield Church and The Friends of St. Lawrence Church. Please see **Appendix 3**.

5.5 Mr S. Gunter, Trustee and Chair of Bradfield Village Hall CIO, attended and also provided a report on behalf of the BVH Committee. Please see **Appendix 4**.

6. Annual Report from the Chair

Cllr. Burton presented the Chair's annual report. Please see **Appendix 5**.

7. Questions from members of the public

- 7.1 Broken signpost opposite the Village Maid. A resident asked if there was any progress in resolving this, as it been on the ground for a number of months. The parish council confirmed that Essex Highways had been contacted, but that the process could take time to work through the system. In the meantime, the council was arranging to have it removed for health and safety reasons.
- 7.2 CCTV at the Village Hall car park. The parish council was asked about the intended layout of the CCTV cameras. This was clarified and it was explained that the priority was to reduce the possibility of antisocial behaviour such as fly tipping or misuse of the recycling area.
- 7.3 Litter bin by the Village Hall car park recycling area. A resident enquired about the possibility of one being installed. The parish council commented that it had been considered but there was a concern that it would encourage more rubbish tipping to take place.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 7.26pm.

Chair:

Date:

Appendix 1

Bradfield Women's Institute report

Bradfield Evening Women's Institute meets in the village hall on the second Monday of the month except August, from 7.30pm-9.00pm. We have a healthy and growing membership of 42 ladies. Our aims are centred on friendship, campaigning, and fun. Bradfield WI meetings are informal, inclusive, and welcoming. A typical meeting involves a varied programme of speakers for each month ranging from animal husbandry at Colchester Zoo to card crafting and many other subjects in between! Refreshments are always served, there is usually a quiz, raffle and always time for a natter with friends. Our June meeting is traditionally organised by the members, not the committee. Last year a trip to the Electric Palace in Harwich was organised with a very informative talk on its history followed by the first film ever to be shown there, 'The Battle of Trafalgar and The Death of Nelson'. This was followed by a meal at Samuel Pepys. We are always on hand if asked to volunteer for village activities, last year at Bradfield's summer fete as an example, manning the bouncy castle. We have a regular spot in 'The Grapevine' magazine reporting on our latest and upcoming speakers. Contact details for prospective new members are also carried in the magazine.

Appendix 2

Bradfield Allotment Association report

I am delighted to report that Bradfield Glebe Allotment Association continues to thrive. We currently again have a full year's membership with a small waiting list of residents wishing to take on an allotment. Our association currently has 32 members with ages from retired to starting a young family. This adds to the family feel with members willing to support each other with ideas, help and offering up spare plants. We can accommodate a plot size to suit individual needs, making it more manageable for the inexperienced.

During the previous year members assisted with the annual hedge cut along Mill Lane. Our Annual General meeting was held at The Village Maid in September with thanks to Tony Cutter for providing an excellent buffet. During our AGM we were able to award our yearly prize, a silver trophy, "The Townsend

Cup", and this year a new award was commissioned dedicated to the memory of Martin Ford, "The Martin Ford Honorable Award".

These trophies being awarded for the most improved and bountiful allotment and now an additional award for selflessness and community spirit.

November saw our annual bonfire and firework extravaganza with over £400 donated by members for fireworks alone. Our thanks for making this night so special goes to Richard Mitchell from Ragmarsh Farm for providing a dry straw bale to get the fire started and to Bob Salmon the village Piper for providing the entertainment.

Bradfield Buzz always acting as a good barometer for measuring the success of the night!

Finally, thanks to Shirley Sampson for her Grapevine articles detailing her highs and lows as an allotment holder.

Vincent Osborne, Chair

Appendix 3

Bradfield Church and The Friends of St Lawrence Church (2023/2024)

The last twelve months have been as busy and as eventful as ever for everyone connected with Bradfield Church. One of the highlights of the year was the appointment of Revd. Sam Winney as Focal Minister for the Parish, and this was confirmed at her licensing service on 17th September. Revd. Dom Turner remains the Rector, and he has responsibility for Bradfield Church, Mistley Church and Lawford Church (a group now called Cross Reach Churches).

Since the start of 2023, our main morning service has been held at 9.30am – which is a time loved by many, but a challenge to some! It does mean the rest of the day is free, but it presents the odd problem and Remembrance Sunday comes to mind. Although the service went well last year, we will see what can be done this year to ensure it is as accessible and all-inclusive as possible. It is one of those important times when so many sections of the community come together, and as a village we know how important it is to keep such occasions going, as well as providing an opportunity to show due respect. Discussions continue concerning the proposed refurbishment of the war memorial in the churchyard, and the church council is providing what support it can as the Parish Council attempts to steer a course through the various regulatory bodies that need to be consulted and brought on board.

We are pleased that we have continued to be able to keep the church open during daylight hours, and we really want everyone to see the church building as a village resource, not only for the obvious occasions when worship takes place, but as a fabulous place to spend a bit of down time, and to experience a genuine link with the past. Although we often struggle to make ends meet, we have been able to support a number of other charities and projects, including the local foodbank at Harvest, the Harwich branch of the Salvation Army at Christmas, and during the year a missionary working with young adults with learning difficulties in Ecuador, a music therapy charity called Jessie's Fund based in York, and more recently we have started sponsoring a young lad in Kenya through World Vision.

We continue to receive enormous help from the Friends of St Lawrence Church who each year raise magnificent sums of money to help with repair and improvement work on the church. Our current project is what we have nicknamed our 'Stairway to Heaven' which involves the installation of a spiral staircase in the church tower area leading up to the bell chamber. The whole project will cost an eye-watering £36,750 or so before VAT, so (as you can imagine) it's all hands to the pumps this year with a number of not-to-be-missed fundraising events! There is no need for me to list them all here, as our advertising team will ensure you don't miss out, but you'll be pleased to hear that there will be another quiz in October, following the success of last year's event, and there will be a garden fete at Plas y coed at the end of June. The Church will be doing a lot of fundraising itself, and some of this will take place on St Lawrence Day, which, if you don't know, is Saturday August 10th. Successful events that took place in the last twelve months included a concert in March, a sponsored swim last October, and what we called a 'Floral Fanfare' to mark the coronation of King Charles last May.

Our church room continues to be used by a number of different groups and organisations, including of course the Parish Council. We also greatly value the working relationship we have with the village hall, and we have been grateful to members of the hall committee for not only allowing the church to borrow

chairs on a number of occasions, but also to physically deliver and take them back, and this is not an easy task I can assure you! It is good that the various organisations can work together in such a constructive way, and we will continue to do our bit to ensure Bradfield remains a fantastic place to live!

John Barrow 7th May 2024

Appendix 4

Bradfield Village Hall Annual Report 23-24

The hall is currently in the process of producing its audited annual accounts, but, suffice to say we are in a much healthier financial position that we were this time last year, We have enough money now (with grants that we can apply for) to look into major projects e.g. a new heating system, solar panels and a total revamp of the toilets.

We are pleased to report that the use of the hall is increasing and along with our long term users (Carpet Bowls, Bingo, Scouts etc) we have been able to introduce a few new classes/events over the last year. These include Free Spirits Dance, The Friends Over 55s Club, Humming Bee Yoga and the return to Bradfield of Line Dancing. Some of these things are strongly attended and others could do with more villagers taking part.

If anyone is interested in anything on at the hall our noticeboards contain lots of information and the Parish Council have very kindly allowed us to display some of our information in their noticeboards. The hall has been pleased to host a number of one off events at the hall including a Summer Craft Fayre, plays by Raising Cain Productions, a Xmas Party event and our ever popular Christmas Fayre. All of the events went well and we would like to thank everyone who attends as every penny raised for the hall helps to keep it maintained and running.

The Christmas Fayre this year will be on Saturday November 23rd so please put the date in your diaries. We are lucky enough to have lots of thriving groups in the village who use the hall regularly for their meetings and events and this has led to us being able to hold events for the Friends of St Lawrence and Bradfield Football Club as we have the space and facilities to host these bigger events.

We are looking at working with other companies to provide wedding packages at the hall in the future so this is an exciting development for us.

Going forward we are welcoming Vivo Pizza to the hall on regular Friday nights and of course we now regularly host Mrs Bees pop up coffee shop on a Saturday morning, both, welcome additions to the village we hope you agree.

Some of you may notice we have rebranded the hall and put up new Village Hall signs and as part of this we will be decorating the whole hall shortly so why not pop down and see the hall as it is now before the revamp.

Overall it has been a good year for the hall and we would just like to wrap up with some thanks to the following people :

Tony Cutter at the Village Maid who always helps out with banners and promoting our events

Geoff and Sue at Bradfield Post Office and Store who allow us to sell tickets from the shop and promote our events in their window

Jake and Simon at J&S Bar Services who run successful bars for us now at events

Mel and all of those at the Grapevine who enable us to publicise everything going on at the hall and provide a vital resource for the village.

And of course I personally would like to thank all the trustees who work so hard to maintain the hall and run all of the events – without them the hall would very quickly cease to be the popular and welcoming place it is.

Finally, we would like to thank the Parish Council for all their support over the year.

Steve Gunter (Chair)

Appendix 5

Chair's Annual Report

In May 2023, we had significant changes within Bradfield Parish Council's structure in the form of a new Chair & Vice Chair, 3 new Councillors & a new Clerk. A year later, we have all been on a learning curve & it feels like we have all been able to move forward by making decisions to benefit our residents & our community whilst being dedicated & acting professionally along the way.

Also in May last year, we held a community event to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, an evening event making memories for all as it was the first coronation in 70 years. The weather was not kind to us but that didn't matter, we just moved the celebrations indoors. There was a big turn out from residents which made it more special & everyone seemed to enjoy it.

Within the last year, we had a new grass cutting contractor come on board. Although there were a few initial teething problems, we have worked through these together, coming to an agreement on how things should be done. We now have a faster communication route with the contractor should any extra work need to take place & we are kept informed regularly with photographs on what work has taken place. We also have a new hedge cutting contractor who has done an excellent job with positive comments coming from many residents.

Our working groups are made up of a few councillors who are interested in wishing to take a particular project forward & regularly report back to full council. Once the project has been completed, the working group is then dispersed. In the last year we have had working groups for play equipment & planning, speed surveys, street signs, the war memorial, wilder towns/wilder villages & D-Day. We will be starting up a footpath working group in the coming weeks.

Some new street signs are now in place around the village. Others that need to be replaced are the responsibility of Mistley Parish Council & Essex County Council & have been reported to the relevant parties.

As parishioners will know, our war memorial in the grounds of St Lawrence Church is in many ways unique. The four engraved stone tablets contain comprehensive details of those local residents who served in the war.

However, after a hundred years these tablets are eroding, leaving much of the information unreadable. The Parish Council understands how important this information is to the relatives of those who served and residents of Bradfield. We are committed to restoring the war memorial, to preserve that information. Negotiations continue with Stone Masons, Architectural and Monumental Consultants, the Church Commissioners and the War Graves Commission. Unfortunately, these processes are extremely bureaucratic, but our efforts continue.

We will of course keep parishioners informed.

At the recreation ground, new & renewed play equipment plus accessible paths are in the planning stages. Meetings have been arranged with potential new contractors & we hope to see some of these changes during the summertime. More regular inspections are taking place by two of our councillors to ensure that we are compliant with health & safety & any faults or repairs are reported immediately. This is in addition to maintenance checks by our contractor & also the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

A D-Day celebration event will take place at the recreation ground on Thursday 6th June & this is an evening event where the beacon will be lit at 9.15pm. We have not been allowed to light the beacon since the late Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee so this will be a very special occasion. There will be lots of entertainment before the beacon lighting to suit all age groups. Further information is available in the recent Grapevine.

We continue to look at parking issues around the village and have reported these to the relevant parties who are working in the background to try & rectify some of these problems. We are also awaiting the outcome of the Cansey Lane & Mill Lane application process to award them 'quiet lane' status.

Last September, we held our first meet your councillors' event on a Saturday morning at the village hall. This was an informal event attended by the councillors along with our District & County Councillors. Fourteen members of the public came along for tea & cake & were able to ask any questions that they wanted. The subject of planning was popular & opened a few resident's eyes when they were informed on how the process works & why some applications can take such a long time before a decision is made. Our next informal event is on Saturday 25th May.

New bins & dog waste bins have also been replaced & installed around the village in the last few months.

We are having CCTV cameras installed outside the village hall monitoring the car park & recycling bins to ensure all areas are kept secure & to avoid fly tipping issues.

We continue to receive recycling credits totalling £1737 in the last year for the bottles deposited in our local village recycling bins. We have also received payments from the solar farm totalling £5101. We have also saved just under £300 a year by ending our Post Office Box contract & rediverting Parish Council mail received to the Village Hall.

Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for being on board & being very supportive in the last year. My thanks also to our County & District Councillors who have supported us at our monthly meetings when possible. My huge thanks goes to Sean our clerk, we have both been learning together & what a sterling role he executes. My final thanks goes to my Vice Chair, Alan, most definitely my wing man & the font of all knowledge through his years of experience. Every bit of support has been immensely important to me.

Karen Burton

Chair of Bradfield Parish Council