

BRADFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held at
Bradfield Village Hall, The Street, Bradfield, Essex, CO11 2UU
on
Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllrs Coley, Cunningham, Osbourne, Points, Scott and Weal

In the Chair: Cllr Burton

Clerk: Mrs Marie Snell

Also in Attendance: 0 members of the public or press, Essex County Council representative Cllr Guglielmi.

1. Introduction and welcome

Cllr Burton welcomed member to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Webb. Cllr Points was absent.

3. Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 7th May 2024 to be approved as a correct record and signed

As no members of the public were present to propose the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, the chairman asked members if there were any objections to her signing them as a true record. With no objection, it was **RESOLVED**: that the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 7th May 2024 (previously circulated) be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. Annual District and County Council Reports

The annual District and County Council reports had not been received whilst Cllr Guglielmi provides regular monthly reports, published during each Bradfield Parish Council meeting. Reports of ongoing concerns about segregation of services involved in the Local Government Reform and the consequent scaling of county councils. Cllr Guglielmi asked if members had any questions to which there were none.

5. Annual Reports from Local Clubs and Societies

Of those organisations contacted, the following responded:

- 5.1 Mr V. Osborne, Chairman of the Bradfield Glebe Allotment Association provided a verbal report on behalf of the association. Over the last year, membership over the allotment has continued with 32 members, the youngest members from the local school up to 80+ with a vast number of ages. The land lease continues to 2035 and events held have seen a spectacular fireworks evening which received considerable praise from members of the local community. A summer BBQ was held and members of the allotment association are taking part in the garden party in the church gardens. Great crops have been grown by many allotmenters with prizes awarded for the 'best kept allotment'. A fantastic venture for all age groups and great for mental health, a thriving organisation for the village.
- 5.2 Cllr Burton, Trustee and Chairman of Bradfield Village Hall CIO, provided a verbal report on behalf of the BVH Committee and concluded that members are working hard to keep the well utilised village hall operational whilst administrating a changeover in chairman.

6. Annual Report from the Chairman

Cllr. Burton presented the Chairman's annual report. **Appendix 1.**

7. Questions from members of the public

None

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 7.11pm.

Chair:

Date:

Appendix 1

Chairman's Annual Report

In May 2024, Bradfield Parish Council held its Annual Parish Council Meeting. All nine serving Councillors confirmed their continued commitment, along with our then Clerk, Sean Cooke. At that meeting, a new Chair and Vice Chair were appointed, and members were allocated to the Finance and Personnel Committees.

Midway through the year, we saw the retirement of our Clerk. We were fortunate to appoint Marie Snell as our new Clerk, who joined us with an impressive résumé. We were delighted to welcome her to the team.

Throughout the year, the Council has continued to make considered, community-focused decisions, always maintaining a professional and dedicated approach in service to Bradfield and its residents.

Also on Thursday 8th May, we are proud to host a special community celebration marking the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. The event features the Tendring Brass Band, a local singing duo, our resident bagpiper, international tributes and blessings, and concluded with the lighting of the beacon. We are pleased that the Simon Brice, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant in Essex will be attending our event.

We have made several improvements to village maintenance. A new grass-cutting contractor was appointed, and a hedge-cutting contractor has joined us receiving excellent feedback from residents for the quality of their work. We also now have a reliable handyman who can respond quickly to small jobs around the village.

Our task-specific working groups, made up of interested Councillors, have played a key role in progressing various projects. These groups report back to the full Council and disband upon completion. This past year, their work has included addressing playground equipment, planning matters, the war memorial, and preparations for the VE-Day celebrations.

The war memorial in the grounds of St Lawrence Church remains a deeply important local landmark. The four engraved tablets list the names of Bradfield residents who served in the war, but the inscriptions are deteriorating with age. We remain committed to trying to restoring the memorial so these names are preserved. Progress has been slow due to complex negotiations with stonemasons, consultants, church authorities, and the War Graves Commission but we are determined and will continue to keep residents informed.

New playground equipment has been installed at the recreation ground. We've also added small pathways to improve access for those with prams and wheelchairs. Safety remains a top priority, with Councillors conducting regular inspections, alongside our maintenance contractor and RoSPA checks, to ensure compliance and usability.

Parking concerns remain under review. We have reported key issues to the relevant authorities and continue to monitor the progress of 'Quiet Lane' applications for Cansey Lane and Mill Lane.

We held two community litter picks this year, and I would like to thank all who joined us. Special thanks go to local resident Howard Whurr, who regularly collects litter around the village, his efforts are greatly appreciated.

New dog waste bins have been installed throughout Bradfield. To address ongoing issues with fly-tipping, CCTV cameras have been added to monitor the car park and recycling area near the village hall. Unfortunately, some residents continue to leave waste beside the recycling bins, including bags of clothes and bottles left on the ground which are not collected by our contractors and must be dealt with separately. This remains a challenge caused by a small minority, and we are actively exploring ways to resolve it.

We continue to benefit from recycling credits, receiving £1108.77 last year from bottle recycling. We also received £5281.21 from Estio Solar Farm Community Fund, both of which contribute positively to our work.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my fellow Councillors for their commitment and hard work over the past year. I'm also grateful to our District and County Councillors for their attendance and support at our monthly meetings. And to my Vice Chair, Alan, thank you for your unwavering support and invaluable experience. Every contribution has made a meaningful difference.

Karen Burton, Chairman of Bradfield Parish Council