

**BRADENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Bradenham Parish Annual General Meeting on**  
**Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

## Welcome

Teresa Frost, Steven Parker, Michael Bell, Neil Fegan, James Ruppert and Vicky Hunter-Lines with the Clerk Mrs D Ruppert and Helen Crane (District Councillor) plus 5 Residents.

**Apologies** No apologies were received

**The standing Chairman Teresa Frost open the meeting and then ask the Clerk to announce the Election of Office**

The PC had a secret ballot for Chairman and Vice-Chairman

**Teresa Frost** was re-elected as Chairman and **Steve Parker** was re-elected as Vice-Chairman.

**Michael Bell** agreed to stay as Village Hall Committee, the rest of the PC were happy with in

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2026

### RECEIPTS

Precept	8000.00
Bradenham Village Hall	647.40
VAT Refund	1271.03
Cricket Club Fee	350.00
PCC Grass Contribution	1078.50

### PAYMENTS

Stationery	15.00
Bradenham Hall Farm -Footpath	368.00
Village Hall – Rent	60.00
T TSR Grass Cutting + Moles	4866.70
Clerk – Wages	978.96
PAYE	92.40
Zurich Insurance + Inspection	1241.65
ICO – Data Protection	47.00
CPRE – Monthly Membership	60.00
NPTS – Yearly Membership	90.00
Julian Reading-Notice Board Repair	80.00
TTSR – Tree Work on Green	200.00
Tufts Building	647.40
Community Heartbeat – Battery	74.95
NPTC – Course Clerk	43.20

VAT	1319.41
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**£11346.93**

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**£ 10184.67**

### SUMMARY

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
	£	£	£	£	£
Precept	8000.00	8000.00	8000.00	8000.00	8000.00
Interest Credited	4.54	0.47	0.00	0.00	0.00
VAT Refund	1416.68	2866.02	2307.96	1415.48	1319.41
Other Income	7091.00	4329.87	1329.28	1633.94	2027.52
Balance C/F	11169.15	8679.25	6906.18	7944.45	9135.14
Expenditure	19002.12	17643.60	10598.97	9858.73	10184.87
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Balance	8679.25	6906.18	7944.45	9135.14	10297.40

The Clerk presented the above statement of the Parish Councils' finance for the year ending 31st March 2026, showing income for the year of **£11346.93**, expenditure of **£10184.87** and a balance carried forward of **£10297.40**. This was approved by the Parish Council

## Chairman's Report 2026 – Teresa Frost

The last 12 months have seen more stability returning to the Parish Council. We have undertaken work to repair the village hall car park and have commissioned health and safety work to be completed on the village green trees. Steve and James have also undertaken work to restore the picnic bench in the play area and I would like to thank them for undertaking this and hope that this can be an approach we can take more as councillors in volunteering to undertake tasks that are required in the village and ultimately saving spending public funds. I would also like to thank Vickie for her recent work with Carolyn Brown in establishing Bradenham with mindful village recognition more of which will be on our main agenda this evening.

Beyond those activities the biggest challenge we have focus on as a council is continuing to oppose High Grove Solar Farm proposal which will surround the village with sites to the South, North and East of the village. This is the most significant and important challenge that the Parish Council has ever had to respond to but with very little power or voice to stop this monstrosity ruining our beautiful rural village. We have to join up more with other councils, statutory and non statutory bodies to ensure that our voice becomes louder, gets heard and has impact. It feels momentum is building nationally in recognising how these huge solar monstrosities that are being placed on rural farm land will jeopardise our country's food security through taking away our agricultural land leaving us to import more food but it feels time is running out and we need every individual to raise their own objections to help the voice get louder.

I would like to thank all our Parish Councillors past and present for their work, done on your behalf, over the past year, and our Clerk, Dee Ruppert who is such an asset to us with her many years of experience. I would like to thank Edward Connolly, our exiting County Councillor and our District Councillors, Helen Crane & Peter Bates for the work they have put in on our behalf during the year.

With last week holding the election for the 84 County Council seats I would like welcome Kabeer Kher as our County Councillor for the division of Yare and Necton. The election results signal a new era at the County Council but as of yet we do not know whether this will be a coalition or rainbow Council as no one party achieved the overall majority.

We now have an outcome to Local Government Reforms for which Norfolk will be split into 3 Authorities from April 28. With Bradenham sitting within the West Norfolk Council which covers Breckland, King's Lynn and West Norfolk and parts of South Norfolk. Shadow councils will be established for these new Authorities from April 2027 to support the move to full implementation by April 2028.

Our Clerk Dee has undertaking training to ensure we are meeting Assertion 10 requirements through Norfolk Parish Training and Support and we have renewed our membership to this support organisation for another year.

I would like to thank Steve and Lorraine Parker and their army of litter pickers who continue to keep the streets, roads, and Village Green of Bradenham so tidy and clear of litter. I would also like to thank Phil Hayward and Michael Bell for looking after our speed signs and capturing data. Along with the whole community Speed watch team for their dedicated work to tackle speeding traffic through our village, they are always in need of new volunteers so please consider training to undertake this important role.

Parishioner attendance at our meetings has been quite low over the last year and whilst this could be interpreted as concerning, this is not unusual for parish council meetings. It is our jobs as councillors to actively engage with in the village ensuring that our councillor role is recognised and that we remain approachable to support the community.

Our precept has increased to £9,000 this year. Artificial Intelligence tells me the average precept for a parish of 700 population is between £15,000 - £60,000 per annum depending on assets and responsibilities. This shows our precept is still low in comparison but I fear with continuing rises in costs this may need to increase in future years. As you can see from the financial statement, our two largest items of expenditure were the usual insurance and the grass cutting of the green and churchyards. Costs relating to the tree work undertaken on the Green will fall into next year's finances.

And finally I have felt proud to service as your Chair over the last year, trying my best to bring stability and collaboration into our council again and ensure that the voice of our parishioners is represented. I have learnt there is quite a bit of work to being the chairperson which is not always seen in our council meetings but I have risen to the challenge of this. And once again I thank Dee as our Clerk for always assisting me to navigate these tasks.

## **District Councillor's Report – Helen Crane Breckland Council Achievements 2025/26**

### Thriving Places

£250k was allocated to repair 7 historic buildings in Swaffham as part of the Historic Town programme.

£519,453K was committed from the UK shared prosperity fund benefitting individual businesses, improving skills and employability.

Supported NCC in making improvements to the Market Place in Dereham.

Thetford's pride in place board, with input from over 1,000 residents enabling an early regeneration plan to be submitted and unlocking 350k for priority projects. 30k was released to enable retailers to redecorate their frontages.

Enabled more than 100 people and students in training for heritage building and conservation skills.

Re-open grants were awarded to 9 businesses across our high streets.

Manufacturing day in Thetford engaging 270 school children.

Start-up grants and growth grants of 285k were awarded to rural businesses.

Car park transfers to Town councils.

### Inspiring Communities

Safer street wardens are covering our 5 Market Towns, over 1,000 hours of visible patrols.

£82,695 in grant funding to community projects plus a further £32,295 in match funded grants.

Over 160 affordable homes have been enabled plus 4 all affordable schemes which will provide over 280 new affordable homes, 200 above policy requirement.

Delivered a new 3G pitch in partnership with football foundation at Thetford.

Work has started on the new Attleborough leisure project.

Distributed 12k in grants to Mark VJ Day 80

The Community Alcohol Partnership was launched in Thetford, later to be launched in Dereham.

Together for Dereham launched to tackle ASB.

Over 750 food and water supply inspections.

Third consecutive RSPCA platinum award for dog warden services.

Over 140 incidents of fly tipping were dealt with, with 37 fixed penalty notices.

4k in community transport grants distributed.

PSPO in Dereham introduced.

Emergency rest centres increased.

### Working Smarter 2035

Ai platform Puzzel introduced which provides 24/7 access

Installation of solar panels at Thetford leisure centre

Expanded our trade waste scheme and introduced the new trade food waste.

£11,500 in grant funding to promote composting and recycling and textile reuse.

Supported 30 community litter picks.

We have served 167 notices to private rental sector to fix hazardous housing conditions.

### **No Other Business**

**Meeting Ended : 7.50pm**

## **Minutes of Bradenham Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2026 in the Village Hall.**

Teresa Frost, Steven Parker, Michael Bell, Neil Fegan, James Ruppert and Vicky Hunter-Lines with the Clerk Mrs D Ruppert and Helen Crane (District Councillor) plus 5 Residents.

**Apologies** No apologies were received

The minutes of the last meeting were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members are asked to declare any interest in the following items on the agenda.

**Dispensation is granted** to all Parish Councillors in order to discuss the Precept and other financial matters – **Nothing was declared**

### **Helen Crane – District Councillor -**

Local Government reorganisation-On the 25<sup>th</sup> March a letter was sent to the leader from the secretary of state for housing, communities and local government confirming the three unitary model for Norfolk. This means that for Breckland there will be a join up with Kings Lynn and West Norfolk and will also include 9 parishes from South Norfolk. As a Council we have been talking and meeting with both senior officers and cabinet members from Kings Lynn over the last few months as this was our hoped for outcome from something that we neither requested or wanted. I have always believed that local government should be local and although not what I personally would have wanted I will work to ensure that residents of Breckland have the best local outcome possible. The desire is that there should be no noticeable difference in the services that residents receive. Time will of course tell.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> March Breckland launched £100k grant for the 5 Market Towns. This is the new Pride in Breckland initiative and was approved as part of the Council's annual budget. One off grants to each of the 5 Market Towns will be assigned to deliver projects that benefit each town.

Additional support for the Armed forces community has been set out including a new grant scheme. £11,500 has been ring fenced for community groups to apply for grants of between £250 and £1,000. The PSPO (Public space protection order) has been approved for Dereham. The PSPO can be enforced by police and also Breckland Council's street wardens.

Due to a fire at the premises that takes in electricals, batteries and white goods these are no longer being collected by Breckland at present or being taken in by the recycling centres. We are working to find a solution and ask that residents hold onto these items until we can collect. Batteries can be taken to retail outlets which have a recycling box.

At cabinet on Monday a 1.2 million £ project for housing was launched with the YMCA. This collaboration will see units built in the North of the district to supply support housing for 18-25 year olds. This age group is growing in number for homelessness and data shows a demand for this type of accommodation. YMCA Norfolk already operates successful supported housing schemes in the County.

I am very pleased that Bradenham has been awarded a 'mindful village' status, celebrating the villages commitment to the community, wellbeing and inclusivity.

### **PUBLIC SESSION**

Mrs Jarvis asked about a proposed planning application for a self-build dwelling in West End. The dwelling was out of keeping with the surrounding properties. The new second drive way is located on an s bend which does not provide visibility to drivers.

The applicant Mr Cook was present and stated that the new home was large but he has a large family plus they entertain most weekends – family and friends. The property will be further back than the original.

The PC did question him regarding the use of the property and he reassured them that it was not for commercial use. Regarding the second drive way, he will speak to his architect.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

**George Freeman – Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> April** - Teresa Frost and Steve Parker attended the meeting, which was not very well attended. Out of 22 parishes only 5 turned up. It seems many were not invited. More cross party involvement was discussed in order to have a louder voice.

Using prime agricultural land for the solar farms, reduces food security and raises concerns about fires. Other issues were raised regarding noise, traffic on narrow road, affect on wildlife, bats etc.

Mark Aitken had reviewed RWE questions and answers. Teresa asked for a copy but has not yet received. Minutes of the meeting were also to be emailed to all and that also has not happened.

It seems George Freeman maybe keeping his feet in both camps.

Solar farms – Lincoln around 17,000 acres, Norfolk 7500 but could go up to 20,000 acres. All taxes earned from these farms will go straight to the government

Also in attendance was Fabian R Eagle County Councillor – Conservative and James Wild M.P. (South West Norfolk ) Terry Jermy – Labour MP could not attend and sent is PA.

**Opposition Group Update** – RAF Marham have objected to the Drovers-Swaffham. The MoD warned metal solar arrays would interfere with its radar system. This would impact "upon its ability to accurately detect and track aircraft.

Another meeting regarding Solar Farms will be held in the Village Hall on 17<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm. There will be speakers that have lived next to a solar farm for the last 10 years and how it has affected their lives plus maps and other important information.

**Picnic Bench in Play area** – James and Steve have sanded and repainted. The PC thanked them both and also commented on how good it looked.

**Coffee Truck** - On green near Cricket Club – Joe Sandell – The Cricket Club and the BCG would object to the truck being near the green while they are using the green and village hall. Michael Bell agreed to speak to all groups to sort out a time table.

**Tree Cutting on Green** – The Norfolk Arborist carried out the work on the green in April. The Clerk has spoken to them about a branch that should have been removed on the side of the Cricket Club, which they will come back and cut down. We also agreed it would be appropriate to have the trees checked every 18 months.

Diana McMullen, a resident, mentioned there was a branch that also should have been cut on the Mill Street side on the green. This will be looked into.

Did we need to have a Tree Warden? The PC agreed, not at present.

**Breckland Mindful Village Project – Vickie reported** - Mindful Village Status recognises the invaluable work of all representatives within our community who make it such a wonderful place to live. The groups, sports and interest clubs and regular events where people meet and socialise. These social gatherings, no matter the reason, are the core of our community bringing people together of all ages and activity levels, sharing time, stories and worries.

Bradenham have successfully applied for Mindful Village Status and were awarded a certificate and plaque at the Bradenham Fete on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

Our two members are Vickie Hunter-Lines and Carolyn Brown. The PC congratulated them both.

**Village Hall Car Park** – JP Gravel and Sand have now filled in all the holes and at a reasonable price.

**Zurich Insurance** – Price check – Neil Fegan has looked into this, however we cannot move forward until a month before the renewal date which is 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2027

**Moles** – Green, St Andrews and St Marys – TTRS can no longer do mole control. The Clerk is trying to find someone to take this on.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**PC Audit** – Sign section 1 before section 2 - The Clerk prepared the audit and this was signed by the Chairman with the approval of the Parish Council. Section one was agreed and signed before section 2 of the Audit form. The Clerk again will be sending in a certificate of exemption because we can confirm that we neither received gross income nor incurred gross expenditure, exceeding £25,000 in the year. This would mean the audit would still need to be completed but, we will not need to send it to the auditors and this will save us £200. The internal audit was very kindly carried out by Serena Barnes (Bradenham Hall Farm Secretary). The PC thanked Serena for doing this.

**Land Registry** – Land on east side of School Road, Green, Village Pound, these are all held in Chris Allhusen's name and will now be transferred to the Clerk's name.

Teresa agreed to walk the areas and keep an eye on the land on the east side of School Road known as the surveyors land on a regularly basis.

**Breckland Grant for Picnic Benches** – Bradenham Community Group - Teresa has now received the correct paperwork and will sign and return to Breckland. Breckland's grant of £3600 will be sent to the PC account and then they will donate this to the BCG for the 5 benches and then claim back the VAT.

**Cricket Club** re Green etc. It's was agreed that due to the increase in grass cutting and also the amount of tree maintenance on the green this year that an increase in the Cricket Club fee is needed. The last time it was increased was in 2006 by £50. So the same amount was approved again, total £400.00 per year from today.

Teresa was approached by the cricket club about them moving the practice net to nearer the play area and them doubling the size. The PC thought this would spoil the look of the green.

**Potholes** – Steve Parker – I reported several pot holes up at High Grove and Highways came and filled one! But, it does seem that they will be closing the Lane in June and hopefully filling the rest.

## PLANNING

### APPLICATION :-

Proposed construction of manure storage building by Leys Farm Dereham Road- **NO OBJECTION**

Proposed replacement Self Build dwelling with 3No first floor balconies 1 rear & side to Include new access, driveway and garaging. Mr & Mrs Cook West End Farm Bradenham

### Approved:-

Demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of new double garage with workshop and store, with annex accommodation above (Ancillary) and external staircase, by J Grey-1 Ivy Cottage, Hale Road - **NO OBJECTION**

Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for a Proposed Use or Development Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Proposed Single Storey Extension to Rear by Miss G Saunders 41 Church St- **NO OBJECTION**

**APPEAL:-** Proposed New agricultural Barn by J & A Fish & Smith Corner Cottage West End-  
**Planning permission granted**

### FINANCE:-

**Opening Balance - Virgin Money - £ 10185.50**

#### Expenditure

Bradenham Footpath fee	441.60
CPRE – Monthly Membership – Feb. Mar & Apr	15.00
ICO- Data Protection	47.00
Village Hall – Rent	60.00
NPTC – Annual Fee	108.00
Clerk's Wage	270.40
PAYE	29.60
The Norfolk Arborist – Trees on Green	2088.00
JP Sand & Gravel – Village Car Park	85.00
James Ruppert – Picnic Table Repair	57.59

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**£3202.19**

#### Income

Precept	4500.00
PCC–Grass Cutting	1078.50

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**£ 5578.50**

**Balance £ 12561.81**

It was confirmed that all payments made were agreed by the Parish Council

**Any Other Business None**

**NEXT MEETING Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> August 2026.**

**Meeting Ended 9.21pm**