

## **Minutes of Bradenham Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2025 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm**

Teresa Frost, Steven Parker, James Ruppert Michael Bell and Neil Fegan with the Clerk Mrs D Ruppert and Helen Crane & Peter Bates (District Councillor) plus 4 Residents.

**Apologies** received from Lisa Johnstone–Broken elbow. Ed Connolly- County Councillor

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.- Steve Parker and James Ruppert are apart of the High Grove Solar Farm Opposition Group. Teresa Frost declared an interest in the Planning application for 1 Ivy Cottage Hale Road, she owns the land next door.

**Dispensation is granted** to all Parish Councillors in order to discuss the Precept and other financial matters.

**Peter Bates – District Councillor** - Devolution discussion in the council is now productive rather than whiney and the council are actively seeking people's opinions and ideas. The preferred format of Breckland is a 3 unitary authority model. Norfolk County Council prefer a one authority version. Personally, I think the three-authority model is the better of the two, but neither is as good as what we already have.

When there were questions the Labour group asked about the cutting of grass verges and the frequency of it, an answer should follow at some point. The independent group wanted to know why Breckland favoured the three unitary authority model when it is the most expensive of the three. The ruling group disputes the figures, which do come from NCC.

Reform asked about the housing for illegal immigrants and ex-offenders. Their question was pure mischief making. Breckland house who they legally must house, and migrants are housed by the government. This is typical of Reform nationally who make up a story and then get outraged about the lie they just invented.

The Labour group asked about the speed in which the car parks are being moved from Breckland Council and into Town Council control. Breckland said they would appreciate any help they can get from the Town councils to speed things up. The ruling group say they need to get a fair price from the councils for the car parks to ensure value for the council taxpayers. I must admit I do not understand, the money will go from the town council to Breckland council an organisation that will then cease to exist.

The council decided to write to the secretary of state stating their opposition to large scale solar farm development which appears to provide little benefit to the local community. Reform also are opposed to solar farms, mainly because climate change isn't real. Just to prove that Reform don't have a monopoly on stupidity a tory councillor thought that all the new electricity would be piped down to London and that they would steal the electricity created by our solar farms. Electricity doesn't work like this.

**Helen Crane – District Councillor** - Inspiring communities match funded grant scheme continues and details can be found via the Community Foundation Norfolk. Priorities are domestic abuse, Mental health, Social Isolation & Loneliness and early intervention projects.

The Council continues to crackdown on fly-tipping and has given fixed penalty notices for 3 fly tipping offenders totalling £1,300. Please continue to report any fly-tipping for investigation.

At the June meeting of Breckland Council's Cabinet, members voted to approve a resolution to join the UK Network of Age Friendly Communities, reinforcing its commitment to enhancing the quality of life for older residents across the district.

Brecklands Market Towns have been invited to apply for grants to help attract more visitors. Organisations and businesses can apply for the 'Love your Market Town' fund. The scheme is in partnership with Norfolk County Council.

Local Plan-Parish cluster meetings for parishes with site submissions over 50 dwellings have been held. There has been good engagement with the parishes that have attended and an understanding of where we are with the increase in housing numbers. A FAQ will be available on the website in due course. We are now meeting with the Town councils and villages that are associated with them and have had high submissions. On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October there will be a special cabinet meeting to approve the draft Reg

18 document of the local plan. Local government reorganisation-The council confirms it does not support the governments proposed approach to LGR and devolution. We are concerned about the risks to residents and businesses of increased council tax and service delivery. The Council agrees that if this goes ahead we support a 3 unitary model as do Kings Lynn & West Norfolk, Broadland District Council, Great Yarmouth Borough, North Norfolk District Council, and Norwich City Council. A full submission will be sent by 26<sup>th</sup> September and the decision will be made by the government. Grants are being offered for shop fronts to help revitalise town centres. Alongside this is the 'Love your Market Town' pride of place grant. Grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 are available to support creative projects that bring people into town centres and increase local spending.

The CAP (Community action partnership) has been launched in Thetford. Designed to support a healthier and safer community by uniting Norfolk police, Public Health, Trading Standards, and the local community. The initiative is to address issues related to underage drinking and vaping. Later this will be launched in Dereham.

### **PUBLIC SESSION No questions were asked.**

Teresa read out an email from Dawn a resident, who is asking if a wind phone could be installed on the green. A wind phone is an unconnected telephone, where people can have one-way conversations with deceased loved ones. This would be in a box. Dawn has offered to look after it and have it installed etc. The PC did not feel that the green was the correct place. The only other piece of land the PC own is the pound on Church St, The Clerk should ask Dawn what sort of box etc will the phone be installed in and will also speak to Zurich Insurance

### **MATTERS ARISING**

**Vice Chairman** – This position still needs to be filled. Teresa Frost ask if anyone was interested. Steve Parker was happy to take the position. This was agreed by the PC. Michael Bell was happy to take the position on the Village Hall committee has the PC member

**Opposition Group Update** – Steve informed the PC that the opposition group have arranged for a walk to take villagers up to the High Grove Solar site. Maps and videos of the sites will be shown at the village hall on the day. Neil is happy to show residents where the Solar Farm is going in Southend if needed.

There will be another Solar battery farm near Necton off A47, also one in Keswick-North Norfolk. Between 3<sup>rd</sup> March and 18<sup>th</sup> June this year there have been 8/9 solar battery farm fires.

Steve was very disappointed about the lack of interest by the village to the solar farm in Bradenham and the surrounding areas. Once the lorry start blocking the roads, what will they do then?

George Freeman steering group has made no progress since the last meeting and we have received no correspondence.

**Review of Standing Orders etc** – Teresa confirmed that these are still being look into.

**Nelson Close – Street name** – Now replaced

**RWE** – Statutory Consultation was sent to RWE via email on 9<sup>th</sup> July, they have acknowledged receipt Neil asked it this could be put in the September Mardle. The PC agreed .

**Village Noticeboard** – Julian Reading has repaired at a cost oof £80. The Clerk has thanked Julian

**Bench in Playarea** – The Clerk has still not found any Recycle planks to replace the wooden ones. We will keep on searching.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

**Jon Murphy** – Due to family commitments, Jon has decided to resign from the PC. The Clerk has already advised Breckland and deleted Jon from all further emails etc. Teresa Frost thanked Jon for all this work over the year and the Clerk had thanked him via the Mardle.

Teresa also reported that Lisa Johnstone had also resigned. Lise no longer lives in Bradenham and cannot give the parish council the time it deserves. Teresa thanked Lisa and the Clerk will thank her in the Mardle and advise Breckland.

The Clerk will advertise in the Mardle that 2 more PC's are now needed.

**PC Audit** – This has now been approved by PKF Littlejohn – because we are exempt no fee to pay.

**Hale Road** – The hedge at the junction of Hale Road and Mill St, is very overgrown and is causing visibility issue. Clerk will write to the households and also speak to highways.

**CPRE** – invited us to join the Anti Mega Solar Alliance.. Membership is free. It was agreed that we would.

**Playarea Inspection** – There was nothing urgent or dangerous. Minor work is needed. The sign that is on the fence should be renewed. James Ruppert offered to help Teresa Frost adjust the chains on the swings. The PC will look at the play area after the meeting.

**Slow Way** – Email received – They are a national not-for-profit, backed by the National Lottery and thousands of volunteers. We've created a trusted walking network connecting every town and city in Britain. They are launching the new platform nationally in Spring 2026. In the lead-up, they are inviting early partners to help shape what's possible. We are welcome to join a short, free info session hosted by their founder and designed specifically for councils and local organisations like ours. Neil Fegan was happy to reply to the email and see where it leads.

## PLANNING

**New Applications** PL/2025/0703/FMIN Erection of 1 no. self build dwelling  
3 Mill Hill, Bradenham Previous application was refused  
**PC have refused again**

Demolition of Existing Outbuildings and Erection of Rear New Double Garage with Rear Store and Annex Accommodation Above (Ancillary), External Staircase and Balcony at 1, Ivy Cottage, Hale Road, Bradenham - **Objection**

**APPROVAL :-**                    **None**

## FINANCE:-

**Opening Balance £ 13115.14**

### Virgin Account

<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>Income</b>	
CPRE – Monthly Membership April	5.00	Village Hall-Donation	647.40
CPRE – Monthly Membership May	5.00		
TTSR – Grass Maintenance	1459.99		
Tufts - Slabs for V/Hall re B/Charity	776.88		
Clerk Wages	236.32		
HMRC	20.80		
Julian Reading – Noticeboard Refub	80.00		
CPRE – Monthly Membership June	5.00		
TTSR – Grass Maintenance	1459.99		
Heartbeat -Pads for Debfrib	89.94		
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	£ 4138.92		£ 647.40

**Balance     £ 9623.62**

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

## Any Other Business

**NEXT MEETING Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**Meeting ended: 8.47pm**