

Minutes of Bradenham Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th November 2024 in the Village Hall.

Julian Reading, Teresa Frost, Steven Parker, and Michael Bell with the Clerk Dee Ruppert, Helen Crane (District Councillor) Paul Plummer (Councillor Mattishall) plus 24 Residents.

APOLOGIES – Lisa Johnstone-away for work, Ed Connolly (County Councillor) and Peter Bates (District Councillor)

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

Julian informed the residents that Chris Allhusen had resigned the Parish Council. The PC thanked him for all the work he did over the last 40+ years.

Steve Parker indicated that clarification was required as to why Chris came to resign. We did not want Chris to resign. The Law required him to withdraw from any discussion as he had a pecuniary interest in the matter. Chris does not have a prejudicial interest but his interest is a pecuniary one. The relevant law, namely the Localism Act 2011, Section 25(4) amongst other things (interpreted the word Authority) which includes Parish Council. Section 31(4) prohibits a member from participating in discussion or voting on any matter relating to their interest or, if acting alone, from taking any steps in relation to the matter. Section 34 makes it a criminal offence if a member fails without reasonable cause to comply with requirements under Sections 30 or 31. Steve asked Helen Crane if she agreed and she nodded in the affirmative.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

Teresa Frost declared an interest in one of the planning applications

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

Helen Crane – District Councillor - Cabinet matters-The housing strategy was adopted for 2024-2028. Priorities are to increase the supply and diversity of affordable housing to ensure the right types of housing are available in the right place. Improve the quality and sustainability of homes in the private rented sector. Support vulnerable residents to access suitable homes and have housing choice.

It was agreed to pause the local plan update process until the publication of the revised NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework). The agreement to pause was to avoid abortive work and find ourselves having to start from scratch. The new government figures for housing for Breckland means that if we were to continue to work to the original figures of 625 per annum, then we would compromise ourselves on the knowledge we have of the new figures of 917 per annum. We had allocated an uplift to 661 dwellings per annum in the new local plan but that is now not enough.

Earlier this year the Council brought planning back 'in house' and the new Idox system is live from 7.10.24. Noise complaints-The Council is experiencing a high level of noise complaints since Covid as people are working from home more and although sometimes these complaints seem minor and infuriating to residents we do have a statutory duty to investigate every complaint.

RSPCA Awards-The Council has won the Platinum award for its dog warden services and the new Gold award for its kennelling.

Car Parks- The consultation document went to the Overview and Scrutiny commission on 24th October. The cross party commission has helped shape the questions that are asked in this consultation document. The consultation is now live on the website along with paper questionnaires that will be available in libraries and Council offices. There are also in person events being run around the district, Dereham Library 21st November 11am -7pm, Adcocks in Watton 27th November 11am-7pm.

The household support fund has now opened. The fund will be issued across 2 rounds, the first running from now until the end of December and the 2nd from January until March 2025. Awards are for a fixed amount of £300 which are issued directly to the resident for support with utilities and food. If any resident finds themselves needing the household support fund then I can refer them. There are some scam texts regarding this fund, Breckland will not be contacting via text so these are fake.

Solar 'farm'-I attended the first meeting of the steering group set up by George Freeman MP, so along with the Vice chair of the PC Bradenham will be represented. I have asked the director of planning at Breckland to also attend a meeting of the steering group and he has agreed. Although Breckland will only be a consultee in this process as the decision will be made by the secretary of state, it is important that everyone has information available ready for the consultation period in 2025.

PUBLIC SESSION

Teresa mentioned the overgrown hedges in Nelson Close that are causing residents to walk on the road. The home in Nelson Close is owned by Flagship/Victory, on the other side is a piece of land-where the owner is unknown. The Clerk will look into this.

Solar Farm- Julian advised that the PC have joined the steering Group that George Freeman is chairing. Julian and Michael went to the first meeting and were disappointed at not seeing more villages represented.

Julian read out the emails sent to The Planning Inspectorate on 7th Oct and to RWE voluntary consultation on 5th Nov. These are now in the public domain.

The residents wanted to send their thanks to Chris Allhusen for his years of service and his hard work for the village. They feel disappointed that he agreed to lease his land to RWE.

Residents ask why the PC did not Chair the meeting held on 29th October. It was felt that this was not appropriate. The meeting was convened because RWE had no intention of coming to Bradenham and a few of the villagers never received any information about their proposals in the post. We delivered leaflets to as many homes as we could and 114 residents turned up on the night. We invited RWE to attend. We must point out that our open meeting was cut short at their insistence, because their taxis were prebooked" They failed to bring their maps and display boards. Failed to bring their projector and slavishly read through their "slide show". They also failed to bring their public address system. Indeed, RWE only brought enough of their literature for half the residents present. They evaded our probing questions on the volumes of Inverter and BESS containers following up on that disagreed with my estimates of HGV movements. We have followed up on these points with our submission to RWE.

Mr & Mrs MacMullen had their maps on display and felt the PC should include the mitigation in their letters to RWE and the Inspector. They have worked very hard on these plans and have done this voluntarily. The residents were very divided on their opinions

Julian asked if the plans etc could go on the Bradenham website. The MacMullen's need to think about this.

A resident held up a leaflet and said this was put through his door and was it from the PC? The PC had not delivered them. Mrs MacMullen said it was from them, but only the Southend residents due to the access issues.

RWE is a Germany company which is funded by Qatar and the solar panels will be made in China.

Breckland will only be a consultee in this process as the decision will be made by the Secretary of State.

The Solar Farms may never happen. Ed Miliband (Secretary of State) will rubber stamp the paperwork to get it going, he believes solar and wind are the future.

MATTERS ARISING

Parish Council Vacancy - Neil Fegan was accepted on to the PC. Julian then reminded the PC and residents that we also have another vacancy. Jon Murphy offered to join and he was accepted. The Clerk will arrange for the correct paperwork to be sent via email to both

Highways / Rangers —All the work the Clerk asked the Rangers to look at has been completed. The Hale Rd name plate will be replaced by Breckland Council.

Speed Signs — All posts sited in the village are legally fitted by Norfolk Highways and placed on highways land. The Clerk has written to Mr Jones confirming this.

Bradenham Vehicle Speed Survey 2024

Phil Hayward reported that the Bradenham vehicle speed survey started in April and concluded in September. Data was collected from thirteen sites on Church Street, Hale Road and School Road; it has not been possible to include Mill Street in this survey. Each site was surveyed for a 14 day period with Sundays being the designated day for data collection of 30mph and, likewise, 35mph which is the Norfolk Police prosecution speed. Please see Bradenham Website for further details. The latest data had a speed of 65mph recorded at the top of Littleproud's Hill, going towards Shipdham, on October 18 at about 9.00pm.

The PC thanked both Phil and Michael for their continued work in moving the speed signs around the village and sorting out the speeding data

Cricket Club Lease – This has been approved and signed

Church Street – At present no cars are on the pavement.

Bench in play area – Needs replacing. Quotes have been received and these are over £1300. Teresa felt that concrete would not be suitable for a children's play area Teresa is looking into a grant of £10,000 from RWE wind power, this would pay for the bench and new play area flooring.

Litter Pick – Steve Parker- This went very well and the next one will be in March 2025

Zurich Insurance Play Area inspection – Following queries we had

Set of Two Swings - Cradle seats - Fenced Play Area We have looked at these and considering them almost perfectly level, please comment. **Answer from Zurich - This is an editing error my end – apologies. The report is signed off as 'OK' (no defects) but I clearly didn't delete the comment in the defect section.**

Set of Four Swings - Flat seats The seats here were replaced in Autumn 2023 with new ones from Wicksteed. They are date stamped on the rear and are showing no signs of wear. Please comment. The inner seat (left hand) has been levelled and is now within 2mm of level

Answer from Zurich-I may have, again, made an editing error here regarding the seat condition (for the reason given above – my error, though, so my apologies).

Car Parking – Dereham, Swaffham etc still ongoing- Helen encouraged everyone to go online and comment.

Mrs Bush 30mph Swann Lane thru Daffy Green – The Lane is in two parishes Scarning and Bradenham. Highways have no recorded accidents in the last 5 years. They have suggested that safety signs are installed to raise awareness via a parish partnership bid. The clerk will email Ed Connolly- County Councillor and ask if he would speak to the County Councillor of Scarning and the Clerk will also contact Scarning PC.

CORRESPONDENCE

Grass contact up for Renewal –TTSR offer the choice of two contracts. One year for £4866.73 an increase of £187.33 or 3 years going up by £97.33 the 2nd year and £99.29 the 3rd year.

Precept – It was decided the precept would stay the same for 2025 £8000.
No increase to rents and wages

Enforcement – School Road – The double gates fitted by the house near the ford. Enforcement visited the site and found no unlawful development has taken place.

Join CPRE – The cost of joining is £5 per month, this will be looked into further.

PLANNING

APPLICATION :- Erection of 1No. One and a half story dwelling (Self Build) Land adjacent to 2 Ivy Cottages, Bradenham IP25 7QX by Mr & Mrs K Frost 41 Hale Rd

APPROVAL :- Conversion of existing barn and outbuildings into 2 dwellings at Green Farm by GCF Hillier and Sons – **No Objection**

FINANCIAL STATEMENT PROJECTION FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025

All the rents, wages need to be reviewed

Balance carried forward from last year **£ 7944.45**

RECEIPTS

Precept	8000.00
PCC Grass Cutting Fee	980.00
Interest	0.00
VAT Refund	1415.48
Cricket Club – Fees	350.00

PAYMENTS

Village Hall-Rent	60.00
TTSR-Grass Cutting	4679.52
Zurich Insurance	807.92
Playarea Inspection	360.00
Clerk Wages	822.88
PAYE	205.60
Bradenham Hall Farm – Footpath	368.00
Community Heart Beat- Pads	57.95
ICO- Data Protection	n 35.00
VAT	992.01

£ 10745.48

£ 8388.88

This will leave us an approximate balance at the end of March 2023 of **£10,301.05**

We are allowed to donate £10.81 per resident (575) per year **£ 6215.75**

This was approved by the PC. No rents or wages will rise

FINANCE:-

Opening Balance £8879.61

Lloyds Account

Expenditure

TTSR Ltd- Grass cutting	1403.86
Clerks Wages	205.72
PAYE	51.40
HeartBeat – Battery	267.00
HeartBeat - Pads	69.54

	£1997.52

Income

Precept	4000.00
VAT Refund	1415.48

	£ 5415.48

Balance £ 12297.57

This was approved by the PC

ANY OTHER BUSINESS None

Meeting Ended :- 9.39pm

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 11th February 2025