

BRADENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Bradenham Parish Annual General Meeting on
Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Welcome

Apologies received from Ed Connolly- County Councillor

Breckland have confirmed that Bradenham PC can hold a meeting with only three members

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All newly Elected Parish Councillors, **Chris Allhusen, Julian Reading and Teresa Frost**
 Declaration of acceptance and undertaking of Office were signed

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

Mr C Allhusen was re-elected as Chairman and **Mr J Reading** was re-elected as Vice-Chairman

The Chairman asked if any of the residents were interested in joining the PC. We have four vacancies. Three residents were Co-opted: Lisa Johnstone, Steven Parker and Michael Bell. Declaration of acceptance and undertaking of Office were signed. The clerk will send them via email the forms that need to be completed and sent to Breckland and a copy to the clerk..

Election of Officer.

Lisa Johnstone was elected as Village Hall Committee member agreed by the rest of the PC

Teresa Frost was elected as Trustee to Bradenham Charities, this was agreed by the rest of the PC

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023

RECEIPTS

Precept	8000.00
Bradenham Charity – Donation	2173.00
VAT Refund	2866.02
Interest - Nationwide	0.47
PCC Grass Contribution	896.87
Cricket Club Fee	350.00
Bradenham Cricket Club - Donation	500.00
Ali O'Connor – Bench	410.00
Bradenham Community Group	323.62
Bradenham Charity – Donation	674.17

PAYMENTS

BMS – Bench for Pound	410.00
Bradenham Hall Farm -Footpath	368.00
Karl Hagen – Benches & Bins	1735.17
T TSR – Grass Cutting + Moles	3683.12
Clerk – Wages	729.90
Ward Signs – Plaque for Trees	100.00
Community Heart Beat- Defif/F/Club	2173.00
Community Heart Beat – Pads	46.00
Zurich Insurance + Inspection	1267.37
Glasdon – Bins Green and CC Club	686.16
Tufts – Timber and Cement	220.69
ICO – Data	35.00
HMRC – PAYE	162.60
TTSR – Bin for Green	200.00
TTSR – Bench installation for Ford	450.00
Village Hall – Rent	60.00
Farm Watch – CCTV	2129.06
NNB – Smoking Bin – Village Hall	124.50
Ebay – Litter Picker Hoops	80.90
Richer Sounds – Projector	674.17
VAT	2307.96

£15870.53

£17643.60

SUMMARY

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Precept	8000.00	8000.00	8000.00	8000.00	8000.00
Interest Credited	11.06	9.94	12.22	4.54	0.47
VAT Refund	3928.93	2396.68	953.75	1416.68	2866.02
Other Income	4520.64	1467.54	3979.45	7091.00	13683.29
Expenditure	16883.53	8321.64	11315.61	19002.12	17643.60
Balance	5986.82	9539.34	11169.15	8679.25	6906.18

The Clerk presented the above statement of the Parish Councils' finance for the year ending 31st March 2023, showing income for the year of £15870.53, expenditure of £17643.60 and a balance carried forward of £ 6906.18. This was approved by the Parish Council

Other Business

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023

I would like to thank all our Parish Councillors for their work, done on your behalf, over the past year, and especially our Vice-Chairman Julian Reading, and Clerk, Dee Ruppert. Paul Jarvis, Les Baxter, and Steve Welton have all retired from the PC and I would like to thank them for all the work they have done for the Village. Only Julian Reading, Teresa Frost and I put ourselves forward as new Councillors, so there was no election, but I understand that we have some volunteers to possibly join us!

I would like to thank Edward Connolly, our County Councillor and our District Councillors, Helen Crane & Tim Burt for the work they have put in on our behalf during the year. Both District Council positions were up for election, and I would like to congratulate Helen Crane for being re-elected and Peter Bate for being elected for the Green Party.

Last year was a particularly quiet year in Bradenham, with little happening out of the usual. The new bench was installed on the Pound, in memory of Colin Rant, another and bin by the Ford and the picnic table by the playground.

As always, I would like to thank Roger & Mary Wells and their army of litter pickers who continue to keep the streets, roads, and Village Green of Bradenham so tidy and clear of litter.

Our precept remains the same as last year at £8,000. As you can see from the financial statement, our two largest items of expenditure were the usual Village Green insurance and the grass cutting of the green and churchyards.

BRADENHAM CHARITY REPORT 2023

The Bradenham Charity owns the Meadows and Allotments on Half Mile Drift and manages a small portfolio of investments.

The Higher-Level Environmental Scheme on the meadows runs for another year. This scheme pays for the meadows to be retained as a haven for wildlife. I am also pleased to see that we still have full occupancy on the allotments, and even a short waiting list.

The Charity repeated the support we give to parents of Bradenham children at schools in Shipdham and Scarning with the cost of their uniform in moving up to High School. The Chairman of the Charity is Kathy Norton and Parish Council Trustee was Steve Welton, who has now retired. I would like to thank Steve for all his work as a Trustee. Any organisation, or individual, in the village is welcome to put forward suggestions for help with their funding to the Trustees, all of whom I would like to thank for their work on the Charity.

District Councillor's Report – Helen Crane ANNUAL REPORT

It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve this ward over the last 4 years and I am delighted to be able to continue for a further 4 years. Here are a few key Breckland Council achievements from 2022-2023

Thriving Places

750k has been invested in our 5 market towns to support the local high street. We are supporting economic growth in the district by project managing and funding a new electric sub-station in Snetterton. 4.2 million allocated to help businesses bounce back from Covid. Refurbished the Queen Mothers Garden in Dereham. Supported over 45 new enterprises and created over 65 jobs with a successful start-up programme. Secured 1.6million national funding to for local projects to boost local skills and training, reduce carbon emissions and support our most vulnerable residents. Started to plan how we will help people in Breckland access better homes through a new strategic housing plan.

Inspiring communities

Providing accommodation for our residents by investing over 4.6million in emergency housing. We have supported the Daisy programme with £100k over 3 years to help the survivors of domestic abuse. Supported local communities by introducing a local food store and a mobile food bus. Along with MIND and YANA have trained over 200 mental health first aiders throughout the district. Our new social prescribers are easing pressures on the national health service. We have piloted a new handyperson scheme to help people stay in their own homes and avoid admission to care homes. We have awarded over £120k to local community projects. Over £12k given in grants for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and launched a 10k educational bursary. We welcomed almost 100 Ukrainians into the district and have worked with partners and families to provide temporary accommodation.

Sustainability and the local environment.

We have reduced our CO2 emissions by 437T since 2019/20 and invested in £850k in LED street lights, reduced emissions at Elizabeth house . Along with SERCO we have been trialling alternatives to chemical weed treatment. New pool covers and LED lights have been installed at our 2 leisure centres. We have taken action against 100 offenders for fly tipping or littering. We have distributed 100k in grants to enable communities to further their own green agenda. Contracts have been awarded in Swaffham and Watton for EV charging points. Planted 700 trees in Attleborough and Swaffham and a further 3000 trees will be planted at Oxburgh Hall in partnership with the National Trust. Supported more businesses by providing cost effective trade waste collections which will generate an income to be ploughed back into other Council services. Alongside our normal waste collections we have introduced battery collections and small electrical items. Increased the protection of our natural environment by employing a forestry officer.

Working Smarter

Made our website more user friendly and accessible for our residents, particularly those with a disability. Breckland is in the top 10 councils for website accessibility. Enabled residents to get answers to their queries 24/7 through our new Chatbot 'Bobbie' and soon residents will be able to get answers to their queries through Alexa. Generated nearly 3.4 million from commercial property which enables us to do far more than statutory services for our residents. Made £344k efficiencies this financial year. Processed over 5million£ of government money in council tax rebate payments. Breckland Council has a high level of trust from residents with 79% telling us so in a recent survey. We have the lowest council tax for any District Council in Norfolk. A band D property has increased by £4.95 per year for all statutory services. 75% of our residents live in Bands A-C and the increase will be much less.

Local Plan

The issues and options consultation is open until 19th May. This is the first stage of public consultation and an important part of the plan making process. Residents can sign up to the 'Commonplace tool' which is the on line platform that the council is using. Residents can also complete a paper questionnaire, downloadable from the website. The filtering process for the call for sites has not yet started, it is important to state that just because a site has been put forward it does not mean it will form part of the local plan.

This report shows that Breckland Council is not a 'Lights on only' Council we do so much more to enhance the lives of our residents and make Breckland a good and safe place to live, work and thrive.

Chris asked if empty shops in the town could be made to look better i.e. by asking local schools to decorate the inside windows etc. Helen will look into this.

No Other Business

Meeting Ended : 7.50pm

Minutes of Bradenham Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16th May 2023 in the Village Hall.

Mr C Allhusen, Mr J Reading, Ms T Frost, Steven Parker, Lisa Johnstone and Michael Bell with the Clerk Mrs D Ruppert and Helen Crane (District Councillor) plus 5 Residents.

APOLOGIES – 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. Dispensation is granted to all Parish Councillors in order to discuss the Precept and other financial matters. - Chris Allhusen declared interest in the permissive paths.

PUBLIC SESSION

Mrs Fields advise that since the bench has been on the pound, the grass around not been cut and it is now very overgrown. The clerk will speak to Wil – TTSR to organise the cutting regularly.

Mr Hayward commented that the Narrow Road signs have been installed by Highways but cars are still speeding and the signs have made no difference

MATTERS ARISING

Village Green Bylaws – Chris advised that this is still ongoing

Highways – Matt Lines responded to our letter with the following “I’m happy to support the parish via a parish partnership bid for a pedestrian sign. I would also be happy to support a parish partnership bid for the extension of the trod. This could be expensive due to having to pipe a ditch. We would also be happy to support a parish partnership bid for traffic calming but the parish will first need to pay for a survey to take place and will need to fund this. It would cost in the region of £500.

The PC thought traffic calming would not work due to the heavy lorries that go through the village and also residents that live in the traffic calming area may find that cars going past would constantly be braking and speeding up.

Speed Signs – Michael Bell & Phil Hayward have very kindly offered to take over the monitoring and maintenance of the signs. The PC thanked them. Phil ask if it would be possible for an extra post to be fitted for the speed signs at Southend. One at the ford could also be considered. The clerk would look into this, permission will be required. Lisa Johnstone is happy to look into other solutions.

Highways Rangers- The clerk has asked the Rangers to look into a couple of issues i.e. blocked ditches, strimming around 30mph signs and blocked drains.

Food Van for Bradenham – Helen Crane and Teresa Frost has been liaising on this matter. Once the van has worked out a route then we will have a better picture if it can come to Bradenham

CORRESPONDENCE

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.

ICO – CCTV – We are now signed up and the cost is £35 per year for a License. Signs are needed and this will be looked into.

Also it's been noticed that unauthorised residents and others are parking their cars at the Village Hall without permission. The village hall carpark is a private carpark and only to be used by village hall, green and play area users. The clerk will put a note in the Mardle and a sign needs to be put up at the village Hall. Steven Parker agreed to finalise the wording for the sign.

Michael Bell – Happy to take over Archives. All archives are upstairs in the village hall and needs collating.

Cricket Club Lease – This does need renewing and the Cricket club have asked if it could be renewed for 20 years instead of the 10 years. Once the draft contact has been received Chris Allhusen will email to all the PC to discuss further.

PLANNING

APPLICATION :- Variation of Condition 5 on 3PL/2013?0399/F by Edward Sorrell 25 Hale Road
No Objection – have asked about the Trod

Demolition of conservatory. Renovate and re-clad single storey lean-to, add additional insulation and replace the current array of UPVC windows.by Mr & Mrs Roberson
High Farm 28 Southend – **No Objection**

Conversion of existing barn and outbuildings into 2no. dwellings by GCF Hillier and Sons
Green Farm, 49 Church - **No Objection**

APPROVAL :- NONE

FINANCE:-

Opening Balance Lloyds - £7947.76

Expenditure

Zurich Ins + Inspection	1322.37
TTSR Ltd – Bench/Pound	540.00
Village Hall – Rent	60.00
Footpath Agreement	441.60
Clerk's Wages	190.95
Tax	42.80
Horti – Re Projector	809.00
Hoops – Litter Pickers	80.90
ICO – CCTV	35.00

£3522.62

Income

Ali O'Connor – Bench Rants	410.00
Bradenham CC - Donation	500.00
Precept	4000.00
Bradenham PCC- Grass Cutting	896.87
Bradenham Charity – Donation	674.17

£6481.04

Balance £10906.18

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The reflectors on the trod are now missing due to heavy lorries climbing the trod to get passed on coming traffic. Even the edging is crumbling. The PC feeling that Highways will need to place the trod with a proper pavement if this carries on.

The Chapmans hedge on Church Street is starting to overgrow and blocking the 30mph sign. The house is empty at present but Teresa will ring them.

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 22nd August, 21st November 2022 and 20th February 2024

MEETING ENDED: - 8.50pm