

BRADENHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Bradenham Parish Annual General Meeting on
Monday 20th May 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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.

Declaration of acceptance and undertaking of Office to be signed by all Parish Councillors

Teresa Frost was elected (in her absence) as Village Hall Committee member agreed by the rest of the PC. Teresa had agreed via email to join one of the committees.

Teresa Frost sent her apologies.

Steve Welton was elected as Trustee to Bradenham Charities, this was agreed by the rest of the PC.

The Parish Council still have one vacancy, we will need to co-opt a resident. This will be advertised in the Mardle and website with a request to contact the Clerk about the position.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2019

RECEIPTS

Precept	8000.00
Grant	206.00
VAT Refund	3928.93
Interest	11.06
PCC Grass Contribution	870.64
Cricket Club Fee	350.00
Norfolk Community (Sam2)	3094.00

£16460.63

PAYMENTS

NALC Membership	162.13
Bradenham Hall Farm -Footpath	1718.00
Mazars – Audit	200.00
T S R – Grass Cutting + Moles	3575.40
Clerk – Wages	715.00
Westcotec – Sam2 Signs	6128.00
Heartbeat – Defib Pads	42.00
Zurich Insurance + Inspection	1151.00
S.Welton – Paddocks for Sam2	26.52
Village Hall Rent	60.00
Breckland – Uncontested Election	75.00
Bradenham Hall Farm – Tree Lopping	600.00
HMRC – PAYE	33.80
VAT	2396.68

£16883.53

SUMMARY

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Precept	8000.00	8000.00	8000.00	8000.00	8000.00
Interest Credited	27.00	37.45	23.56	13.89	11.06
VAT Refund	504.84	1074.92	1733.37	1410.87	3928.93
Other Income	2093.08	4765.59	3339.74	11717.77	4520.64
Expenditure	10499.02	13877.96	13604.39	27330.90	16883.53
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Balance	14753.11	13105.81	12598.09	6409.72	5986.82

The Clerk presented the above statement of the Parish Councils' finance for the year ending 31st March 2019, showing income for the year of £16460.63, expenditure of £16883.53 and a balance carried forward of £5986.82. This was approved by the Parish Council.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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 Dee Ruppert, our Clerk.

It was very sad to hear of the death last June of our County Councillor, and the former Leader of Norfolk County Council, Cliff Jordan; his work for us and NCC will be much missed by all of us. I would like to thank Edward Connolly, our new County Councillor, for the work he has put in on our behalf during the year.

As you probably know, there have been some recent elections. The number of people who applied to be Parish Councillors did not exceed the number required, therefore no election was required. The new Parish Council comprises myself, Julian Reading, Martine Brigstock, Les Baxter, Steve Welton & Teresa Frost. We are one person short, so if you are interested, please contact our Clerk, Dee. Paul Jarvis and David Bohn did not stand for re-election and I would like to thank both of them for all the hard work they have put into the PC over many years. I would also like to thank Theresa Hewitt, who was not re-elected, for all her work over the years she has been our District Councillor, and welcome Tim Burt & Helen Crane as our new Breckland Councillors.

In Bradenham, it looks like we may finally be getting our footpath on Hale Road, but now only with a trod, or non-tarmac, surface; nor will we getting the road widening by the Lord Nelson. The PC took delivery of two speed signs during the year, and I would like to thank Steve Welton, Trevor Nelson and their team for not only organising the signs and their positioning, but also for continuing with the speed watch scheme in the village. The public enquiry for the Vattenfall project and proposed sub-station at Necton is still on-going and I hope that common sense prevails. Towards the end of 2018, Bradenham PC, entered into an agreement with Bradenham Hall Farms to enable many of the footpaths to the north and south of the village to be retained. From what I have seen, their use has been good.

The Lord Nelson closed its doors in October last year and David Hornsey and his team are currently trying to put together a scheme to build an extension to the Village Hall for a Community Centre, pub & coffee bar; I am sure we all wish them well.

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 four largest items of expenditure were the setting up of the Parish footpaths, the speed signs, for which we received a 50% grant from the Norfolk Community Council, the Village Green insurance and the grass cutting of the green and churchyards, of which the PCC makes a contribution.

BRADENHAM CHARITY REPORT 2019

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 five years. 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.

The Charity has repeated the support we give to parents of Bradenham children at school in Shipdham with the cost of their uniform in moving up to High School, as well as supporting Bradenham Retirement Club with the cost of outings etc. The Chairman of the Charity is Kathy Norton. 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.

County Councillor's Report – Edward Connolly

Mr Chairman, councillors, residents of Bradenham, thank you for inviting me to speak and making me feel so welcome.

The financial climate in which local government operates continues to be challenging, with significant and ongoing reductions to core funding being experienced at the same time as substantial service cost pressures. However, there are positive improvements that I can report from county hall.

This year the council launched the new Early Childhood and Family Service. This will have greater reach to those more isolated children and families in need of help and advice, through increased local support, easier to access information and crucial outreach work while continuing to deliver services previously offered.

The council will be moving, not removing, some services into libraries, nurseries and community centres, alongside 15 new service bases. Crucially, this more efficient use of infrastructure means money can be invested on delivering the services that we know are needed to a greater number of children and young people, across Norfolk.

The council will also be investing £120m in special educational needs and disabilities provision in the County.

People affected by loneliness and social isolation in Norfolk can now turn to a comprehensive range of new services for help and support.

The new services include a county wide network of “Life Connectors” who work directly with people to provide coaching, practical advice and support to help people make and maintain relationships and strong links within their community.

The new services also include outreach, promoting volunteering opportunities and benefits, and addressing rural issues such as transport and use of technology in order to support people to become and stay well connected in their local area.

This year the council announced a £29m capital investment scheme to deliver 3,000 extra homes for older people in Norfolk over the next ten years.

The focus in highways has been on pothole repairs and resurfacing. Money will also go towards bridge maintenance, and repairs of signs and drains. The council knows that potholes are a big issue for road users and I hope you have seen an improvement in tackling this problem.

I am very glad to report that the no 17 bus route will continue as it is, on Tuesdays and Fridays. From Bradenham to Dereham and returns after a couple of hours. The officers at County hall took the time to meet me and to listen to the case in favour of retaining the service. However it is a case of use it or lose it.

For those who wish to find out more about the services provided by the county council, there is a wealth of information to be had from the councils website and I recommend it as a first port of call for any information you might require.

Finally I would like to take the opportunity to thank the parish council and parish clerk for all their hard work throughout the year and to all those residents who volunteer their time and enthusiasm towards making this such a great place to live.

Thank you

Theresa Hewett's Report

It has been a privilege to represent Bradenham again over the last year at Breckland District Council. Saham Toney Ward is a two-member ward and District Councillors have responsibilities for the following areas Planning and Building Control, Rubbish and recycling, Council Tax and Benefits, Housing, Environment Licensing, Community, Wellbeing and Leisure, Business Rates and Support, Health and Safety Commercial Property, Elections and Local Governance

The Ward of Saham Toney covers five diverse areas: Saham Toney, Carbrooke, Bradenham, Ovington and Scoulton. Although each village is unique, the residents share many similar priorities, concerns and issues. My key role is to represent and assist my residents, no matter their party allegiance or preference. I visit the

villages regularly and seek to attend as many of the five parish council meetings as possible, despite occasional clashes. Where a number of opposing opinions and views are held around an issue I seek to listen to all residents who wish to express their view, and work towards resolutions where I can. Sometimes I find myself between a rock and a hard place, and at these times inevitably it is difficult to please everyone. These are the times when I use my best judgement, this could mean expressing the majority view or making my own call on a decision.

Here are a few headlines from the Council's work this year: Breckland Council continues to present a **balanced budget** moving forward, thanks to continuous review of income and expenditure. Savings in back office and shared services have contributed, together with an income of over £2M per annum from our investments (all helping keeping Council Tax down – Breckland still has the **lowest district Council Tax** in the UK) whilst maintaining front line services. Negotiations for large contracts, be they in-house or outsourced, are always long and diligent, obtaining the best value for service for residents and the council, and we continue to review the work done on your behalf by our partners such as Parkwood, Serco and Capita.

We support the community with **grants to the tune of £1.4million** in a community reserve. The **Breckland Lottery** is projected to raise £40,000 for good causes in the next year.

Achievements also include: Market Town Initiative, Breckland Landlord Forum, Co-location of DWP to Breckland offices in Dereham and Thetford, National Awards shortlisting for our Breckland Training Services and our Silver Social project for older people, Continued work with Breckland Bridge property and development partnership, Snetterton (Employment site) Power Project, Regeneration Team Submission of Local Plan – and continued work on this, First phase of Thetford SUE started Outline permission for 4000 houses for Attleborough SUE given, Innovation Den , Shopappy app – continues to encourage people to shop locally, Breckworld app – fronted by Stephen Fry – in top 20 listed tourist apps and Continue to tackle unsightly sites across Breckland I would like to wish Councillors Helen Crane and Tim Birt all the best as your new District Councillors.

The Chairman welcomed two new District Councillor's – Timothy Birt- Greens and Helen Crane- Conservative

Helen Crane – I will be sitting on the Planning Committee. We are both attending several training courses. I know the Clayland footpath is an issue, I will speak to the planning committee and send a link to the Clerk regarding the new plans.

Tim Birt – I am sitting on the Overview & Scrutiny Commission, so the Ward should have good representation from both Helen and myself being on the two main statutory committees of the Council.

We are still undergoing training which will last for at least a few more weeks. I have sat in on some committees of which I'm not a member to try and get a feel for how it fits together.

As Helen and I are from different groups you are likely to see both of us rather than just having one member attend exclusively. Where we have diary clashes we will try to alternate attendance.

No Other Business

Meeting Ended: 8.15pm

Minutes of Bradenham Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15th May 2018 in the Village Hall.

Mr C Allhusen, Mr J Reading, Mr S Welton, Ms M Brigstock and Mrs Les Baxter together with the Clerk Mrs D Ruppert, Edward Connolly (County Councillor) , Helen Crane and Tim Birt (District Councillors) with 12 residents.

APOLOGIES – Teresa Frost – Holiday already arranged before applying for the position of PC. 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 any of the following items on the agenda. Dispensation is granted to all Parish Councillors in order to discuss the Precept and other financial matters.

Public Session

Chris Allhusen was thanked by a resident for clearing the pond.

Chris Allhusen attended the Planning Committee meeting at Breckland yesterday re Clayland footpath. I had spoken to Jon Berry and he reiterated his feeling that any footpath was going to be better than none. At the meeting he said this, and added that the proposed footpath was not going to be to full highways specification, so timber edged hard porous surface, suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs with an eighteen inch wide grass verge between the footpath and the highway. Highways did not speak at all. Part of the problem is drainage, as we said right at the beginning, but everyone is ducking the issue. Highways will assume responsibility for the footpath once constructed.

The only long term solution to the drainage issue is a new drain across the Village green, unless the roadside ditch can be modified to take the water, but that is not going to happen now as no-one is willing to fund it.

The footpath, which Chris Tilley assures me will be built this summer, will pass in front of both Clayland and Sorrells houses and “empty” into the pub car park. There will be no road widening scheme at all. Ed Sorrell will have to put in the tarmac splays.

A resident asked why the Bradenham Community Group use the village hall as a pub, should they not try to work with the Lord Nelson and make use of the facility already available. Sue Smith stated that the Bradenham Community Group have not shown any interest recently in buying or using the pub, Community Groups do have the opportunity to take on the Lord Nelson. If a group or individual is interested in purchasing the Lord Nelson they should contact the owners

MATTERS ARISING

Clayland Homes – Discussed in the Public Session

Village Green Bylaws - Still ongoing

Sam2 Flashing Speed Signs – These are working well. Trevor Nelson stated the signs are having an effect and we do notice drivers slowing down. For April we did 425mins with 32 reported vehicles, plus 3 additional reports by the camera safety team. Signs are moved once a month. Steve Welton asked if it would be possible to keep the extra batteries and equipment at the village hall. This is not possible at present, but the Clerk was happy to look after the equipment.

Highways – They have recently repaired the Bradenham road sign on Hale Road, which seems to have been hit by a vehicle that had climbed the verge. Vehicle is unknown.

Chris Allhusen met with Highways-Jon Cotton re the drainage issues outside the Lord Nelson. Highways are aware of the issue and will look into this further.

Defibrillator Course – This went well, 14 residents attended. Les will be taking over the up keep of the defibrillator.

Village advertising sign on Green – This was discussed, and PC agree that a permanent sign would not a good idea. This would be looked into further

CORRESPONDENCE

Zurich Insurance – Sam2 signs have been insured and the £4.10 has been waived until next year.

Audit – 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 advised the PC that we can ask of 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 send it to the auditors and this will save us £200. The PC agreed that the Clerk should ask for the exemption. The internal audit was very kindly carried out by Serena (Bradenham Hall Farm Secretary). The PC thanked Serena.

Email received from Mrs J Tomlin asking if they could honour their dog Minty who they lost last year. They asked for permission to put a small wooden box with tennis balls on the village green for a few months for other dogs to use.

The PC agreed that this could be done, and Mrs Tomlin should write something for the Mardle, so residents would know it's there. They also asked that it should be placed under one of the benches. The Clerk would reply to Mrs Tomlin.

Items for Discussion

Scotty's Little Soldiers – email received from the charity asking for donation.

The PC all agreed the they could not support the charity, but a note would be put in the Mardle, so residents

can make they own decisions if they wish to support that charity.

PLANNING

APPLICATION:- Land opposite Westbrook Barn, West End- One self build dwelling by Mr Hindrey and Ms Raven – **OBJECTION**

Proposed extension to form Carport-36 Mill Street By Mr & Mrs Hornsey-
NO OBJECTION

APPROVAL:- None

FINANCE:-

Opening Balance **£ 7484.26**

Expenditure

HeartBeat Pads for Defib	42.00
Permissive Footpath	2061.60
Village Hall – Rent	60.00
Tufts-Padlocks for Sam2	31.82
Clerks Wages +PAYE	178.80
NALC Membership	165.21
TTRS-Grass Maintenance	1072.62

	£ 3612.05

Income

Precept	4000.00
PPC Grass Cutting	870.64
Interest	6.15

	£ 4876.79

Balance £ 8749.00

OTHER BUSINESS: None

Next Meetings: Monday 19th August, Monday 18th November & Monday 3rd February 2020

MEETING ENDED: 8.50pm