

BRADFIELD ST. GEORGE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 8th MAY 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr P Squirrell (Chairman) & Mrs C Hibbert (Clerk)
WS Cllr S Mildmay-White & 6 villagers (P Cllrs Croot, Stainer, Therin, Peck, Wright and Mulley).

Apologies: SC Cllr Soons.

TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Noted

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 10th MAY 2023

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting were circulated and unanimously **APPROVED** as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed accordingly.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Mrs Karen Soons

A report was circulated after the meeting; a copy is available on the Bradfield St George PC website

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Mrs Sara Mildmay-White

A copy of the report received from the District Councillor (Mrs S Mildmay-White) is attached to the minutes. There was discussion about (i) the poor state of local roads and the need for SCC to respond to such issues; and (ii) the relocation of Greene King facilities to Moreton Hall and the associated public consultation.

ANNUAL REPORT – Village Hall

Report received from the VHMC– copy attached to minutes.

ANNUAL REPORT - Charity for Relief & Sickness Bradfield St George & Bradfield St Clare: No report received; it is understood that some new trustees have been appointed and they are reviewing how to move the charity forward.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Parish Council receipts and payments summary to 31 March 2024 was received - copy attached to minutes.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The Chairman's report was received – copy attached to minutes.

PARISH MATTERS:

No queries were raised.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.45p.m.

Attachments

West Suffolk District Councillor Annual Report 2024 -Sara Mildmay-White

Council Tax 2024-25

Council Tax Band D

West Suffolk Council	£197.82
Police and Crime Commissioner	£275.58
Suffolk County Council	£1571.04

My Committees appointments on West Suffolk Council

Development Control Committee, West Suffolk Standards Committee, substitute on Overview and Scrutiny.

Outside Appointments: James Stiff's Almshouses Charity Trustee

Garden Waste Collection 2024-25

Cost of Brown Bin £50 pa

Link for signing up on line: www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Locality Budget Spend May 2022-23

Total budget £2800

Rougham Playing Field Management committee : conversion of old store room to meeting room. £1,100

Bradfield St Clare Village Hall: Disabled Access enhancements. £1,100

Rougham Ravers WI: Floral Enhancements in Rougham. £300

Remaining budget £300 carried forward to 2024-25

Highlights from West Suffolk 2023-24

In the last 12 months we have been getting used to the new Labour led alliance who now form the administration in West Suffolk together with the independents. They are all new to the posts and together with the staff are taking time to adjust to the new order. One of their first decisions was to cancel the Western Way project which was to provide a new leisure centre, swimming pool, day care nursery and house West Suffolk records office. The old leisure centre will now receive essential maintenance to ensure it remains open over the next 10 years at a cost of £725,000 per year.

Strategic priorities. The administration's strategic priorities: Sustainable growth. Environmental resilience. Thriving communities. Affordable, available decent homes.

The local council tax reduction scheme. has been extended for another year. This is a means tested scheme to support residents who maybe experiencing financial hardship. It is a 100% reduction on the council tax.

The local plan for 2024 to 2040. is now ready to be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination. This will take place later in the year and depending on any modifications the inspector requires it is anticipated the plan will be adopted late Spring 2025.

Grounds maintenance service. An extra investment of £200,000 to improve operational efficiencies.

Solar for Business. The new administration will continue support for this initiative which is expected to achieve ongoing income of around £760,000 per annum and reduce costs for businesses. So far 78 business premises have signed up for the scheme.

Local Issues. These have mostly been around recurrent road closures affecting our villages, flooding and potholes. All of these are dealt with by Suffolk County Council and I together with the Parish Council continue to report these.

Finally, a thank you to all the parish councillors and volunteers who work so hard to keep your village vibrant and attractive.

Sara Mildmay-White

Bradfield St George Village Hall Management Committee - Chair's Report to the PC for 2023/2024

Another successful year socially for the village hall if not financially.

Regular Bradfield night continued until December 2023 with Lynn Cardale cooking hot meals for most months of the year except when the weather allowed a BBQ. However, the Christmas Dinner in December 2023 was her swan song as she stepped down from the committee. Since then, we have had meals from the Bennett Arms or cooked by Arnaud. These have been made possible by a large group of villagers who have volunteered to step in and help in the kitchen to ensure that BNs continue much as they always have done. The committee and everyone who attends BNs are very keen to keep BNs going. However, this has meant that we longer make as much profit as we did and, indeed, in 2023 the VH made a financial loss. To mitigate this, we have raised meal prices and are looking at other sources of (cheaper) food as well as possibly obtaining a grant from our local councillor.

At the March BN Lynn Cardale was presented with a small gift as a token of our appreciation for all her cooking over the years, since BNs began.

There were 3 special events during the year: on May 6 a tea party to celebrate the King's coronation which was very well attended and enjoyed by all, the ever-popular August bank holiday Saturday beer festival which, although not as busy as the previous year (due to the weather) was nevertheless a very enjoyable occasion. On November 3 we held our annual firework event which, was again, a success. All these events were well supported by people from the village as well as visitors from near and far and were greatly helped by willing volunteers.

Regular monthly quiz nights continue with fluctuating attendances. On most occasions the pizza van is in attendance.

During the season rugby matches are live streamed for whoever wishes to attend.

Both the quiz nights and rugby screenings boost bar sales.

The lights in the hall have been replaced with LEDs and was partly funded with a Greener Business Grant from West Suffolk Council. Maintenance in the hall is overseen by a committee member who either carries out tasks himself or gets contractors in. the hall is cleaned weekly, and we have recently purchased a carpet cleaner for the 'lounge/bar' area. We are also looking into purchasing a deep freeze for use at BNs.

People from the village and elsewhere continue to book the hall for children's parties, wakes and other family celebrations and events. There is one regular booking for weekly yoga and on the first Thursday of every month.

The plans to refurbish the bar have been put on hold until our financial position improves.

Christine Stainer -Chair

May 2024

Finance Report year ending 31 March 2024

SUMMARY RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ending 31/3/24

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	2023/24		Variance
	Actual	Budgeted	
	£		
Precept	5,500.00	5,500.00	0.00
Allotment rents	85.00	50.00	35.00
Misc receipts	0.00		
Grnt	0.00		
Santander interest	91.36	6.00	85.36
VAT	193.12		193.12
	<u>5,869.48</u>	<u>5,556.00</u>	<u>313.48</u>
<u>PAYMENTS</u>	Actual	Budgeted	Variance
Misc	190.86		-190.86
Admin Misc -	195.00	100.00	-95.00
Audit fees	169.00	200.00	31.00
BT line VH	298.10	350.00	51.90
Clerk's salary(inc tax)	2,555.20	2,500.00	-55.20
Clerk expenditure	0.00	100.00	100.00
Donations		150.00	150.00
Footpaths		0.00	0.00
Grass cutting	437.25	350.00	-87.25
Insurance	293.33	350.00	56.67
PCC		0.00	0.00
Repairs/maintenance	0.00	500.00	500.00
SALC Training	0.00	100.00	100.00
Payroll service	19.00	60.00	41.00
Subscriptions	207.46	250.00	42.54
Stationery	0.00	100.00	100.00
VAT	119.54		-119.54
Vhall hire	130.00	120.00	-10.00
Grants	220.00	250.00	30.00
Contingency		0.00	0.00
defib	0.00	76.00	
bin			
	<u>4,834.74</u>	<u>5,556.00</u>	<u>721.26</u>

<u>Reconciliation of R. & P. Book</u>		<u>Santander account</u>	
Balance b/f 01.04.23	£5,458.63	Balance b/f 1/4/23	£8,976.38
Receipts	£5,778.12	Receipts	£91.36
Payments	-£4,834.74	Payments	£0.00
inter a/c tfr	-£50.00	inter a/c tfr	£50.00
	<u>£6,352.01</u>		<u>£9,117.74</u>
TOTAL - 2A/cs	<u>£15,469.75</u>		

<u>Bank Reconciliation balances as at</u>	
Lloyds Balance as at 31.03.24	£6,352.01
less unrepresented cheques	£0.00
	<u>£6,352.01</u>
Santander balance as at 31.03.2	£9,117.74
TOTAL Bank Reconciliation	<u>£15,469.75</u>

Bradfield St George Annual Parish Meeting - Chairmans' Report 2024

The Council remains at capacity with all the existing Councillors.

We have had a relatively quiet year with no major issues or contentious planning applications.

The Allotments remain almost at capacity being very good value for those that put the time and effort in to growing what they can,

The Parish Council were unable to proceed with the possibility of having water connected to the allotment site. Partly due to the increased costs that would have to be passed on to the allotment holders , and also to the withdrawal of the offer to part fund the installation costs.

The roads in and around the village are regularly subjected to 'Road Closed' signs , lately often without good reason .

It is only very recently that some of our many many potholes, have been spray filled . Time will tell if this will be successful.

It is also very noticeable that no preventative maintenance is done to keep the roads free of standing water, this is increasing the damage to the roads. Hopefully things will improve with pressure from councils like ourselves.

May I once again thank our local councillors Sara Mildmay-White and Karen Soons for their help and support this past year.

I also wish to thank my fellow parish councillors in working together for the good of our village.

Also many thanks must go to our clerk Catherine who keeps us up to date with our regulatory paperwork and also keeps our finances in good order.

Peter Squirrell -Chairman.