

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bradfield Parish Council held on Tuesday 6th August 2024
at 7.30pm in Bradfield Village Hall Committee Room, Bradfield Southend.**

Present: Cllr. K. Dearing (Chair)
Cllr. G. Allen (GiA)
Cllr. G. Allnutt (GeA)
Cllr. R. Balsdon
Cllr. A. House
Cllr. S. O'Reilly
Cllr. B. Wyatt
Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk)
Two members of the public.

109. **Public Forum.**

109.1 **Dog free zone.**

The parishioner concerned about off lead dogs on the Village Field and the Cricket Field in Bradfield Southend updated BPC on her progress; she has written to Bradfield Village Hall Committee (but not yet received a formal response), and spoken to Field in Trust who have talked her through the process of Public Space Protection Orders (which would need the support of Bradfield Village Hall Committee, BPC and residents).

Since the 1950s, there has been an increase in population of approximately 23.3 million people (in the UK) with an associated 10.6 million increase in the number of dogs (this figure from the PDSA is vague). These increases demonstrate the increased pressure on space.

There is a Bradfield Village Hall Committee meeting on Monday 19th August when this matter will be raised.

The parishioner's aim is to make it mandatory for dogs to be on leads on the Village Field rather than for the Village Field to be a dog free area.

110. **Apologies.**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Bishop and Cllr. Wale.

111. **Declarations of Interest.**

There were no updates to the Register of interests.

111.1 **Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items.**

There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.

112. **Approval of Minutes of the BPC meeting on Tuesday 2nd July.**

The minutes of the BPC meeting held on Tuesday 2nd July 2024 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

113. **Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere (for information only).**

No matters were raised from the minutes not covered elsewhere.

114. **Planning Applications**

114.1 **Planning Applications on which BPC has been consulted by WBC:**

114.1.1 **24/01174/FUL – Bradfield College**

Demolition of existing College bungalow, garage and associated boundary enclosures, erection of College Health and Wellness Centre and associated ambulance/nurse parking, drainage works, air source heat pump, hard and soft landscaping, new pedestrian footways and associated works, and temporary change of use of College car park to site compound with associated cabins, storage and enclosures for the duration of the construction works.

The proposed Health and Wellness Centre will have a pitched zinc roof and a flat green roof. It is proposed that the roof space will provide storage. The existing health centre is

situated in a listed building away from the College accommodation buildings. The proposed building will be closer to the main accommodation blocks, although still in the Bradfield conservation area. Nine trees are to be removed to accommodate the proposed building.

It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application subject to a traffic management plan for the construction traffic.

114.1.2 **24/01563/HOUSE – Oakthorpe, Southend Road.**

Single storey rear extension to create an en-suite and larger family bathroom; New roof addition and altered fenestration to existing front porch.

It was agreed that BPC has **no objection** to this application.

114.2 Planning Decisions taken by WBC:

114.2.1 **24/00826/HOUSE – Mariners Cottage, Mariners Lane.**

Part conversion of existing garage to habitable use. New external staircase to upper floor.

BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

114.2.2 **24/00794/CERTE – The Annexe, Hewins Wood House.**

Certificate of Lawfulness for Existing Use for self-contained dwellings for the annexe at Hewins Wood House, Ashampstead Road, Bradfield, Reading, RG7 6DH.

BPC submitted comments on this application, which has been determined as **lawful** by WBC.

114.2.3 **24/00796/CERTE – The Cottage, Hewins Wood House.**

Certificate of Lawfulness for Existing Use for self-contained dwellings for the cottage at Hewins Wood House, Ashampstead Road, Bradfield. RG7 6DH.

BPC submitted comments on this application, which has been determined as **lawful** by WBC.

114.2.4 **24/01159/AGRIC – Land West of Herons Cottages, Buckhold.**

Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: A new agricultural storage building.

BPC **objected** to this application which WBC has determined as **not requiring a full planning application.**

114.3 Enforcement Issues.

114.3.1 **Applecroft.**

It has been confirmed that the vertical runners for the garage doors have been removed. The garage doors are believed to still be in the roof. WBC Enforcement has closed their case on Applecroft.

114.3.2 **Brewery Field Farm.**

It is understood from WBC Enforcement that the fence around the menage, within the exercise track could be constructed under permitted development. The construction of the menage requires planning permission based on the change in materials. It is understood that a retrospective planning application is being submitted.

115. **District Councillor's Report.**

There was no report from District Cllr. MacKinnon.

116. **Finances.**

116.1 Bank Reconciliations.

The Clerk circulated a finance report, showing the financial position on 6th August 2024. The report reconciled to the bank statements which showed balances of £15,055.41 in the Treasurer's Account (current account) on the 3rd July 2024 and £73,464.06 in the Business Account on the 26th July 2024. Once all cheques and credits have cleared, the balance in the Treasurer's Account will be £10,330.09.

Cllr. Allnutt verified the finance report against the bank statements.

116.2	<u>List of payments and receipts.</u> The following payments have been made since the last meeting:	
	Autela Payroll Services (April, May, June and July 2024)	£75.05
	Salaries, allowances and PAYE (July 2024)	£577.85
	Bucklebury Parish Council (2 x defibrillator pads)	£108.34
	Tactical Facilities Management Ltd (Emptying 4 dog bins in June)	£65.28
	PAYE/NI for August 2024	£67.20
116.3	<u>Clerk's Salary.</u> Payment of the Clerk's salary for August 2024 was approved.	
117.	<u>Highways.</u>	
117.1	<u>Anti Speeding measures in the Parish.</u> Cheryl Evans at WBC has been contacted about locations for use of SID on Southend Road and the loan of the WBC SID. To establish locations where SID can be operated, an application must be completed for each separate location, (a template has been provided). Whilst volunteers can complete training to use SID on the WBC portal, the WBC SID is not being loaned out until a new member of staff is recruited. Cllr. Allnutt agreed to look at applications for locations on Southend Road where SID might be operated (in conjunction with where there might be volunteers willing to operate SID).	GA
117.2	<u>Parking on Southend Road.</u> Cllr. Dearing will contact one of the PCSOs covering Bradfield (PCSO Sue Nix or PCSO Steve Innes) about the parking issues. It was noted that visibility when leaving the Village Hall carpark is now being affected.	KD
118.	<u>Clerk's Report.</u>	
118.1	<u>Correspondence.</u>	
118.1.1	<u>New Hospital Programme Consultation.</u> A consultation on the location for the proposed new hospital to replace the Royal Berkshire Hospital has been received.	
119.	<u>Environment.</u>	
119.1	<u>Replacement dog waste bin on Rotten Row Hill.</u> Quotes for various options for replacement of the dog waste bin at the west end of footpath BRAD 14/1 on Rotten Row Hill were considered. It was agreed to approve the quote for replacement with an HGN66 bin for £485.00 from Tactical Facilities Ltd.	
119.2	<u>Removal of the Telephone Box in Bradfield Village.</u> The Clerk has confirmed with WBC that permission is not required to remove the telephone box. It was agreed that Cllr. Wyatt would obtain written quotes from parties interested in removing the telephone box.	BW
119.3	<u>Mobile phone signal in Bradfield.</u> The shared rural network (SRN) was initiated in 2020. Legally binding prescribed coverage of the UK will be enforced by Ofcom: the current agreement is that all four operators should deliver 88% combined 4G coverage across the UK by June 30th 2024 and are expected to deliver 99% by at least one Operator at the end of the programme. It should be noted that the function of the mobile network is to provide voice and data on the go, the service does not include universal reception inside premises. N.B. the SRN caveat is "Forecast improvements subject to finding suitable sites, obtaining power supply and backhaul, securing the necessary permissions through the planning system."	RMK

	It was agreed that District Cllr. MacKinnon should be asked what WBC is doing to challenge the SRN performance to date and secure the future of partial not spots such as Bradfield.	
119.4	<u>Memorial Plaques.</u> BPC purchased memorial plaques for the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, in memorial to Queen Elizabeth II and for the Coronation of King Charles III. All three plaques are currently at Cllr. House's home. It had been agreed to install them on the front of the Village Stores, but a cabinet was put under where they were to go, leaving insufficient height. It was suggested that when work has been completed on the Village Hall, they could be put there, Cllr. House agreed to speak to the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee.	AH
119.5	<u>Picnic Benches.</u> Two new picnic benches are currently at Cllr. House's home and need to be installed, replacing the picnic bench in the play area and the broken one on the Village Field. Cllr. House will organise installation of the play area bench with a local farmer as it needs to be lifted over the hedge.	AH
119.6	<u>Service of Remembrance – Sunday 10th November at 3pm.</u> It was agreed that Cllr. House would contact Sunbelt Rental about organising the road closure and the Royal British Legion for a wreath. The Clerk will contact WBC about the permit for the road closure, the WI (to organise refreshments), the Social Club, the Vicar (to take the service) and Bradfield College (to provide the honour guard, bugler and potentially the Chaplin).	AH HP
120.	<u>Bradfield Village Hall (BVH).</u>	
120.1	<u>Bradfield Village Hall Development Committee Report.</u> A meeting was held at the end of July at which there was an update on architects, builders and surveys. To date, the cladding and roofing options have been explored. It is planned to carry out a review of the whole site to make sure everything ties together.	
120.2	<u>Management of the Village Field.</u> There was no update on management of the Village Field.	
121.	<u>Reports from any meetings.</u>	
121.1	<u>The Parochial Charities (Bradfield Almes Houses).</u> It was reported that the Parochial Charities has a dispute about paying an invoice for work carried out on the Almes Houses. A quote has been obtained for fencing.	
122.	<u>Round table comments.</u>	
122.1	<u>Electric Scooters.</u> It was reported that three youths are frequently seen using an electric scooter between Poundsett Gardens and Admore Lane.	
122.2	<u>Fixed Speed Indicator Device on Southend Road.</u> This device has not been fixed despite being reported to WBC.	
122.3	<u>Overhanging Vegetation.</u> Vegetation was reported as being an issue on Cock Lane, Hungerford Lane, Mariners Lane and Admore Lane.	
122.4	<u>Light Pollution.</u> Concern was raised about light spillage from garden lighting to land significantly outside of the settlement boundary.	
122.5	<u>Height of Appendages.</u> It was questioned whether there is a limit on the height of appendages on and above roof ridge heights. Cllr. O'Reilly will make enquiries.	SOR

122.6	<u>Potholes.</u>	
	Two potholes were reported to the north of the entrance to Fishers Copse House.	
122.7	<u>Road at Folly Bridge.</u>	
	Significant concern was raised about the road on both sides of Folly Bridge (bottom of Mariners Lane) where the road has sunk on both sides of the bridge. The Clerk will report this matter to WBC.	HP
122.8	<u>VE Day 80 (8th May 2025).</u>	
	Bradfield Historical Society will be contacted about possibilities of celebrating the 80 th anniversary of VE Day.	KD
123.	The meeting concluded at 9.30pm.	
	BPC meeting: Tuesday 3rd September 2024 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, Bradfield Village Hall.	