

**Minutes of a Meeting of Bradfield Parish Council held on Monday 3rd November 2025
at 7.30pm in Bradfield Village Hall, Bradfield Southend.**

Present: Cllr. K. Dearing (Chairman)
Cllr. G. Allnutt
Cllr. K. Bishop
Cllr. R. Balsdon
Cllr. A. House
Cllr. S. O'Reilly
Cllr. B. Wyatt
Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk)
Three members of the public.

130. **Public Forum.**
130.1 **Bradfield Village Hall.**
Cllr. Dearing thanked everyone involved with the refurbishment of the Village Hall, and the reopening event on Saturday 1ST November.
The Chairman of the Village Hall Committee thanked BPC for their support and particularly for the funding they had been able to pass to the project. Moving forwards, he thanked BPC for moving meetings from a Tuesday to a Monday such that they can be held in the hall.

131. **Apologies.**
There were apologies for absence from Cllr. Allen, Cllr. Wale and District Cllr. Mackinnon.

132. **Declarations of Interest.**
There were no updates to the Register of Interests.
132.1 **Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items.**
There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.

133. **Approval of Minutes of the BPC meeting on Tuesday 7th October 2025.**
The minutes of the BPC meeting held on Tuesday 7th October 2025 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and they were signed by the Chairman.

133.1 **Matters arising from the minutes not noted elsewhere.**
No matters were raised which aren't covered elsewhere in the minutes.

134. **Planning Applications**
134.1 **Planning Applications on which BPC has been consulted by WBC:**
WBC has not consulted BPC on any new applications.
134.2 **Planning Decisions taken by WBC:**
134.2.1 **25/00843/FULMAJ - Riverbanks at River Pang at Tidmarsh and Englefield, Tidmarsh, Reading (Englefield Parish).**
The proposed project focuses on restoring a riparian section of the River Pang and creating wetland within the low-lying, redundant water meadows of the Englefield Estate. These works aim to enhance nutrient and sediment capture, support climate mitigation, improve natural flood management, increase biodiversity, and elevate water quality. The works will include in-channel habitat enhancements, such as installing woody debris berms and gravel, as well as natural floodplain restoration through river channel realignment, riverbank lowering, and floodplain reconnection. To ensure long-term maintenance, the project also incorporates improved access via a new bridge and designated river fording locations.
BPC had **no objection** to this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

134.3	<u>Enforcement Issues.</u> The enforcement cases raised against 1 Buscot Copse and Earlham, Southend Road have both been closed by WBC.	
135.	<u>District Councillor's Report.</u> There was no District Councillor's report.	
136.	<u>Finances.</u>	
136.1	<u>Bank Reconciliation dated 3rd November 2025.</u> The Clerk circulated a bank reconciliation dated the 3 rd November 2025 prior to the meeting. This reconciled to the balance on the Community Account on the 3 rd October 2025 which showed a balance of £22,723.23. Once all cheques and credits have cleared, the balance in the Community Account will be £18,997.36. The statement for the Community Instant Access account dated 26 th September 2025 showed a balance of £41,892.80. Cllr. Allnutt verified the bank reconciliation against the bank statements.	
136.2	<u>List of payments since the last BPC meeting.</u> The following payments have been made since the last meeting:	
	Salaries, PAYE, NI & Chair's allowance	£852.98
	Bradfield Methodist Church (rent for September & October meetings)	£72.00
	Poppy Appeal	£50.00
	Bibby Commercial Finance Limited	£106.08
	Bank charges	£7.75
	Turtle Engineering Ltd (defibrillator and cabinet)	£1,929.00
136.3	<u>Clerk's Salary.</u> Payment of the Clerk's salary for November 2025 was approved.	
136.4	<u>2026/2027 Budget.</u> There was an initial discussion about items to be put in the budget for the next financial year, which included a sum for improvements to the playground, SID/VAS (to assist with speeding traffic) and a sum for bins, possibly including mixed waste bins.	HP
136.5	<u>Correspondence.</u>	
136.5.1	CA17 Notice for land to the east of BRAD 11 It was questioned whether the land included in this notice includes the cemetery which was associated with Waylands.	
137.	<u>Highways.</u>	
137.1	<u>Common Hill.</u> It was reported that there was an accident on Common Hill this morning, reportedly resulting in a fatality.	
137.2	<u>Update on any Highway Issues.</u>	
137.2.1	<u>Southend Road Drains.</u> It is understood that the roots which have grown into the road drains along Southend Road should be cut by the end of November. This work is expected to be carried out using traffic lights.	
137.2.2	<u>20mph Speed Limit.</u> WBC has previously advised BPC that the available speed data records on Southend Road, in principle, qualify to enable BPC to request a reduction in the speed limit to 20mp from 30mph speed limit. Given the proposals in Thatcham to implement 20mph speed limits and the ongoing perception of excessive speed on Southend Road, a debate on a 20mph speed limit request on Southend Road could be considered. Around the country, 20mph speed limits are becoming more common and are no longer the exception.	

137.2.3	Village Gateways/Road Markings.	+
	In previous discussions with WBC it was advised that all villages should qualify to have “gateways” installed as markers at the entrances to the village settlements. It was noted that the “gateway” on Cock Lane near to Crackwillow had not been replaced after a vehicle collision with the bridge.	
	Previous discussions with WBC to determine possible engineered actions to address perceived excessive speeding determined that WBC may be prepared to:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paint 30mph roundels along Southend Road. - Use surface paint to provide an illusion of road narrowing on Southend Road at the entrances to Bradfield Southend. - It is understood that additional physical traffic calming measures are unlikely to be implemented on the basis that there is no streetlighting and would therefore be contrary to current guidelines. 	
137.2.4	VAS on Southend Road.	
	The existing VAS opposite Heath Road has been reported to WBC as not working and has been processed by WBC as a warranty claim on the previous repair. There is no timescale for action.	
	Additionally, BPC intend to pursue a WBC grant application to install an additional VAS to monitor the opposite traffic movements Westwards. It seems that deliberations and approval of relevant WBC procurement policy has put a hiatus on this initiative.	
137.2.5	Bradfield CSW Group.	
	Speed monitoring on Southend Road has now been integrated with the existing Bradfield Village CSW group. It was agreed that Cllr. Allnutt would contact those who had previously volunteered for the temporary SID activity, which has now been abandoned, and appraise them of the revised initiative.	
	If residents would like to assist and volunteer to join the CSW group, or find more information, details have been published in NewsLink and on the CSW web page.	GA
	It was noted that BPC would need to establish regular communication with the Bradfield CSW co-ordinator, if it is necessary to publish statistics.	
138.	Clerk's Report.	
138.1	<u>Remembrance Service – Sunday 9th November.</u>	
	The WI are organising refreshments after the service. Bradfield College are providing a bugler and guard of honour, and the Guides and Brownies will be in attendance. Rev. Steve Newbold will be taking the service.	
139.	Environment.	
139.1	<u>Installation of Commemorative Plaques.</u>	
	Cllr. House has spoken to a trustee of the Village Hall, and as a result will be taking the two commemorative plaques to the coffee morning to officially hand them over to the trustees for their mounting on the Village Hall.	
139.2	<u>Defibrillator for Bradfield telephone box.</u>	
	The defibrillator and cabinet have been ordered.	HP
139.3	<u>Request for funding.</u>	
	A request has been obtained for funding for a noticeboard at the small community garden area near the phone box in Bradfield, to publicise the work, and get support for the tidying up of the piece of land. Ownership of the land in question is unknown, and therefore BPC was not in support of contributing towards such a noticeboard.	
	It has also been requested that consideration is given to replacing the noticeboard in Bradfield Village and placing it on the west side of the road. Unfortunately, moving the noticeboard to the other side of the road has previously been explored and permission	KD

could not be obtained from the necessary parties. Cllr. Dearing will wash the Perspex of the existing noticeboard.

140. **Bradfield Village Hall (BVH).**

The electrics have been completed today. Cladding for the front of the building is being discussed. Quotes are being sought for replacement fencing on the play park boundary with the carpark.

It has come to light that the Village Field and Village Hall land is not registered with the Land Registry. Registration is being out by a solicitor. The cricket field is registered. It was questioned whether anything had been done about getting the trees around the boundary of the Village Field inspected, Cllr. Balsdon will raise this again.

At the last BPC meeting there was a discussion about the possibility of marshals or a marshal in the Village Hall carpark at school drop off and collection times to assist with parking. It was suggested that marshals could be organised by the PTA, on a rota. Cllr. Bishop will raise this suggestion with the school.

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141. **Meetings attended on behalf of BPC.**

141.1 District Parish Conference (Tuesday 21st October).

Cllr. Dearing attended the District Parish Conference in person and heard presentations on Enforcement and the proposed Ridgeway Council.

141.2 Pang Valley Flood Forum.

Cllr. Balsdon has attended the most recent PVFF meeting.

Questions have been asked by a parishioner about the state of the river Pang alongside the College playing fields, who is responsible for maintaining it, and whether there is a flood warden.

Bradfield College is the riparian owner of the river alongside the College fields and responsible for maintaining it. BPC does not have a flood warden, but Cllr. Balsdon is the BPC representative on the PVFF.

142. **Round table comments.**

142.1 WBC Community Champion Awards.

Any nominations for Community Champion Awards need to be submitted to WBC by the 1st December.

142.2 Village Hall.

The website reflects the refurbishment of the hall in part.

The Clerk will block book the first Monday of the month for meetings for the whole of 2026. There were some questions about transparency of the Village Hall finances.

142.3 Copyhold Farm.

It was noted that the barns and 22 acres of land at Copyhold Farm are being advertised on the open market.

142.4 The Queens Head.

It was noted that the new landlord at the Queens Head has started well and it already feels like a good community pub.

142.5 Pounsett Gardens.

It was reported that some of the properties in Pounsett Gardens have problems with damp, mould and blocked drains. West Build who built the properties have gone into administration. It is unclear whether it is only the social housing which is affected, or a mix of the social and privately owned housing.

143. **The meeting concluded at 9.20pm.**

Next BPC meeting: Monday 1st December 2025 at 7.30pm in Bradfield Village Hall.