



Draft Minutes of the Annual Elector's Meeting of Bradwell Parish Council held on Monday 20 May 2024 at 7.00pm at the Heelands Meeting Place on Glovers Lane, Heelands.

Councillors Present: Councillors Gilpin (in the Chair), Alexander, Godfrey and Stuchbury.

Staff: Philip Farquharson (Clerk)

Members of the public: 4

APM01/24 Welcome:

In his role as Vice Chair and the absence of Peter Brant (Chair of the Parish Council), Councillor Gilpin Chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.

APM02/24 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on Monday 22 May 2023:

These were read and signed by the Chair of the Meeting and approved as an accurate record of the proceedings of that Meeting.

APM03/24 Annual Report for the year 2023-2024:

The report was provided verbally. Councillor Gilpin wished it pointed out that being a Parish Councillor was not a paid position and that Councillors are local people who want to do their bit to improve the local area for the benefit of everyone.

Rosie Davey was thanked, former Vice Chair of the Parish Council, who had moved outside of the parish and would, no doubt, be an asset to Newport Pagnell Town Council. Councillor Gilpin highlighted just a few of the things she had been involved in over the last eight years on Bradwell Parish Council:

- She was a councillor who was more than happy to get her hands dirty and on many occasions worked with the children of Summerfield school to make the planters at Bradwell Common local centre better.
- She was a driving force behind newsletter scrutiny, with a particular interest in removing any errors in grammar or spelling.
- The time she spent on working groups, for projects such as the events in Bradwell Village or the play park improvement in Bradwell Common must also be mentioned. Councillor Gilpin remembered sitting in her study with another councillor trying to work out the WREN funding forms, which made up a large part of money to deliver a play area improvement in Bradwell Common.
- she had played a major role in Bradwell charities, a local set of charities that operate outside of the council that provide small gifts for older people at Christmas.

Grants which had been given in the year were summarised as follows:

- Funding projects at the YMCA that aimed to help individuals more forward

- Providing funds to assist in the 800 anniversary celebrations of St Lawrence's Church
- Helping maintain the defibrillator and providing support for other activities in Summerfield school.
- Funding a Christmas party for local elderly residents
- Providing the funds for camping equipment for Bradwell Abbey scouts groups
- Giving funds to the Bradwell Abbey Discovery Centre

Councillor Gilpin mentioned:

- The Parish Council had worked more directly with the local sports groups, providing funding and advice on improving the facilities at both Bradwell bowls club and the Bradwell sports and social club, with the aim to ensure that these organisations continue to be an asset to local residents well into the future.
- The Parish Council had also continued to deliver a range of free activities for children, which have additionally included coached basketball and football sessions over the last few years.
- The Bradwell Memorial Hall had been continuously improved throughout the year and as well as being the home to numerous other local groups, had been used to deliver on the Warm Spaces programme.
- The Parish Council had been planting trees in Heelands, continued to manage its own land, and has considered its biodiversity approach across the Parish in the last year, planting over 60 trees of around 6 feet in height in Heelands and Bradwell Village.
- The Parish Council had installed a new publicly accessible defibrillator outside the Heelands Meeting Place, with the main purpose of ensuring one is locally available 24/7.
- The largest project that the Parish Council had been working on over the last year was the redevelopment of the King George's Field play area, which was on track to be delivered in the summer of 2024.

Councillor Gilpin thanked:

- Peter Brant, the Vice Chair last year who held a number of meetings in his extended absence, and wished him the best of luck as Chair of Bradwell Parish Council.
- The council and its staff for having had him as Chair for the past five years, and he felt pride in what the Council had achieved
- James Alexander, who had provided him support in his early years as Chair
- Staff members who keep things moving behind the scenes; the caretakers, cleaners, litter-pickers, grass cutters and office staff, who continue to be an important part of this Parish
- The Clerk who had supported him with good advice, healthy debate and more coffee than one should probably drink, offering alternative solutions and ensuring business was conducted on both a legal and proper manner, and that he would miss their debates around the Local Government Act, as well as the occasional curry.

APM04/24 Winners of the Community Award and John Newbury Photographic Competition:

The Community Award was presented to Lyn Drinkwater, who would also receive £50.

The John Newbury photographic award was given in absentia.

FSC05/24 Electors' Questions and Comments:

There were no questions raised.

The Meeting was declared closed at 7:15pm.