



Minutes of the Annual Elector's Meeting of Bradwell Parish Council held on Monday 19 May 2025 at 7.00pm at the Heelands Meeting Place on Glovers Lane, Heelands.

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

Staff: Philip Farquharson (Clerk), and Karen Evans (Assistant to the Clerk).

Members of the public: 1

APM01/25 Welcome:

Peter Brant Chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.

APM02/25 Minutes of the Last Meeting held on Monday 20 May 2024:

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

APM04/25 Winners of the Community Awards and John Newbury Photographic Competition:

One Community Award was presented to Paul Hussey.

Mention was made of the other Community Award Winners, and they would be invited to the June 2025 Parish Council Meeting to receive their awards in person.

The John Newbury photographic award was given in absentia to Rosie Davies.

APM03/25 Annual Report for the year 2024-2025:

The report was provided verbally by the Chair, Peter Brant.

The Chair began by reminding those present what the Parish Council does, as he knew it could be difficult to understand what the Parish Council does and how it is different to what Milton Keynes City Council does. The Chair stated that the Parish Council is the first tier of government in Milton Keynes and our role is to represent the community, delivering and maintaining services to meet local needs and improving quality of life and community well-being. Bradwell Parish Council serves the estates of Bradwell, Bradwell Abbey, Bradwell Common, Heelands and Rooksley.

The Chair summarised the Parish Council services:

- Managing and maintaining two community halls: Heelands Meeting Place and Bradwell Memorial Hall.
- Providing and administering three allotment sites.
- Holding play sessions for children in the area during school holidays.

- Upkeep of the sports and recreation grounds in Bradwell Village and Heelands South Fields.
- Making grants to local community groups and other organisations that serve local people.
- Providing dog bins to help people clean up after their pets.
- Keeping residents informed about what is going on in the parish, including through noticeboards throughout the parish and triannual newsletters.

More generally, the Parish Council takes part in and helps to finance initiatives to improve the local area and its quality of life, for example through programmes to modernise children's play equipment, supporting community activities to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour such as funding a mobile CCTV camera, and encouraging community activities that make the Parish a nicer place to live such as community litter picks.

The Parish Council charges a small amount of council tax to fund these services. The Parish Council froze our council tax this year at £77 for a Band D property meaning that the average household in the parish (which is Band B), pays just over £60 per year if they are liable for full council tax – with discounts for single-person households and some people on low incomes - or £5 per month.

The Chair proceeded to summarise the make-up of the Parish Council, stating:

“The parish council consists of 10 councillors with elections held every four years and the most recent election were in 2024. Councils include myself, our Vice Chair Cllr Leon Gilpin, Cllr James Alexander, Cllr Mathew Best, Cllr Marie Bradburn, Cllr David Evans, Cllr Robert Exon, Cllr Caroline Godfrey, Cllr Darron Kendrick and Cllr David Stuchbury. Being a parish councillor is an unpaid role as Bradwell Parish Council has decided to not pay any allowances to its members. Councillors are local people who want to do their bit to improve the local community. I want to put on record my thanks to my fellow councillors for giving up their time to help make Bradwell a better place to live and for approaching their role in a collegiate and good-natured way to help us work well together even when we occasionally do not agree.

We sadly lost a very long-standing councillor – and someone who also served the community as a ward councillor on Milton Keynes City Council for 14 years including as Deputy Leader of the Council – as Robin Bradburn passed away last September. He was a very valued member of the council and is sorely missed by us all.

The parish council also has a number of employees: our clerk Philip Farquharson, our assistants to the Clerk Karen Evans and Amie West, our caretaker Jim Davison, and our grounds staff Peter Stamp and Peter Baldwin. I want to put on record the Council's thanks for their hard work throughout the year in delivering our services which we really appreciate.”

The Chair proceeded to summarise the activities over the last 12 months, which included:

- a £100,000 redevelopment of the King George's Field play area in Bradwell thanks, in part, to securing Section 106 agreement funding and a grant from the FCC Communities Foundation. The cost to local residents was just under £20,000, including two benches.

- a number of grants to community organisations of a total value of £6,400, including:
 - £3,100 grant to Bradwell Common Community Centre to fund a new shed
 - £2,200 grant to Bradwell Sports and Social Club to fund a new ice machine and commercial dishwasher
 - £600 grant to Flintergill Social Club to fund new window blinds
 - £500 grant to Heelands Allotments Association to fund the lease of a wood chipper.

The Chair drew to the Elector's attention the agreement to co-fund maintenance of the bowling club's green at a cost of £2,500 in the year 2024-25.

The Chair continued to summarise the activities undertaken by the Parish Council over the 2024-25 year:

- *"We funded several play, football and basketball sessions during the school holidays, with a total of 632 children attending the sessions put on across the parish by the MK Play Association and on Heelands South Fields 5 On It, with the support of Heelands Rangers.*
- *We worked with Great Linford Parish Council to allow residents of Bradwell Common to use Citizens Advice services at Conniburrow Pavilion to improve access to such services.*
- *We held a successful event – including an exhibition of historical photographs – to celebrate the centenary of Bradwell Memorial Hall last year.*
- *We continued to improve our facilities undertaking a number of small projects, including repainting Heelands Meeting Place and Bradwell Memorial Hall, working with Bradwell Bowls Club to provide funding to ensure they were able to maintain their bowling green to keep the facility operational and creating a new car parking area at Abbey Fields to help mitigate parking pressures on the local area when sports activities happen on the field. We also installed a new defibrillator at Bradwell Common Community Centre.*
- *We made a number of improvements to the local area: we planted a new hedge on Heelands South Fields, we installed two new benches on King George's Field, we improved our fruit orchard by planting a number of new trees, we installed a number of new rubbish bins in Bradwell, we re-laid the path down to the Bowls Club in Bradwell and we installed a new information board at Castle Field in Bradwell to highlight recent archaeological discoveries at the site.*
- *We organised a parish bus trip to Hastings which 51 residents of the parish went on*
- *We continued with our business-as-usual activities: allotments, operating the community centres, our citizens advice services, dog bins, our CCTV camera, our newsletter, maintaining our playing fields (Etc)."*

The Chair summarised the projects planned for the year ahead:

- Making improvements to the playground on Heelands South Fields. Thanks to the efforts of Cllr Gilpin and the Clerk, the Parish Council has worked with officials on Milton Keynes City Council to develop plans for making significant improvements to the playground at Heelands South Fields. The Parish Council is currently working with officials to attempt to secure co-funding from Milton Keynes City Council to allow the project to go ahead.

- developing a heritage trail in the parish to help celebrate our local history, from the ancient history of Heelands and the settlement there, to the medieval history of Bradwell Abbey and Bradwell Castle and the development of Bradwell Village through to the modern day and HomeWorld in Bradwell Common and the films that have been shot in the Parish.
- Considering making a bid for Community Infrastructure Funding from Milton Keynes City Council to improve road safety in Bradwell Common.

The Chair finished his report by stating things he personally would like to see:

- *“Continuing to do our bit to galvanise the local community to improve Bradwell as a place to live. This could include – for example – continuing to support community litter picks – and supporting community action, in partnership with the police, to tackle growing concerns with anti-social behaviour across the parish, including in Bradwell. I have heard local resident concerns, expressed both directly to the parish council and on the Bradwell Facebook group, and I am keen that we do what we can as a council working with others to tackle the issue, perhaps through supporting Neighbourhood Watch activities.*
- *Ensuring that we are successful in allocating the monies the parish council set aside for grant funding for community groups. We were not successful in spending our full budget last year, which was a disappointment, and I would love to see more community groups approach us if they need equipment or are unable to undertake valuable activities due to funding constraints.*
- *Considering how we can more effectively serve the community across the parish. Because of where the parish council’s assets are located, most of our activities and expenditure are inevitably in Bradwell and to a lesser extent in Heelands. As a representative of Bradwell Common, I would like to see the Parish Council do more in the estate and – for example – consider how we can best support the charity that operate Bradwell Common Community Centre as well as working with Milton Keynes City Council to revitalise Bradwell Common Local Centre, which is in urgent need of investment, and improve the public realm in the rest of the estate.*
- *Ensuring that the parish council uses the money it has built up over the last few years to deliver the now discontinued Suffolk Punch Community Hall project effectively and to the benefit of the residents in the vicinity of the development. It was a big disappointment to the parish council that Milton Keynes City Council ultimately decided against releasing the Section 106 funding that was required to deliver the project given how much effort councillors and officials had put into securing that funding and developing a project for a community hall that met the specification in the Section 106 agreement. I also hope that Milton Keynes City Council can use the Section 106 funding to provide alternative community facilities that will benefit the residents who lost the community asset provided by the Suffolk Punch pub.”*

FSC05/25 Electors’ Questions and Comments:

There were no questions raised.

The Meeting was declared **closed** at 7:40pm.