



# Bradwell on Sea Parish Council

Parish Clerk / RFO: Kevin B. Money

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup>. May 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs M. Neall (Chairman), D. Allen, H. Baker, P. Davidson, M. Martin, J. Meehan, J. Noble and Kevin B. Money Parish Clerk. There were also 2 members of the public present.

1. Apologies for absence were received from ECC W. Stamp

2. Chairman's Report

First of all, I would like to thank all of the current councillors for their ongoing support to the village and to me personally as the current chair over the last year. I would also like to pass on my personal thanks to Ex Councillor Frank Prout, who sadly retired from the council this year after many years of service to the Parish Council and the Village.

We have had a few changes in personnel this year, and I would like to thank Emma Smith, our previous clerk for her support over the years that I have served on this council and as Chairperson, she left this council fairly early on in the municipal year, which has meant we have now welcomed Kevin to the clerk's chair.

Kevin has been very supportive of me whilst he has been in the clerk's chair making sure that we are keeping within the remits that we have.

It's been an interesting year, we have welcomed a number of new councillors due to the elections last year, and one since the departure of Frank. I think all councillors are starting to work productively together and all want to see improvements in what we do and the relationships we are building with other village groups, that we need to continue to develop and improve over the next few years.

We all have our own skills that we bring to this council, some are more practical than others, which I am personally grateful for, but I would like to thank all councillors that have been able to make real change to the village, from completing repairs to our assets to helping with litter picks, to being active in meetings and ensuring your thoughts are heard and opinions aired. I feel we are all are doing what we can to make this council as responsible to the village as we can.

I would also like to thank Ex Councillor Jean Allan for her untiring work with the Mary Brown Trust, whilst she didn't want to stand at the last election, she has continued her commitment to the people of the village and offering her personal time to ensure that the good work of the Mary Brown Trust continues, and the Widows of the village enjoy a Christmas Hamper, for which we have received a number of messages of thanks for what has been supplied, this makes a real difference to people in the village and the community.

As a council, we have been able to be financially responsible, ensuring we have enough money available to so that we can continue the functions that we need to complete, plus ensuring our precept is kept as low as it can be to so that we do not impose extra financial strains to the residents of the village.

But there are challenges ahead of us. We need to improve our partnerships with village groups like the VHMC and PCC. This can only be done by continued dialogue with all other interested parties and being flexible, where we can, with the village groups.

Ensuring that the ground maintenance agreement with the PCC is completed with formal agreement is completed between both parties, and final completion of the Village Hall Lease, which has been in negotiation for the past 6 years are completed, will be key to ensuring that as groups we have a formal framework in place that is practical and in writing and not based on potential historical agreements.

I personally have had great pride having been the chairperson of this council for the past 2 years and can see the massive transformation that we as a group have been able to achieve. I hope that all councillors have been able to feel the same level of satisfaction that I have during the last year.

I think that the position of chairperson should always be shared each municipal year to ensure that all councillors have the opportunity to be the leader of this council.

If any councillor wants to take this position on, I will not stand against you and always be behind you for support and guidance.

Again, thank you all for your support over the last year.

### 3. Financial Report

The accounts for 2023/2024 have been submitted to the Internal Auditor. The accounts will be approved at the next Parish Council meeting later this evening. The accounts are exempt from an external audit due to the fact that the income and expenditure does not exceed £25,000. Therefore, the Council Certifies itself after the internal audit.

The balance held by Burnham on Sea Parish Council as at 31st. March 2024 was £24672. This was a slight decrease of £?? from the opening balance as at 1st. April 2024.

Burnham on Sea Parish Council must hold at least 50% of its Precept in reserve. This equates to approximately £13770.

### 4. Village Hall Committee Report. No report was given

### 5. Mary Brown Trust Report

The Clerk informed the meeting that the holding now stands at £13,324.94p. He will, at the next meeting, get the CCLA Sell form completed for the 2023/2024 Hamper distribution of £1050.00p

### 6. District Councillor's Report

This is my first time of delivering an annual District Councillor report to this council, which I am glad to do. As you (may or may not) know, I have been a parish councillor for the past 5 years and from memory in that time this is the first district council annual report that has been received to this parish council, in the last 5 years. From what I have been able to ascertain, I am one of the first MDC representatives for the Tillingham Ward that has not had to face an election in order to be 'Elected'.

In May 2023 there were no other persons nominated for election, therefore I was named the councillor for the Ward. A personal achievement I am very proud of.

This for me has meant, that I feel I have to do more locally as the people of the area have not actually voted for me to be their representation, but I still have to do the job.

Since election in May, I have made sure that I have been more visible in the Tillingham Ward and ensuring that I attend as many of the Parish Council meetings that I am able to attend, I have 3 Parish Councils in my ward, Dengie & Asheldham, Tillingham and Bradwell on Sea.

Attending more Parish Council meetings was a key pledge on my election information if I had been able to fight for the election, so this is one thing that I will continue to endeavour to continue.

So, what have I done in the year?

- Working with ECC Cllr Stamp to resurface North & South Street in Tillingham
- Working with local residence groups replacing village signage that had been removed.
- My personal attendance at MDC meetings since I have been elected is 93.55% missing 2 meetings due to a Covid-19 infection.
- Being a member of the District Support Group at MDC to hold the administration to account. As this group is part of the official opposition
- Working with local residents with regards to planning matters
- Working with local residents with regards to enforcement notices
- Dealing with local social housing issues for residents
- Speaking up at MDC meetings to ensure that issues that impact the Ward are heard.
- Negotiating with Stevenson's busses to ensure the first bus out of Bradwell was not lost.
- Plus many other items of casework, I have been involved with locally and within the district.

As ever, I am committed to this area and will be representing the people of the Tillingham Ward at MDC.

I would encourage all residents of the ward to attend Parish Council meetings to make sure your voice is heard locally as all Parish Councils and District Councils should be working for the residents they represent and to contact me with items that you feel MDC are not fulfilling locally so that I can help get them raised at MDC Meetings.

As ever, I thank this councils support of me for the last year, and I am happy to be your point of contact at MDC.

### 7. County Councillor's Report. ECC Cllr W. Stamp supplied a 2023/2024 report.

This can be found at <https://e-voice.org.uk/bradwellonseaparishcouncil/minutes/2024/>

### 8. Highways. To be covered at Full Council meeting

### 9. Public Session. No questions were asked

Date of next meeting – TBA.

The Chairman then closed the meeting at 7.15pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

*M Neall*

**Matthew Neall  
Chairman**

17<sup>th</sup>. June 2024