

BRADFORD & COOKBURY PARISH COUNCIL

www.bradfordandcookburyparishcouncil.uk

Parish Clerk: - Miss Sandra Holland, Heslden Barn, Lashbrook, Bradford, Devon EX22 7AH.

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MINUTES

Bradford & Cookbury Parish Council held in the Village Hall **on WEDNESDAY 10th September 2025 at 7.30 pm**

- 1) **Welcome by Chair** Cllr M. Smale, in attendance: Cllrs A. Richmond, N. Langley, D. Bowman, R. Allen, T. Higgins, D. Higgins, P. Austen, N. Why, S. Holland clerk/RFO.
apologies of absence: Cllrs Oke, Osborne.
Cllr Dawson attended at 8.00pm.
- 2) **Public Open Session:** None.
- 3) **Declarations of Interest and dispensations:**
 - a) To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda: Cllrs Bowman, Austen, Why re grants.
 - b) To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any). - none
 - c) To grant any dispensations as appropriate. - Cllrs Bowman, Austen, & Why re grants.
- 4) **To resolve that the draft minutes of the meetings of the Council** held on the 9th July 2025 (circulated to members) signed as a correct record.
Any Matters Arising – not dealt with elsewhere:
7.c Clerk has instructed DAA to make repairs to Helicopter Landing site lights following outage due to electrical storm, and will contact landowner to pursue. Contribution to electricity costs to Dave Tanswell discussed and current rate agreed at £10.00, per year: £20.00 in total now due for 2024 & 2025 – agreed by all.
PC to discuss with landowner potentially paying the standard charge, as the electricity is on a separate circuit from the house.
Clerk to purchase 6 signs re picking up after dogs.
8.b. Bickford Arms – clerk contacted Torridge Licensing who confirmed that the licensee has not changed.
- 5) **Items for discussion:**

(Cllr Dawson now in attendance)

 - a) Grant Requests:
 - 1) Ruby Girls
 - 2) Village Singers.

The Cllrs reviewed the grant procedures, to clarify if groups could continue to be supported after 2 years of support. It was unanimously agreed that for any group only up to 2 years of initial support could be given to assist groups to become established. However, groups are eligible to apply for grants towards the purchase of equipment. Therefore the Ruby Girls & the Village Singers grant requests were refused.
 - b) Update on Councillors Interests Forms – Cllr Austen was given a form to return asap.
 - c) Travel Grant for £199.98 to D. Lucas, for higher education via CBF, - approved.
- 6) **Finance:**
 - a) Update on Audit – At this point no contact had been received from the auditors.
 - b) Review Finances to Date – these were presented and agreed by all.
 - c) Confirmation of any earlier payments by BACS:
 1. Village Hall: extractor fan : part funding via CBF - £470.00
 2. travel grant via CBF for J. Ley £287.00
 - d) Invoices:
 1. Village Hall Room Rent : £176.00 – passed for payment
 2. Auditor M. Ohlsen £50.00 – passed for payment
 3. Re-imbursment to be made to Cllr Richmond of 98.82 in respect of the grant to the churches for florist sundries to enable parishioners to take part in the Flower Festival.

- e) Shebbear Flood Watch – potential increase in charges – an e-mail had been received detailing large increase in costs for this facility to Shebbear PC. The Cllrs resolved to ask our parishioners via the B & C Newsletter, and Bradford Bugle, if anyone availed themselves of this facility prior to committing to long-term payments. In the interim, the PC accepted Shebbear PCs offer to pay the current year at the same rate of £77.50, but it was thought that we should exit the scheme if it is of no use to our parish.

6. Planning Notices & Updates:

- 1. No new updates received.
- 2. Planning enforcement – satisfied that the land rumoured to be used as a petting zoo from 8.a, is not valid and have closed the matter after speaking to the new owner.

7) Correspondence

- a) DALC – training available via Zoom or E-learning for councillors – clerk to make bookings.
- b) E-mails from Old Post Office re concerns with traffic and accidents at Brandis Corner. See 8e.
- c) temporary traffic notice Middlecott to Holemoor

8) Councillors Reports/Concerns:

- a) Cllrs Allen, Langley & Bowman attended the recent BBC Spotlight visit at Brandis Corner, and Cllr Langley spoke upon the problems our parishioners are experiencing. Cllr Richmond suggested that we now invite the new contact in Devon Highways to come out and meet us to review in situ our matters of concern, including the worn road markings at Brandis Corner. Clerk will make contact.

A contractors lorries regularly speed up Fore Street from Dipper Mill from 6.00am – is there a 10ton limit at Dipper Mill? The 60mph speed limit through the Hamlets is of great concern and a sensible reduction is desirable. Following discussion clerk to approach the local school to suggest a poster/sign competition about appropriate driving speeds in the Hamlets.

There has been an increase in traffic to and from Shebbear, with long queues arising during Shebfest.

Highways to be alerted to this additional problem, as Shebfest hope to increase the numbers arriving to future events.

- b) Cookbury Church is in need of a new strimmer for use by the volunteers, as current one is beyond further repairs. Clerk will find out if Bradford Church needs one prior to putting in a grant application.

9) Close of meeting: 9.05pm

Date of next meeting: 12th November 2025 at earlier time of 7.00pm