

Bramfield and Thorington Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council held at Bramfield Village Hall on Wednesday,
June 21st 2023 at 7pm.**

Present:

Cllr. Hughes (Chair), Cllr. Rozkalns (Vice-Chair), Cllr. Bond, Cllr. Niven & Cllr. Ryder

Also Present: Karen Lewis (Clerk) and District Cllr. P. Ashton (from 7.48pm)

001/23-24 Apologies: No apologies received.

002/23-24 To receive Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations: Cllr Bond declared an interest in the planning applications as it was his employer and recused himself for that agenda item.

003/23-24 To receive a report from the County Councillor and the District Councillor (if present)

D Cllr Ashton gave an update on the recent change from NORSE to a new LATco with the aim that services improve. A number of highway issues were mentioned, and he advised the Council to encourage residents to make use of the Council website where issues can be reported

004/23-24 Public Session:

No members of the public attended.

005/23-24 To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on May 15th 2023

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on May 15th 2023 were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair

006/23-24 To confirm the Minutes of the Inquorate Parish Council Meeting held on June 12th 2023

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on June 12th 2023 were **APPROVED** and signed by the Chair

007/23-24 Planning Matters: Cllr. Bond left the meeting at 7:20 and returned at 7:26.

007/23-24.1 Planning Ref: DC/23/2116/FUL comments were **RESOLVED** to be "No objections at this point"

007/23-24.2 Planning Ref: DC/23/2117/FUL comments were **RESOLVED** to be "No objections at this point"

A Hughes

24.07.23

008/23-24 Internet Banking: Further mishandling of the situation by Barclays Bank has led to the need for all changes to be once again uploaded to the Banks Portal.

009/23-24 Clerk's Report: The Clerk updated the council on a number of items: The Chair and the Clerk will be attending the ESDC Planning Forum on the 7th July. It is hoped this will be an opportunity for the Council to share some of their frustrations with the current way of working in the planning Department.

The Clerk has attended a finance for new clerks online workshop which she found helpful and is attending an online clerk forum in July.

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would set up gmail address for all Councillors to use for all Council business going forward and also update the website information

The Clerk has become an Admin on the website saving the Council £120 per annum and enabling more easily the Council to use the Website to communicate with residents.

It was **RESOLVED** to not join the ESPA organisation.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk would formally request from ESDC a change in the number of Councillor positions from 9 in Bramfield to 6, and from 2 in Thorington to 1

010/23-24 Finance Matters: There were no payments or receipts

011/23-24 Accounts year ending March 31st 2023: Review of the Accounts for Internal Audit:

- 011/23-24.1** Section 1 of the Annual Return was **APPROVED** and **SIGNED**
- 011/23-24.2** Section 2 of the Annual Return **APPROVED** and **SIGNED**
- 011/23-24.3** The financial report and year end accounts were **APPROVED**
- 011/23-24.4** A 'Certificate of Exemption' was **AGREED** and signed
- 011/23-24.5** The Notice of Public Rights was reviewed and **APPROVED**

012/23-24 To discuss the existing defibrillator maintenance and to review the option for a second defibrillator

Cllr Hughes will take over the monthly maintenance routine on the existing defibrillator. It was **RESOLVED** to investigate options for a grant to fund a second defibrillator, maybe located at the Village Hall

013/23-24 Highways

013/23-24.1 SID Update

Batteries need replacing and Cllr. Niven has obtained one quote of £175.50 + VAT. It was **AGREED** additional quotes were required before committing to the spend. Additional people are needed to join the speedwatch team.

013/23-24.2 20 MPH Speed Signs / compulsory limit

C Hughes
24.07.23

After discussion it was **AGREED** that the Council would investigate options to have a compulsory 20mph from the A144 to a point beyond the Village Hall and flashing signs to warn drivers of the schools' location

014/23-24 To discuss Charity Donations

It was felt that if the Council were to make a donation it should be a substantial sum to one cause rather than many smaller amounts to many causes. Several possibilities were discussed and the Clerk will review the current budget situation and draft a proposed budget for 2024/2025 to help establish how much money could be available.

015/23-24 Date of next meeting:

A number of Councillors were not available for the next regular meeting date of Monday, July 10th 2023 at 7pm. It was **AGREED** to move the meeting until Monday July 24th 2023 at 7pm

Councillors to forward any matters for the next Agenda to the Clerk by end of 15th July 2023

The meeting ended at 20:45

D. Stufos
24.07.23