BRADFIELD ST CLARE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 12 MAY 2026 AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Parish Councillors present: Chair Cllr John Kirk, Cllrs Malcolm Hignett and Sue Partridge.

1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman:
   Following discussion, Cllr John Kirk agreed to another year as Chairman. Cllr Hignett proposed that Cllr Kirk be Chairman and Cllr Partridge seconded the proposal. Following discussion, Cllr Hignett agreed to be Vice Chairman. Cllr Kirk proposed and Cllr Partridge seconded.
2. Signing of Acceptance of Office Forms:
   Chairman Cllr Kirk singed his Acceptance of Office as Chairman form. Vice Chairman Cllr Hignett signed his Acceptance of Office of Vice Chairman form. Clerk counter signed both forms.
3. Apologies for absence:
   Cllr Paul Foster – due to work commitments;
   Cllr Alex Duchesne;
4. Declarations of Interest: None
5. Minutes: to consider and approve the Minutes of the meeting on 7 April 2026. Cllr Hignett proposed that they are a true and accurate record of the meeting. Cllr Partridge seconded. Minutes approved.
6. Borough and County Cllrs reports: None available due to results of very recent local elections. The village has lost both Sara Mildmay-White as Borough Cllr and Karen Soons as County Councillor. County Councillor has come out of Conservative control and into the control of Reform. Clerk will wait to hear from the new Borough and County Cllrs, and update contact details on the village website and in the Grapevine once those details are available.
7. Public forum: no members of the public present.
8. Correspondence: none for consideration.
9. Updates:
   (i) Speed reduction. On 14 April 2026, Highways Officer Matthew Fox had confirmed to the Clerk that speed data from any survey is valid for 2 years, so we have some time, at the moment. He suggested waiting until the new guidelines were published, and assuming selected by Suffolk County Council (but there is of course a local election pending and if there was a change of control at Suffolk County Council (which subsequently happened from Conservative to Reform), they may wish to vote into place an entirely different policy, or they could stick with the old policy. It is very much dependent on the outcome of local elections and what the controlling party

wish to do. It is therefore a little uncertain at the present time, and we would need to wait and see. It was suggested we write one application for the Speed Panel – rather than trying to change our application mid process. We are therefore awaiting for the new controlling party at SCC to decide on their policies before we can go ahead. Clerk will continue to liaise with Matthew Fox.

(ii) Bus route re-instatement in the village. Cllr Hignett had been chasing this matter along with Simon Barnett, the Integrated Transport and Enhanced Partnership Manager at SCC. The latest update following the submission of the BSIP document to re-instatement a bus service in the village in 2025 when we were told that the budget for that year had been spent but that the application will be considered in the 2026/2027 budget. There is currently no substantive update from Mr Barnett other than he felt that the change of administration at SCC should not have an impact. In May 2026 he was indicating that SCC should shortly receive this years grant from central government, and he could not imagine that the new councillors at SCC will want to jeopardise this and lose out on the money.

Mr Barnett further added that if SCC maintain all the routes funded with DfT money over the last couple of years at their current costs then the 2026-29 revenue grant will be fully used up with no scope for anything new. However, all of the contracts were let on the understanding that what we pay the operators would decrease in line with passenger growth or that the services would not continue if usage did not meet projections. The first wave of these services are reaching the end of their initial contracts so are being reviewed over the coming weeks and he was fully expecting to be able to re-use some of their costs into new routes later this year but do not yet know how much will be available. All current bids will be assessed once he knows how much is available to spend. The capital budget is still there for any infrastructure changes required to go alongside new or altered services.

Cllr Hignett will continue to pursue the matter and update the PC later in the year.

10. <u>Clerks Report:</u>

i. Consider and approve schedule of items awaiting approval. Cllrs present noted the Precept income of £4100, and approved the outgoings.

<u>Schedule of Income</u>

WSC	Precept	£4100	BACS

Schedule of Invoices

SALC	Membership	£124.13	chq514
N Sturgeon	Salary	£146.52	chq515

11. Date of next meeting: 11 August 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Meeting closed at 7.30pm

Signed…….. Dated……..