BRADFIELD ST CLARE PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCES – SIGNIFICANT VARIANCES

2025-2026

On 12 December 2025 the Parish Council paid a total of £498 for Suffolk County Council (£415 plus VAT of £83 = £498.

This is expenditure that the Parish Council had not paid in previous years.

The Parish Council agreed at a meeting on 12 August 2025 under section 5 to approve expenditure of these monies. It had followed a period of consideration at several meetings, and confirmation that the County Councillor at that time Karen Soons could not financially contribute to this speed survey.

Cllr Soons reasoning for not paying for the speed survey was that some years previously when a speed survey had been carried out at that junction it had been deemed by Suffolk County Council Highways as not being a strong enough case evidentially to put towards the Speed Panel at that time. Since then, significant numbers of new build housing had been built in the neighbouring village of Cockfield and the Parish Council felt along with some parishioners who raised the matter with the Parish Council, that this had not only increased the volume of traffic but also the speed of traffic at the junction in Bradfield St Clare.

The Parish Council agreed to commission the speed survey at a cost to the Parish Council. The subsequent report showed that speed (as well as volume) had increased. The Parish Council had a meeting with Matthew Fox from Suffolk County Council Highways later in December 2025 who went through the data capture. He had discussed the data capture with a colleague and both had agreed that it was worth putting a report before the Speed Panel to see if the current 60mph speed limit could be reduced to either 30 or 40mph which the Parish Council are in the process of commissioner within the 2026-2027 financial year.

This is the only significant variance in finances for 2025-2026.