BRADFIELD ST CLARE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Parish Councillors present: Chair Cllr John Kirk, Cllrs Malcolm Hignett and Alex Duchesne.

Clerk unwell and unable to attend.

1. Apologies for absence:
   Cllr Paul Foster – due to work meeting;
   Cllr Sue Partridge – holiday;
   Clerk Nicola Sturgeon – unwell;
   Borough Cllr Sara Mildmay-White and County Cllr Karen Soons unable to attend.

2. Declarations of Interest: None

3. Minutes: to consider and approve the Minutes of the meeting on 12 August 2025. Due to the Clerk having a period of illness the draft Minutes are not available in their entirety, but will be available for the next meeting.

4. Public forum: no members of the public present.

5. Borough Cllr and County Cllr reports: Contents noted and reports available on the Parish website at bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net/

6. To consider and approve Precept in the sum of £4100:

   It was proposed that the Parish Council request a Precept of £4100, the same as last year. This was unanimously agreed by all Cllrs present.

7. Cllrs to consider the outcome of speed data and subsequent meeting with Highways on 17 December 2025, and to consider approving the commission of a report to be put before the Speed Panel looking for a speed reduction.

   At the informal meeting with Matthew Fox on Wednesday 17 December 2025, and following the consideration of the Speed Survey data, it was felt the PC should go ahead and prepare the Report.

However, there will be new guidelines published in April/May this year, so there was discussion as to whether we should wait for this to happen before spending the £1000 for the Report to be written. Cllrs discussed the merits of waiting, or commissioning the Report now.

On looking at the Speed Data Survey, it was noted that when vehicles coming out of the Bradfield St George junction, onto Bury Road, vehicles were going from a 30mph to a 60mph zone. This supports the view that the PC should be requesting a 30mph speed limit on Bury Road at this junction, extending both ways along Bury Road.

Comment from one of the Cllrs that the Report doesn't read that badly and the Speed Panel might feel the same. There were a higher number of vehicles travelling less than 35mph, so requesting a 40mph is not going influence a reduction in speed along this section of road. It was noted that there are 7 entrances and 2 junctions along this stretch of road with its associated hazards of domestic vehicles trying to exit from driveways and pedestrians trying to safely walk along a road with no paving or pathways.

Cllrs wondered how long will the Speed Data Survey valid for, since, if we wait for the new guidelines to be applied the Speed Data Survey may be out of date. After further discussion, it was agreed that we should seek Matthew Fox's advice on when he should write the Report, i.e. write the Report now and adjust once the new guidelines are known, or wait until the new guidelines are published. It was felt that the Speed Data Report could be re-presented to highlight the 'worst case scenario' where nearly half the vehicles were travelling between 35- 60mph. This would support the argument that the PC should request a 30mph speed limit along this section of road.

It was unanimously agreed that we should commission the Report if the Speed Data is re-presented to give a 'worst case scenario' and, subject to Matthew Fox's advice, we request a speed reduction to 30mph, incorporating relevant responses and references to the new guidelines, once they've been published.

8. <u>To approve PC meeting dates for 2026:</u>
   The PC usually has meetings in the months of February, May, August and November. However, it is always subject to any planning applications and there are ongoing projects such as the bus route re-instatement and seeking speed reductions. Therefore, additional meetings have been added to the schedule for 2026.
   Cllrs approved the following meeting dates:
   14 April 2026 – Additional Meeting
   12 May 2026 – Annual Parish Meeting followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting
   11 August 2026
   13 October 2026 – Additional Meeting
   10 November 2026

9. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14 April 2026 (subsequently re-arranged for Tuesday 7 April 2026)

Signed…….. Dated……..