

YOUR PARISH MAGAZINE

Welcome to the first issue of 2025, delivered to every house in the three parishes. Please see all the advertisements (listed page 76), featuring many local businesses, their support helps pay for the magazine.

If you wish to advertise, please see the inside back cover with details.

There will be six issues a year, copy by 20th of the month preceding publication. Ideas of what you would like to see in the magazine are welcome. Spring is around the corner, flowers are showing their heads, hellebores, snowdrops, irises, a joy to warm the heart!

DUST CART

Will be in Church Walk on Saturday 8 March at 10.00am.

Stisted Parish Council

CHURCH NEWS

Please see page 26 onwards.



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FRIDAY EVENING IN STISTED VILLAGE HALL

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14 February	Curry Leaf
21 February	Wrapstars Mexican Street Food
28 February	FirePit Pizzas The Jays Duo, ticket £4
7 March	GG's Dough and Beer Pizza
14 March	Food Truck to be booked
21 March	Hellente Symposium
28 March	Simply Spuds Pie and Mash
4 April	Chish'n'Fips
11 April	Curry Leaf
18 April	Hellente Symposium
25 April	Simply Spuds Pie and Mash

Come along and enjoy a convivial evening with your friends.

STISTED COMMUNITY SHOP

The village community shop continues to grow, with the help from our wonderful volunteers. Based at the Montefiore, we are open Monday 2-4pm, Wednesday 1:30-7pm, Friday 2-4pm and Saturday 9:30-12pm and have all your essentials. Not only do we stock cupboard, fridge and freezer goods, we also have breads, baked savoury and sweet treats. In addition to food stuffs, we stock toiletries, cards, and pet treats, basic medicines such as painkillers and, cold & flu remedies, household essentials like kitchen and toilet roll, bleach, washing-up liquid & dishwasher tablets. On Saturdays we stock artisan breads, and you can pre-order items for Saturday collection. Drop us a message/WhatsApp on 07729 687398 or email stistedcommunityshop@gmail.com before 9am on Wednesday. Contact us if you want to know what you can order, or pop into the shop to ask. As a community shop, you can pick up a pack of recycling bags or pop in for a coffee and chat on Saturday mornings. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers and aim to open more days. If you would like to help, please get in contact via the shop number, email or pop into the shop to speak to someone. We look forward to seeing you.

Julia Gariazzo

WEDNESDAY SHOPPER BUS

Leaves the Montefiore Institute at 9.30am and returns from Braintree at 12 noon as before.

STISTED HORTICULTURE & NATURE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION 2024



Well done and thanks to the 20 contributors to the exhibition, all from our local community, and now on display in the Fairhead Room of the Village Hall. This will open on Sunday 26 January, after the parish magazine has gone to press. There will be further open days, so keep an eye on the village WhatsApp and Facebook plus posters in the Village Shop and Village Hall.

The show is a snapshot of Stisted gardens and landscape in 2024. Those taking part in the show with their fascinating and beautiful images are:

Bob Powers
Lesley Collins
Claire Gibson
Debs Crawley
Peter Bash
Trevor Blows
Ruth Jubb

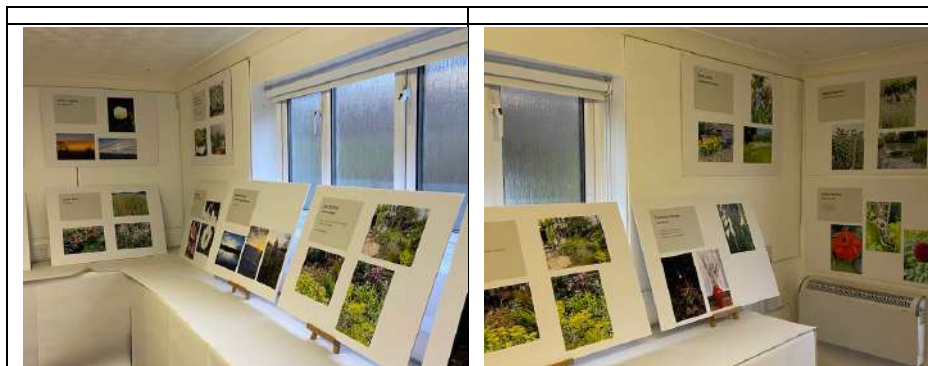
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Linda Barnes

Graham Holloway
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Dave Willingham
Hayley Waine
Lucinda Browne
Helen Remfry

Please let us know if you would like us to run this again in 2025.

Contact Howard on howardhollands@gmail.com





Stisted Village Hall Allotments



Two plots available

Join the friendly community of allotment holders.

Contact: Tim Noonan

Email: svhallotments38@gmail.com or

Phone: 07709 023650.

Allotments Grow On You...



Allotments are another thing that make me laugh. Thrusting the spade into the unforgiving Essex clay I recall Andrew Motion's poem of the same name. I have a quiet giggle about the other meaning of an 'allotment' – 'the allocation of a financial settlement.' Such irony, as the two worlds of this term

could not be further apart despite some suggestions that money does indeed grow on trees.

Allotments, though not the word itself, in one form or another, go back to the Saxons and most of its history has been about the dispossession of land worked by the poorest in society and ensuring they had somewhere to grow their crops and keep their animals – in reality, to avoid starvation.

Fortunately, this is not the case for most of us on our Stisted allotments - raising our beds like Lazarus. Perhaps we are fondly reflecting the culture of the late 1970s and 'The Good Life' – remember that?

Some folk arrive on their bikes or walk, but many arrive by car and some from well beyond the pearly gates of Stisted. But whatever the circumstances, it is a community – allotments always have been.

Each plot is a reflection of its owner(s). It becomes a space in which to lose oneself, to escape, to grow and recycle in traditional ways, or to strike out and do something exotic, something different, something mad and something to disagree about.

From schooling to work we are often 'not allowed' to try out things – but the allotment does not say 'no', unlike the computer.

Schools, such as our local one, which have allotments, testify to the benefits for learning and development. Of course, as in any community, there are rules for allotment holders, for the common good, but NOT to

tell you what to grow and how to grow it! You can wear what you like without being told off – my straw hat that has long seen better days I'm not allowed to wear normally but it comes into its own on the plot. Soon it will be World Naked Gardening Day (6th May) – which you will have missed by the time you read this. I realise this might be a bit risky for our allotment holders, particularly if pruning, but it does keep the pigeons away!

The sharing of experience, and a healthy, light-hearted competitiveness (mostly!) lies at the centre of allotment culture. This means that 90% of the time is spent nattering and to my mind, this is good for the heart and good for the soul.

Recycling underpins allotment world, with sheds made of found materials and home-made, bizarre looking structures for growing in, on or under. Every year my Runner Beans scramble up a discarded children's climbing frame I found. I love the idea that youngsters once clambered up the multi-coloured poles that now provide a framework for the beans to climb. Human beans indeed!

It can be grim in the dark months from November to February, but this makes us appreciate even more the lighter and longer days when all those dormant children burst into life.

Allotments, whilst being a bit left field are rooted (literally) in the reality of pests, plagues, storms and frosts. Nothing grows and we just don't know why. We allotment holders talk at length about success and failure of crops as a shared and necessary experience; but of course, this is a metaphor for everything in our lives, as Anthelme Brillat-Savarin said in 1826 'You are what you eat',

Allotments are lovingly created, uncertain spaces and a thought-provoking challenge to the fake world of celebrity and self that we now inhabit, and I would not be without them. Would you?

Howard Hollands

SWAP AND SHARE

It has been suggested that allotment holders might like to 'swap and share' plants. What do you think?

Eleanor McMillan

STISTED OIL SYNDICATE: Thank you to Leslie for her sterling work for the past eleven years. Nichola Courtier has kindly taken on the task. If you are interested in joining, please contact Nichola on stisted.oil.syndicate@gmail.com. The syndicate is open to all residents of Stisted and nearby hamlets. The price achieved in January was **55.50** + 5% VAT.

BOOK CLUB: The next meeting will be on Wednesday 19 February reviewing *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo, followed by Wednesday 19 March, book to be confirmed. Meet at 7.30pm in the Montefiore Institute, Tea or coffee £1.00 or bring your own refreshments! New members welcome!

Lynn McCullough

CRAFT & CHAT Wednesdays from 1.30 at the Montefiore Institute

Everyone is welcome and an interest in crafting is not a necessity just come for a cuppa and join in the chat. If you would like to learn a craft, just ask and we can show you or perhaps learn together.

We have a selection of handmade items for sale, at bargain prices, which would make ideal gifts for those people who already have everything! Please call in for a browse on a Wednesday afternoon.

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A HAYRACK

Many people walking by our field have commented on the hayrack erected for the first time, back in the summer. Old methods of haymaking have mostly disappeared and even in Romania where they are still to be found, there are less and less. So, what's the story here? In July, a bit later than usual for haymaking, our local farmer came with his tractors and cut and baled the hay into those giant round bales. But there was plenty of long grass left in the

corners out of reach of the tractors. This is where the scythe comes into its own (think *Poldark*!) cut by hand and gathered into this hayrack to dry. It should then have been moved into a barn in autumn, to keep dry for winter horse and cattle feed. Sadly this rack has been left in situ and is now only good for the bonfire but expect to see one or two more of these later this year.

If anyone is interested in having a go, I hope to be scything in the Community Orchard in the summer so let me know if you see me about. Maybe pure coincidence but recently we have had a magnificent barn owl regularly visiting us, leaving his mark, regurgitated pellets and lots of white pooh, and a not so well come visitor – a muntjac who seems to think we have adopted him as he nibbles at everything he shouldn't.

Alan Reeder

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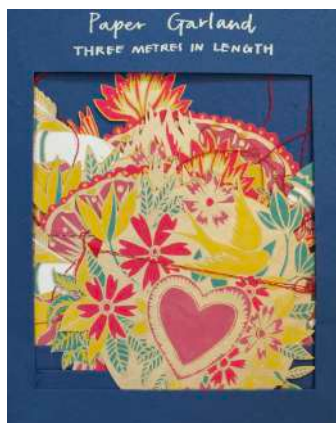
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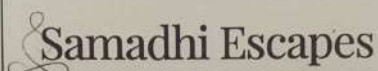
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CANS Wildlife update – Jan 2025

Well folks, I don't know about you, but since November the birds visiting my sunflower hearts and peanut feeders have been drastically reducing in numbers. Yes, I have had some daily visitors, and I have resident birds like wrens and robins. Slowly it seemed that the number of goldfinches, greenfinches and even bluetits had diminished to almost zero particularly over Christmas. This month I have had more bluetits, and the blackbirds have reappeared from the local forests. So where are the small flocks of goldfinches? I would often have up to a dozen at a time on my feeders and more on the floor. This last week I am pleased to report small families of long tailed tits visiting my garden. I saw a flock of about 30 in the horse chestnut tree on the village green today. A greater spotted woodpecker visits every few days. I am hoping to see bird numbers rise as we approach the breeding season, and I am hopeful that we have a return visit from redpolls and siskins as we had last winter. A bit of snow often brings them in from the fields.

So where are my regular garden visitors? One problem and perhaps a common theme around the village is the predation by our local sparrowhawks. I love birds of prey, and the sparrowhawk is a beautiful bird and a skilled flyer and hunter. I have not seen one in my garden for a few weeks, but small garden birds know when they are around and will avoid being near them. I will need to move my feeders closer to the shrubs in my garden to see if this gives them the added confidence they need to re-visit me.

One good piece of news is the presence of a barn owl in one of the golf course nest boxes down by the river. Several of you mentioned seeing something flying in and out of the box and I was lucky enough to photograph it hunting and returning to the box. I don't think it has a mate yet, but we will see. Barn owls often breed now so it would be great if it found a partner and gave us a brood to be raised over the spring and summer.

Long tailed Tits (over page)



Barn Owl



STISTED BUTTERFLY COUNT

APRIL 2024 –SEPTEMBER 2024

Climate and Nature for Stisted

The butterfly season runs from April until September. Two transects in Stisted have been approved by the UKBMS for recording butterfly

sightings: one at Brookes Nature Reserve and one covering the copses, water meadow and river walk and perimeters of Braintree Golf Club. These can be viewed on the UKBMS web site. The coordinator, Keith Winch for the Cambridgeshire and Essex UKBMS transects records at Brookes Nature Reserve and a designated CANS member records at the Braintree Golf Club transect. This involves walking a fixed route which is mapped on an OS map and takes about one and a half hours. The UKBMS has been operational since 2013.

The weekly sightings are uploaded onto the UKBMS website and are added to the UK statistics. CANS also keeps records for the Stisted

transects and we are then able to compare records from year to year. (Keith Winch is going to send us his.)

Anybody who is interested in walking these transects with the coordinators, would be very welcome to and can contact Jane Bailey. Field trips can be arranged for Brookes Nature Reserve. Also if anyone is interested in setting up another transect around Stisted, which needs to be a mile apart from other transects then please get in touch with Jane.

It would be good to start recording moths as well as butterflies and CANS if anyone is interested in becoming a coordinator to do this. There are many species of moths which can be seen in the daytime as well as the species which are nocturnal. Recording is carried out in the same way as for butterflies.

Jane will seek advice from the UKBMS about starting a recovery programme for rarer species. E.g. The Silver Washed Fritillary Butterfly which can occasionally be seen at Brookes Nature Reserve but is not common. This is the largest species in the UK and is beginning to make a slow come- back. Its caterpillars feed on common dog violets and the butterflies like bramble flowers. Involving Stisted Academy to help plant dog violets at Brookes Nature Reserve, where it is mainly broad leaf woodland, would be one example of how we help to bring butterflies back to Stisted.

Thanks to Alan Ratnage for photographs of Brown Angus Butterfly.



Jane Bailey, Climate and Nature for Stisted

STISTEDELLA: Stisted magic returns to the stage this Christmas.

The historic village of Stisted has revived its pantomime tradition this year with a stunning production of Stistedella with both a matinee performance, free for kids, followed in the evening by a packed Village Hall with plenty of audience participation...well the bar was open too...oh yes it was!

Praise for the show on social media was lavish, and the village was aglow with feedback both for the production as a whole and its individual performers.

Stistedella, loosely based on the Cinderella story but incorporating a wide range of local references and history, was the brainchild of Tony McGrath who both wrote and directed the show. The production was a model of creative community involvement and drew upon a wide variety of skills from acting and vocal ability, dance, costume, make-up, set building, sound and many more...all from volunteers within the village,

There were so many stand-out performances, but the Ugly Sisters played by Keith Rand and Steve Beaumont were so good that they may re-appear in Dick Whittington this time next year! Roll on Next Year!



Prince Lonely: Dave Burge
Delish: Debs Rand
Dandini: Ruth Jubb



Hedina Bucket: Keith Rand
Em T Bucket: Steve Beaumont

Howard Hollands



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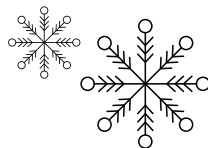
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February shopping list 2025



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- Pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Tinned vegetables
- Custard

Non food items

- Washing up liquid
- Baby wipes
- Shampoo

We ask for small packs as larger packs do not fit in our boxes making it difficult for our clients to carry home. Also, we are unable (for hygiene reasons) to split large size or catering packs.

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The Ecclesiastic Parish of Stisted with

Bradwell-juxta-Coggeshall and Pattiswick **Vicar Revd Heike Prentice**

Revd Melanie writes...

For many, February brings thoughts of love and romance. There does not seem to be agreement on what exactly St Valentine did but being a hopeless romantic I like this account:

Valentine was a priest in Rome in the third century. Emperor Claudius II thought Roman men who were married didn't make good soldiers as they were not keen on going to war and leaving their wives and families behind. He decided to ban marriage which Valentine thought was unfair, so he arranged marriages in secret. When Claudius found out, Valentine was jailed and sentenced to death. Legend has it that he fell in love with the jailer's daughter and when he was taken to be killed on 14 February, he sent her a love letter signed 'from your Valentine'.

February also marks Racial Justice Sunday (the second Sunday) across Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. Racial Justice Sunday is a time when all churches reflect on the importance of racial justice, give thanks for the gifts and beauty of human diversity, and commit to end racism and acts of discrimination.

Racial Justice Sunday began in 1995, two years after the murder of Stephen Lawrence. Stephen wanted to be an architect, but his legacy has seen him become an 'architect for justice, equality, dignity and unity'. Racial Justice means that everyone, no matter what their background, should have the right rights and opportunities to flourish in a society that treats them with equal fairness and respect.

At the last supper, after Judas left, Jesus said to the remaining disciples "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples ..."

I Corinthians defines love as follows: 'love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres'. Jesus demonstrated all of these things in his ministry. He welcomed, stood up for and cared for everyone, the marginalised, the poor, the sick and the hungry. He was not concerned about the colour of a person's skin, whether they were a refugee or what their gender. He showed we are all equal in God's love.

Let us think this month about how we can follow in Jesus' footsteps and play our part to end racism and discrimination. Sometimes small actions can have a bigger impact than we think. We all need to be a force for change, leading the charge rather than be reactionary to what is happening around us, and work with others in society to end racism and discrimination in all forms.

With love and prayers.

Melanie

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, STISTED

Saturday 1 February and 1 March

Church Cleaning

9.00 – 10.30 a.m.

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Coffee Morning –

10.30 to 11.30 a.m.

Coffee – Cake/Biscuits – Chat
Families – Friends – Neighbours



SERVICES

Services are at Stisted Church and start at 10.30 a.m. unless stated otherwise. Refreshments are available after the services. Please join us for a cuppa and chat and we get to know each other.

There will be a service on the 1st and 2nd Sunday of month.

Worshippers are encouraged to join worship at other Churches in the Benefice. Details below.

1 Feb	9.00-10.30 Church Cleaning at Stisted followed by refreshments at 10.30
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2 Feb	10.30 Worship & Praise led by the Church Team – Presentation of Christ in the Temple, Candlemas
9 Feb	10.30 Worship and Praise, Holy Communion led by Heike
16 Feb	St Peter's ad Vincula, Coggeshall, 08.00 Said Communion 9.30 Sung Eucharist, 11.00 Family Service
16 Feb	St Barnabas, Tye Green, 10.30 Service of Holy Communion
23 Feb	St Peter's ad Vincula, Coggeshall, 08.00 Said Communion 9.30 Sung Eucharist, 11.00 Family Service
23 Feb	St Barnabas, Tye Green, 10.30 Service of The Word
1 Mar	9.00-10.30 Church Cleaning at Stisted followed by refreshments at 10.30
2 Mar	10.30 Worship & Praise led by the Church Team – Presentation of Christ in the Temple, Candlemas
9 Mar	10.30 Worship and Praise, Holy Communion led by Heike



OPEN CHURCH AT ALL SAINTS' STISTED

Between 10.00a.m. and 3.00p.m.

**Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
Light a Candle and Say a Prayer,
Free Wi-Fi, Refreshments, Baby**

**Changing and Play Area and Toilet facilities available
Foodbank Donations may be left in the South Porch at any time.**



Crisis

It was
wonderful
to see
Stisted
Church full
to capacity
on

Christmas Eve for the Carols round the Christmas Tree led by Heike. If you were able to attend, you will be aware that we adopted the charity **Crisis** for any donations people were able to give. Last year we raised

£300. This year your generosity, together with qualifying gift aid, raised a fantastic £481.75! Those funds are already with Crisis enabling them to make a difference to those who find themselves living on the streets so they may start a new, meaningful life. Thank you to you all for making a difference!

Read on to find out the different ways our donations can help Crisis achieve their mission to help the homeless:

Monthly costs

£5 a month could help provide someone with long-term, tailored support to leave homelessness behind for good

£8 a month could go towards mugs, pans and cutlery to help someone set up their new home

£10 a month could help fund one of our support workers to help someone budget and manage their expenses as they settle into their new home.

£15 a month could help provide someone with one-to-one support in finding a secure place to live, so they leave homelessness for good.

One off costs

£10 could go towards someone's travel costs, making attending a flat viewing or job interview possible, and helping them to start their journey out of homelessness.

£32 could help someone access expert support from a clinical psychologist, helping them to improve their mental wellbeing and rebuild their life.

£64 could help fund one of our support workers to help someone trapped in temporary accommodation look for affordable and settled housing.

£100 could buy a household starter kit, filled with essentials someone might not be able to afford, to help them settle into their new home.

I leave it to you to calculate the different permutations of how our donation of £481.75 might be used by Crisis Charity.

Once again, a **BIG THANK YOU** for your donations.

Pat Bash

CANS Christmas Wreathmaking Workshops.

The Christmas wreathmaking workshops seem a long time ago now, but over 40 people attended and produced absolutely fantastic seasonal wreaths. Sustainable natural decorations, ribbon bows and local foliage were provided. There was a lovely atmosphere in the village hall, with people helping each other, and prosecco and nibbles to embrace the festive season. After deducting over £400 of expenses, a profit of £600 was raised, to be spent in the parish, and a further £50 donation was made to Essex Wildlife Trust. Jane Long said, "It was such a lovely event, bringing the community together and great opportunity to meet others, would love to bring friends next year."

Christine Beaumont wrote 'A huge thank you Jane, Helen and your crew. A fantastic afternoon filled with fun, love, laughter and beautiful foliage for us to complete our wreaths. Thank you, Graham, for looking after us, yummy treats and a glass of bubbles. What an amazing village and community we all live in. Health and Happiness to you all for 2025'.

Thanks to the huge preparations of CANS members over the preceding three weeks, collating foliage, mossing wreaths, making bow decorations, prewiring orange slices and cinnamon sticks to name a few. Thank you particularly to Jane Bailey, Helen Hughes, Helen Remfry, Alison Holloway, Graham Holloway, Dina Catchpole, Lynn McCullagh, Richard Hughes, Sam Bailey, Chris Fairchild and Andrew Long and other volunteer helpers at the end of the day.

A BIG thankyou to Stisted Golf Club and Stisted Hall who allowed the wreath



making team to collect foliage from their grounds, thus keeping most of the foliage locally sourced

and reducing our carbon footprint considerably.



Helen Remfry







HARD & SOFT LANDSCAPING
TREES AND HEDGES
COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC
DEAD WOODING
ARTIFICIAL LAWN MAINTENANCE

PRUNING
LAWN MAINTENANCE
JET WASHING
POND MAINTENANCE
AND MORE!




OLIVER WARD
07661 336273
FORGEGARDENSERVICES@GMAIL.CO.UK

FORGE GARDEN SERVICES Bradwell

Recent works include work at
All Saints, Cressing & St
Barnabas, Tye Green

Ask about any gardening or
landscaping jobs.

Follow on Facebook

PILATES NEWSLETTER for FEBRUARY

Welcome to the start of February 2025

"Our body is the product of our thoughts. We're beginning to understand in medical science the degree to which the nature of our thoughts and emotions actually determines the physical substance, structure, and function of our bodies."

– Dr John Hagelin, Quantum Physicist and Public Policy Expert

Well, that's one month gone of 2025 and here we find ourselves in February. It's been a rather wet January. Class numbers have been so good face to face in the community and via ZOOM. I hope they will continue into our new month.

Random Acts of Kindness Day

17 February is known as Random Acts of Kindness Day. The celebration of this day can seem somewhat ironic in a world that seems so harsh and unkind most days.

I know that I personally get jaded by the unkindness I see around me each day. From rude and impatient drivers to cyberbullies - it seems as if finding a fellow kind soul among us is a lost cause. I know that it isn't, though. I know that the good still far outweighs the bad and that we just notice the bad because our brains are wired to do so as a survival tactic. This is known as negativity bias - it is our tendency not only to register negative stimuli more readily but also to dwell on these events. It takes effort, but we can choose to be kind in an unkind world. The most significant way I've found to do that is through courtesy. Extend courtesy to everyone around you in every situation. Allow others to be human. To make mistakes, step in it, and mess up. Love them through it. Allow your compassion to shine through. We never know when we might be the one needing that same courtesy and kindness from someone else.

Creating a kinder, more understanding world begins with ourselves. So maybe the best random act of kindness isn't even what you do for someone else.

Perhaps, it needs to begin with you. Are you allowing yourself to make mistakes? Have you given yourself the grace to be human? Are you

loving yourself through it? It isn't random acts of kindness that we need. It is daily acts of kindness.

10 Things We Always Wait Too Long to Do for Ourselves (Year After Year)

Something I was reading last month sent to me by a friend. Some many wise and wonderful words in there. It's time to stop waiting and make yourself a priority this year.

<https://www.marcandangel.com/2025/01/02/10-choices-you-wont-regret-in-10-years>

Zoe Health: I subscribe to an app called Zoe Health, (free) and have weekly updates. Some of the information is so valuable and beneficial to our health. At the beginning of January I opened this one **How to eat in 2025: 7 science-backed tips | Prof. Tim Spector and Prof. Sarah Berry** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRxbxmjjdw>

It is absolutely fascinating. If you don't get time to watch all of it, then scroll through to 41.39 minutes - Change your drink habits. The content is about gut microbes and how tea and coffee are good for our gut health, especially green tea (which I am not a lover of). We have a little microbe called Lawson Abacta which adores coffee. So us coffee lovers are absolutely fine, as long as we don't exceed between three and four a day.

Dealing with Arthritis: Arthritis is a medical condition that is characterised by aching, painful joints. The cold weather can heighten the pain and worsen stiffness and inflammation in the affected areas. The most common forms of arthritis are osteoarthritis (wear and tear) and rheumatoid arthritis, an inflammatory autoimmune condition. Arthritis can affect any joint in the body but most commonly occurs in the hands, hips and knees.

Hands and Shoulders:

Most cases of arthritis develops as we get older. Some causes of arthritis can be caused such as infection or trauma which can injure the joint surface and accelerate wear and tear changes with the affected joints. Simple hand/wrist exercises which I have covered in the Pilates classes can be of help.

With the shoulder it's a case of keeping the joint moving without aggravating your symptoms.

Hips: Arthritis is a progressive degenerative disease, and the main symptoms tend to be pain, stiffness and gradual loss of movement and function. Strangely, pain in the groin is actually the first sign of arthritis in the hip joint. In the early stages (especially if the person is younger than 50-60) can be mistaken for a groin strain or muscle injury. As it progresses, the pain can radiate into the buttocks and outer thigh, even reaching to the knee. Initially people may have difficulty in doing things that involve a lot of hips flexion i.e. putting on shoes and socks. This can progress to being unable to fully stretch or straighten their affected leg. They may also experience restricted movement such as when they are getting into and out of a car. In the early stages, regular movement is recommended. It is important to keep the surrounding muscles and ligaments as strong and flexible as possible so that can support the failing joint. There will be some forms of exercise that your hip will stop you from doing, but it's always important to keep being active.

Knees: Osteoarthritis is usually age-related, but it can also start because of previous injuries. It's exacerbated when people are overweight or very inactive. Physiotherapy can initially help to strengthen the muscles around the knee. Strengthening the quadriceps are key to knee pain. Losing weight and reducing activities that cause pain are also recommended.

I was listening to an interesting podcast on Radio 4 which came on expectedly when driving. Just One Thing, Michael Mosley quizzes the world's leading health experts on the best ways to live well. The professor in sport and health emphasises the importance of strength training and being able to sit to stand without help along with many other interesting subjects on health. Here is the link. I found it fascinating. Let me know what you think.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001tr5v>

I made some notes from some of the subjects I found more interesting, it might save you a little bit of time if you want to fast forward as the podcast is 38 minutes long.

Journalling: Before I sign off the newsletter, I have brought something back into my life, something that I did regularly and then forgot one day, then the next, then it didn't happen again. I journal each day now. When I have had periods in the past year when I haven't and then restart, I realise how positive this habit is. I start with my affirmations, then a bit of exercise housekeeping and then note the best things that have happened that day (I journal in the evening). 1) It isn't pretentious - there is lots of research to show how beneficial it is, 2) It doesn't take long - 2 minutes 3) you can journal at any time of the day 4) it doesn't have to be an essay. Making journalling a habit is a good thing!

FEBRUARY'S MOTIVATION

It's a brand-new month! If YOU want it badly enough, YOU will move heaven and earth to make it happen. Nothing will stand in your way. Anything can happen so roll with it.

Make a plan and go after what you DESIRE!

I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter. Look forward to seeing you soon. Keep shining bright.

Marisa Swain Fitness Pilates Health Coach

STISTED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 4 December 2024

7.30pm, Stisted Village Hall

Present: Councillors Alan Routledge - Chairman, Howard Hollands, Eleanor McMillan, Geoff Nurse, Richard White & Robert Powers.

In attendance: Mrs Ruth Jubb Clerk, Cllr Paul Thorogood, Cllr Tom Walsh & 23 members of the public.

104. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Dennis Abram & Cllr Helen Remfry.

105.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Routledge - Village Hall, and Cllr Hollands - Village Hall and Archives, but no need to leave meeting.

106.PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Agenda states 15 minutes. Requested people raise their hands to speak and noted discretion to extend beyond 15 minutes if required.

The following items were raised by members of the public - these are key points not all details:

- One member of the public (MoP) spoke on behalf of various residents and presented their views of the information on Affordable Housing and noted there were 26 questions to answer later rather than read out.
- Key concerns are discrepancies in the numbers and information, as extracted from parish council minutes starting in 2020. Varying numbers of families requiring homes were suggested at different times with debate over the number that met the criteria for affordable housing.
- Concern expressed over effort expended before final requirements are known.
- There are several older villagers who would prefer non electronic communication in the future as cannot check websites on a daily basis for information.
- November 2023 minutes - there had been no initial response to the call for sites.
- April 2021 minutes stated a process for dealing with affordable housing and the speaker reminded the council this should be followed.
- Concern that the housing proposal is against a published BDC local development framework Core Strategy. Page 125 does not include Stisted in the category of 'Key Service Village'.
- The two housing needs identified in the past are less than 1% of the village population, so the 99% remaining should be consulted for their opinion.
- Concern that housing may be allocated to people outside the qualifying criteria. Of the previous nine mentioned, only two wanted to stay in the village.

The list of questions was then handed to the clerk.

- There were queries about Hastoe who hope to be partners with RCCE - so these questions will need to go directly to Hastoe.
- Noted - 2020 survey results are on the Neighbourhood plan website rather than the PC website.

- A MoP noted many people have not returned the survey.
- Another MoP was concerned that section 2 of the survey requests personal income information - even though the form is anonymous, and said the survey should not be a means test.
- Comment that the RCCE are analysing the results, and it was felt they had an interest in building houses as a housing enabler - which feels wrong.
- The village had previously been advised that after one site was built, the area would not be revisited – yet 10 years on the village is being considered for housing development again.
- Concern expressed over impact on current house values - need to find the correct site.

Cllr Routledge noted:

- As a PC no decisions have been made about numbers or composition of possible housing.
- The design displayed by Hastoe for eight properties was illustrative and not based on historic not current need.
- A new survey is needed as the current survey validity expires in March 2025.
- If zero people request housing, then no site will go ahead. If there is a need, it is still dependent on Finances being available.
- There can be no discussion on the type/size properties until the results of the survey are known next year, however, Cllr Routledge will try to find the criteria that are used to choose house types.
- Survey closes on 20 December so results will not be available until late January at the earliest due to the Christmas break.
- Results will be made public as soon as available.
- If there is a need for housing, the Parish Council will set up a working group with villagers to run a project for Affordable Housing.

Public and other Councillors:

- A MoP noted none of the Councillors live in Sarcel where the proposed housing could be.
- Cllr White expressed an understanding of the frustrations of people, but stressed we need to wait for more information.

- It was stated that it is difficult for local children to get places in the village school.
- The Onley may be converted to nine flats, but these will not be part of Affordable Housing.
- A traffic survey for Sarcel may be useful as it is very busy.
- Cllr Hollands noted the village has decreased in size from the 1800s when it was over 3,000.
- It is important for the Council to respond to the needs of the village.

106.1. County & District Councillors

- Cllr Thorogood said there were over 4,000 responses to the minerals/gravel plan so it will be the second half of next year before the council consults the public again.
- Highways have their pre-consultation on the A120 speed limit open until 19 December so residents should respond and mention Kings Lane as well as Water Lane.
- Devolution - There are concerns for Essex as a potential pilot for Unitary Authorities instead of District and County and Borough councils.
- Cllr Walsh advised that Cllr Abrams should be home from hospital later this week. Cllr Walsh had been involved with Coggeshall Neighbourhood plan and felt confident the process would be democratic. BDC have some Housing Experts who may be able to provide guidance.
- BDC last full meeting had two motions accepted in its November meeting regarding Recycling and the Live Well brand.
- Local plan Call for Sites - key date is May 2025 with more consultation, scoping and issues.

There was a query from the public as to whether Twin Oaks is now a legal site.

106.2. Parish Paths: Nothing to report.

106.3. Village Hall Report: Sound Clouds working well to damp sound (funded by Lottery Grant), Solar panels just need batteries installed. There are plans to refurbish toilets and upgrade heating. Bar doing well. Panto on 7 December, VE celebration booked Hall 10 May.

106.4. Community Shop: No verbal report as busy meeting

106.5. **CANS:** Report submitted. Request for Grant funding for boarding costs for Kez the Kestrel who was rehabilitated for Stisted by Colchester Owl Rescue. Held two Wreath Making workshops to raise funds including some donations made specifically for Team Wilder who help to care for Rolfes and Brooks reserves. In 2025 there will be about 200 trees and hedgerow plants donated to Stisted by the Woodland Trust for planting out

107. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 November 2024 were a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr White and seconded Cllr Hollands & Cllr McMillan and approved by all who attended the meeting.

108. MEETING ACTIONS REPORT

- Gutters on Pavilion repaired.
- Defib Kiosk door replaced; kiosk now needs paint in better weather.
- Parish Magazine in hand - next issue in February but need more volunteers to deliver.
- Gladwish - the ditch and hedging are privately owned, and the byway path is Highways so Highways will only respond to damage to the path.
- Streetlights fixed.
- Three posts fixed on the Play Equipment
- Barrier by bridge on Kings Lane still being chased for ownership and action.
- Signs for litter picking and playing field ordered.
- Website - still awaiting completion of setting up emails.

109. PLANNING MATTERS

109.1. Planning Applications

- i.24/02102/ELD Application for Certificate of Lawfulness for an Existing Use - this does not require comment

109.2. Recent Planning Results

- i.As shown on agenda with Glebe House outbuildings granted and Kings Barn Garden Room refused.

110. FINANCE

110.1. **Bank Reconciliation:** Approved. New deposit account requested but pending processing.

110.2. **Payments & Transfers:** Approved as below.

Future Statutory payments							
Date to pay	method	Payee	Nett	Reason	VAT	Total	
28/11/2024	BACS	Clerk salary	£ 760.40	Salary	0	£ 760.40	Clerks Salary
BACS Payments for approval prior to payment:							
06/12/2024	BACS	Forrester Hughes	£926.25	Repairs to multigym 3 posts	£185.25	£1,111.50	Repairs required RoSPA
06/12/2024	BACS	Horizon	£1,046.00	Gross cutting	£0.00	£1,046.00	Annual contract
06/12/2024	BACS	EALC	£240.00	Training committees and minues	£48.00	£288.00	For Cllr Routledge and Clerk

110.3. Budget Approval

- The budget was reviewed, with the change in employers NI included and the precept calculation approved ready for submission to BDC at £21k. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the budget and precept. Proposed Cllr White, seconded Cllr Nurse and approved by all.
 - Also, for the minutes, there will be a further £6,000 grant from Hawthorne Charitable Trust in 2025 for the Play Area. The council noted thanks to Hawthorne and will send a letter. **Action** Clerk
- Cllr White left the meeting at 8.50.

111. COMMUNITY, RECREATION & MAINTENANCE

111.1. Neighbourhood Plan

Assessments complete and it is now with Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England pending final examination and referendum next year.

111.2. S 137 Grant Applications and spend

Grants were discussed and approved as follows:

- Archives £85 for subscriptions to help the archive (Proposed Cllr McMillan seconded Cllr Powers, agreed by all with one abstention).
 - Montefiore £200 towards improving electrics and heating (Proposed Cllr Powers, seconded Cllr Hollands, agreed by all).
 - Village Shop £200 towards facilities for Saturday Coffee Mornings (Proposed Cllr Nurse, seconded Cllr Powers agreed by all).
 - Village Hall £300 towards maintenance and upkeep of grounds (Proposed and seconded Cllrs Powers and Routledge agreed by all)
- It was **RESOLVED** to approve and pay all Grants. Proposed and seconded Cllrs Powers and Routledge and approved by all.
- CANS – to reimburse rehabilitation fees for Kestrel from Stisted. This money will come from the CANs reserve with S137 tick.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and pay the CANS Grant. Proposed Cllr Hollands and seconded Cllr Powers and approved by all.

ACTION Clerk to arrange payment of all Grants.

111.3. Playing Fields Update

- Youth team have now had two football matches on the playing field. Usage will be weather dependent.
- Location for memorial tree was discussed and suggested it could be on the right side as you enter from the Booking Urban/Onley end, near the CANS patch of Long Grass towards the garage of Seven Winds, but not on the boundary. Cllr Routledge offered to mark the exact spot on a map for the Clerk to communicate to the relevant MoP. (Less potential damage not too close to play equipment).
- Hawthorne Charitable Trust has kindly given a grant in 2024 and are proposing a grant in 2025 with both for the recreation ground. A survey of the village's need for playground equipment will be needed in advance.

111.4. Affordable Housing in Stisted

- Repairs for Hastoe Housing and streetlamp are apparently in hand but will be monitored. The streetlamp is still not fixed. Cllr Routledge offered to speak with RCCE about the situation.
- Survey had 97 responses by Monday and is still ongoing, so good responses compared to other surveys in Essex.

111.5. Parish Magazine: Discussed under action plan.

111.6. Parish Action Plan: Defer until another meeting.

111.7. Remote Attendance at Meetings

- Cllr Routledge asked that the responses be emailed to him.
- It was agreed that Cllr Routledge could submit a single response.

112. INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- New dog poo bin near the Defib Kiosk.
- Action Plan and committees for next agenda.

113. NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 8 January 2025 at 7:30p.m. at the **Montefiore Institute**.

114. CLOSE OF MEETING: The meeting closed at *9.10 pm*.

BRADWELL NEWS

Braintree Community Policing Team - Save the Date!

Following the positive feedback from the Op Growth meeting with PCSO Jones at the Bradwell Village Hall in November, another date has been arranged for Saturday 1 March.

The Team will be available for Councillors and/or other community members to speak with them in relation to any concerns they may have regarding the parish and will be at Bradwell Village Hall between 3 – 3.30pm (please note that, whilst there is every intention to be here at this time, as an emergency service, and in extreme cases, they may have to be called away).

Braintree District Council Refuse and Recycling Consultation

Braintree District Council is undertaking an eight-week consultation with all residents on its proposals to make major changes to its household waste and recycling collection service (please see images of the proposals below). These proposals aim to:

- Improve the quality of the recyclable materials they collect
- Reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfill
- Meet new recycling targets and support climate change ambitions
- Comply with new legislation, Simpler Recycling
- Improve the financial sustainability of the waste service



All residents are encouraged to have their say by completing the on-line survey, found here www.braintree.gov.uk/wasteconsultation, or by contacting BDC's Customer Services Centre at csc@braintree.gov.uk or

calling 01376 552525, who will help to ensure they have an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposals.

The consultation ends at midnight Sunday 2 March 2025, so please take the opportunity to have your say!

BRADWELL WITH PATTISWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The Bradwell with Pattiswick Parish Council meets on the **second Monday of each month** (excluding August) at **7.30pm in the Bradwell Village Hall**, Church Road, CM77 8EP.

The role of the Parish Council is to discuss and make decisions on a wide range of subjects, including to:

- give views on planning applications and other proposals that affect the parish;
- undertake projects and schemes that benefit local residents;
- work in partnership with other bodies to achieve benefits for the parish;
- alert relevant authorities to problems that arise or work that needs to be undertaken;
- help the other tiers of local government keep in touch with their local communities.

All parish council meetings are open to the press and public, and we **encourage and welcome residents** of all ages to come and let us know what they think about their parish and what should be happening in it. You can also contact the Clerk at clerktohppc@outlook.com

In addition to the regular meetings, we occasionally have extra meetings to discuss specific subjects and also have an Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting in May of each year.

The regular meeting dates have been scheduled for 2025 as follows:

13 January	14 July
10 February	No meetings in August
10 March	8 September
14 April	13 October
12 May - Annual Parish Council Meeting as well as the Parish Council Meeting	10 November
9 June	8 December

Please note that these dates may be subject to change, so please check back regularly for the latest information.

All agendas for parish meetings are published three days before the meeting and are placed on noticeboards in both Bradwell and Pattiswick as well as listed on the Parish Council website, which has lots of other up-to-date information.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU!

Your Village Needs You!

There are a number of ways in which you can support your village throughout the year and if you are able to give some of your time, it is very much welcome by the Parish Council. Here is where you can get involved:

Bradwell, Pattiswick & Stisted Newsletter

With effect from February this year, and going forward, all households in the Bradwell, Pattiswick and Stisted parishes will receive a **free copy** of the newsletter. While volunteers have already kindly offered to assist with delivering the newsletters across the parish, more volunteers would be very much welcome - even if you can help deliver to the neighbours in your road. If this is something you can help with, either in Bradwell or Pattiswick, please let the Parish Clerk know by e-mailing clerktohppc@outlook.com

Parish Litter Picks

Bradwell with Pattiswick Parish Council aims to organise two litter picks each year, one in the Spring, the other in the Autumn. It also provides for the amenity vehicle to be available to residents free of charge, to save them booking a slot at a recycling centre. The dates planned for 2025 are **Saturday 12 April** and **Saturday 13 September** and it would be great to have lots more residents to come along and help support this.

Volunteers are provided with the appropriate equipment to keep them safe and are allocated a small area in the village to tidy. The actual litter pick itself only lasts an hour and, not only is it a great way of helping to keep our village look nice, but it gives you the opportunity of meeting

other residents, finishing with refreshments in the village hall! These events will be advertised nearer the date with instructions of when and where to meet.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

One of the things mentioned by residents in the recent Local Plan questionnaires was a request to reinstate the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the village. The Parish Council is very keen to act on this feedback and, following a presentation at January Parish Council meeting by the Braintree District Neighbourhood Watch Deputy Co-ordinator, it was agreed this is something they will take forward. The Parish Council is now considering how best to operate this within the village, however, **in order for a successful Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to work, volunteers will be required.** Typically, this will be to assist with dropping leaflets to residents, handing out stickers and useful information, as well as advertising events. More information will be circulated in due course, but in the meantime, it would be helpful if anyone able to assist with setting this up could please let the Parish Clerk know, clerktohppc@outlook.com

Bradwell with Pattiswick Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 9 December 2024 at Bradwell Village Hall, Church Road, Bradwell
Present: Cllr Tony Dunn (Chair), Cllr Glenn Lockey (Vice-Chair), Cllr Adam Deighton, Cllr Antony Harding, Cllr Michael Turner
In attendance: Mrs. Nicki Watkins, Clerk & RFO, Nigel Allsopp, National Highways Route Manager in Essex, Nijantha Kirupakaran, National Highways Engineering Team Manager (Road Safety), Alan Lindsay, Transportation Planning & Infrastructure Manager, Cllr Playle, County Councillor for Witham Northern, Cllr Tom Walsh, District Councillor, Coggeshall Ward. Six members of the public were in attendance.

24-5/189 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair declared the meeting open at 7.30pm and welcomed those present. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Evans and Kinder.

24-5/190 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members of the Council are subject to the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020 (The Revised Code), adopted at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 13 May 2024. Appendix B requires Councillors to register and disclose pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.

Cllr Turner declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda items 24-5/198 and 24-25/199 as a member of the Village Hall Management Committee, where a request was made to consider contributing to defibrillator training as well as considering potential grants to the Village Hall.

Cllr Harding declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 24-5/199, as family member of the grass cutting contractor.

24-5/191 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND OTHER MATTERS THAT ARE OF MUTUAL INTEREST

The Clerk had received an e-mail from a resident regarding concerns about the increased parking on The Street. The Parish Council was aware of this issue and the Chair would raise this under the next item with discussions with National Highways and Essex Highways.

The landowner of Bridge Hall Barn was in attendance as he wanted to present his case for proposing his land in the recent ‘Call for Sites’ exercise. The Chair advised that he had three minutes to speak in line with the Parish Council’s Standing Orders. This would also be discussed under item 24-5/201.

First, the landowner was unaware of the initial ‘Call for Sites’, hence his recent submission and was aware that his submission might not be approved. He considered the village to currently be ‘disjointed’ and that Bradwell remained ‘untouched’ with ‘no pub or no shop’. He considered his proposal to offer the land for development would assist with linking Hollies Road to the rest of Bradwell village, creating housing and an extended, thriving community, able to support a shop and pub. He thought the Parish Council and residents ‘short-sighted’ in

rejecting the use of the land for housing, be it affordable housing or housing for families, and they had not considered the benefits this could bring to developing a community.

The Chair responded by saying that villagers currently had access to a restaurant (previously a pub), a convenience store in the BP garage and that the village hall offered a number of social events and activities that villagers could enjoy. Responses from the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire suggested that villagers and residents did not want expansion in the village.

In order to justify building a doctors surgery, the population in Bradwell would have to increase significantly (to over 3,500), which would then put pressure on other areas such as roads. All traffic from the proposed development would have to enter and exit via Hollies Road, which was on a blind bend. School children needed to use public transport, to get to school, requiring children to walk across Hollies Road to the A120 bus stop, where the speed limit is 60 mph and there is no safe crossing. He noted that, BRAD2407 (the land west of Bridge Hall Barn) was too small for the Local Plan and that it had been proposed that the land behind Rectory Meadow could be used for biodiversity net gain. The Parish Council had prepared a response to these latest 'Call for Sites' locations, which he would refer to under agenda item 24-4/201.

24-5/192 & 24-5/193 NATIONAL HIGHWAYS & ESSEX HIGHWAYS

The Parish Council had invited representatives from National Highways and Essex Highways to present residents' questions and concerns collated from the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires, which had been circulated to Mr Allsopp and Mr Lindsay ahead of the meeting. The Chair talked through each point in turn:

- Speed limit on the A120 to reduce to 30mph: Mr Allsopp said this would not be possible as it was a trunk road, but the plan was to reduce the speed limit along the A120 to 50mph, dropping to 40mph. Ms Kirupakaran said there were plans to introduce speed cameras to the entry of Bradwell village.
- Speed limit through Bradwell village: Mr Lindsay thought this might be possible if raised with the local highways panel. Cllr Playle thought

it was more likely to be considered once the Speed Management Policy was completed later in 2025.

- Re-routing of the A120 away from Bradwell village: Mr Allsopp confirmed there were currently no plans for this. Cllr Walsh thought this should be a matter for discussion at some point and was aware there was currently no funding or clarity for this incentive. Mr Lindsay added there were a number of strategies being looked at currently but that speed management & pace of movement on the A120 was a priority.
- Traffic controls at The Street and A120 - possible roundabout or extending the yellow lines: It had been brought to the Parish Council's attention on more than one occasion that the number of vehicles parked along The Street by Waduds had increased, restricting visibility for cars coming into the Village, and impacting residents crossing the road or using the pavements. It was thought a car paint spraying business was being run by a resident on Coggeshall Road who used The Street to park his cars. Mr Lindsay noted this and would ask whether consideration could be given to extending the yellow lines. The Clerk would contact the Planning Enforcement Team to report the impact of the business on the village.
- Junction at Hollies road and Bridge Hall Road: Residents raised the danger of this junction and the difficulties in crossing. Where the speed limit out of the village increases from 40mph to 50mph and the dual carriageway allows overtaking, residents did not consider it safe to use and the speed limit too high. Children used public transport to get to school and needed to cross to get to the bus stop, as did residents (including cyclists and horse riders). Mr Allsopp agreed to ask about reducing the speed limit here. Residents also raised the dangerous junction at Kings Lane going towards Stisted, where there had been a recent fatality. Mr Allsopp confirmed that work at the roundabout was planned to improve the road markings for drivers and that he would ask about reducing the speed limit here.
- Restricting HGV traffic through the village: Mr Lindsay said it was not possible to ban all HGVs as there would be occasions when they were required by residents (i.e. removal/deliveries). He noted there was some signage that discouraged HGVs from entering the village.

- 40mph speed limit on Church Road from Bradwell to the Church: In addition to residents' request to reduce the speed limit at this point, a younger resident had suggested installing a mirror at Brunwins Cottages where the cars come via Tippet's Wade and to improve the visibility. Mr Lindsay would ask about both these points.

- Lack of and improvements to public footpaths and cycle paths: The footpath at Forge Crescent needed improvement. There was no pavement at Hollies Road, yet there was planning permission for some new homes and children used the road to access the bus stops. Mr Allsopp and Mr Lindsay would raise this as part of the on-going work. The cycle way to Coggeshall and Colchester needed improvement. Mr Allsopp confirmed they were currently looking at a 4ft wide cycleway, but it would not be possible to widen the whole stretch as some sections were not that wide. Cllr Walsh noted that the Greenways North Essex Cycle Unit had campaigned for, and been granted, improvements to cycle paths which did not require paving over the paths. Mr Allsopp added that National Highways were also looking to extending the footpaths to Marks Farm.

Cllr Lockey asked whether the issue of installing White Gates at the entrances to the village could now be considered. Mr Allsopp had no objection to this and given there was a new funding scheme for cameras as part of speed limit measures, thought it could be considered and funded as part of that. He would raise this but would have more information early in the new year and was willing to attend the February meeting to update Councillors. Ms Kirupakaran added that this could be looked at as part of the feasibility study. Cllr Turner asked whether cameras at the traffic lights could also be considered as part of this. Ms Kirupakaran would revert back on this.

Mr Allsopp, Ms Kirupakaran and Mr Lindsay left the meeting at 8.25pm

24-5/194 A120 BRADWELL TO MARKS TEY - SPEED LIMIT ORDER

National Highways is consulting on the proposed speed limit order along the A120 Bradwell to Marks Tey. The Parish Council conveyed

their support to National Highways of all speed limiting proposals under item 24-5/192.

24-5/195 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

i. Cllr Playle reported on the following:

- Essex County Council had submitted its white paper on devolving the County Council and moving to a unitary system across the county. This would be a substantial change for Essex, but there would be no change to Parish Councils.
- The repairs to Hollies Road were outstanding but in hand.
- He was awaiting the Parish Council's application for the Locality Fund. The Clerk noted that the Parish Council had agreed to apply for £1,000 to contribute towards the cost of improving the path to the playing field. She awaited two further quotes, but the ones received to date were not cheap and, as the Parish Council needed to ensure they were getting the best value, depending on the quote, they would need to decide whether to go ahead. Cllr Playle agreed to note the Parish Council's request for £1,000 and the Clerk would provide him with the supporting information of the cost of installing the path once the other two quotes were received. The Parish Council agreed to advise Cllr Playle, should they decide not to proceed with the path, to enable him to reallocate the funds.

ii. Cllr Walsh reported on the following:

- Cllr Abrams had been released from hospital and making good progress, he had been pleased to receive all the good wishes.
- The deadline for Braintree District Council's Call for Sites exercise had been extended. 309 sites had been submitted across the district which Gabrielle Spray, Cabinet Member for Planning, and Infrastructure at BDC, had called 'alarming'. It was important to remember that not all sites would be approved, and it was anticipated that site allocations and policies would be considered by the Local Plan Sub-Committee from May 2025. Councillors would communicate the outcome to Parish Councils.
- With references to the new Government's deregulation of the planning process, he noted that BDCs Local Plan was extended to 2041, and the proposed 35% increase in housing, totalling approximately

10,000 new houses across the district. This would equate to 1098 houses a year across the wholes of Braintree.

- BDC would be undertaking an eight-week consultation on major changes to waste and recycling collections for both residents and businesses. This was in response to the changes in Government regulations, with one of the proposals to include a new bin for glass collections. Announcement to changes would be made after the consultation.

Cllrs. Playle and Walsh left the meeting at 8.40pm

24-5/196 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2024

Councillors received and considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 November 2024 and resolved to approve them as a true record. The minutes were signed by the Chair. Proposed: Cllr Lockey; Seconded: Cllr Turner; All in favour, RESOLVED.

24-5/197 FINANCIAL REPORTS

i. Councillors received and approved the financial statements to 30 November 2024. There were no queries. Proposed: Cllr Lockey; Seconded Cllr Dunn; All in favour, RESOLVED.

ii. Councillors approved payments for November 2024. There were no queries. Proposed: Cllr Lockey; Seconded Cllr Dunn; All in favour, RESOLVED.

24-5/198 DEFIBRILATOR TRAINING

At the November Parish Council meeting, Councillor Turner advised that the village hall would be organising defibrillator training for all residents of the Parish. This took place on 25 November at £10 per head, and 19 residents had attended. It had been exceptionally well received and the village hall was looking to hold another session later in 2025. With that in mind, and given that the defibrillator was owned by, and an asset of, the Parish Council, the village hall asked whether the Parish Council would consider contributing to half the cost of the training. Councillors considered the training to be of great benefit to the village and unanimously agreed to contribute to half the cost of the training that had taken place and any future training events arranged by the village hall.

The Clerk would send a grant claim form to Cllr Turner to complete and return, along with the receipts from the training. Proposed: Cllr Dunn; Seconded Cllr Lockey; All in favour, RESOLVED. ACTION - CLERK

24-5/199 BUDGET 2025/26

The first draft of the budget had been discussed at the November meeting (24-5/175) and the Clerk had updated the spreadsheet accordingly. She advised Councillors that the precept request form had arrived that day and would need to be discussed and considered at the next meeting. She thought Councillors might want to finalise the budget at that point. Councillors agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting.

24-5/200 PLANNING MATTERS: For Information:

i. Rivenhall Integrated Waste Management Facility. Application to vary (change) Environmental Permit, EPR CP3906LP

Indaver Rivenhall Limited outline a summary of the proposed changes within their application as follows:

- The phased construction and operation of the IWMF.
- Introducing an emission point to water to allow for the discharge of uncontaminated surface water run-off from Upper Lagoon.
- Removing the electricity generation limit as required by Table S1.1, to align with the ongoing application for a Development Consent Order.
- The processing of additional non-hazardous EWC codes within the CHP Plant.

Indaver are in the process of developing a Citizens Space page to allow consultation to commence allowing the documents to be viewed by interested parties. They will provide a further briefing to confirm that the page and information regarding the application is available, ready for comments. The briefing will also provide further information regarding the consultation process, which they will advertise within 30 days on their website and within the local papers. Individuals and organisation will also be invited to comment on the application which will be placed on their public registers.

New Applications/Variations:

i. 24/02460/HH - The Old Rectory, Rectory Meadow Bradwell Essex CM77 8EX

Demolish the existing detached two car garage and construct a new two storey three car garage with study over.

The Parish Council had no comments and did not object to the application.

Applications determined: None advised.

24-5/201 FURTHER SITES SUBMITTED TO THE ‘CALL FOR SITES’ FOR THE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

The ‘Call for Sites’ exercise had been extended and two further sites had been identified in the Bradwell with Pattiswick Parish. The Chair had prepared a draft response from the Parish Council which had been received by Councillors ahead of the meeting for consideration.

Councillors had heard from the landowner (24-5/191) and considered this, along with the draft response. The Parish Council unanimously agreed that it would not support the applications.

Draft response:

Ref: Proposed Use Address

BRAD2407 Housing/Employment/Special housing/Mixed use/shops/self-build/Affordable Housing Land West of Bridge Hall Barn, Hollies Road, Bradwell, Essex

Comments: Planning permission for more than one dwelling on land adjacent to BRAD2407 has already been refused (see the Planning history for BRAD2407).

The design capacity of the A120 is 16,500 vehicle movements per day. The current load is in excess of 25,000 vehicle movements per day. DfT Circular 1/2020 makes clear that no new junctions will be permitted onto the A120 until a relief road has been built (unlikely in the lifetime of the revised Local Plan - 2041).

All traffic from the proposed development would have to enter and exit via Hollies Road. Hollies Road is used as a rat-run by motorists trying to avoid the Marks Farm and Galleys Corner roundabout. Access to Hollies Road would be too close to the junction with the A120 for safe use.

Hollies Road has no pavement and there is no safe crossing on the A120 at its junction with Hollies Road and Bridge Hall Road. Essex County Council does not provide free transport for Bradwell young people to get to school. Children will have to walk along Hollies Road to the A120 bus stop to catch the bus to school. They will have to cross the A120 where the speed limit is 50mph and there is no safe crossing. There are no amenities within walking distance, no shops, no schools, no doctors surgeries, no dentists, only a restaurant on the other side of the A120. There is no mains drainage and no gas supply.

While there is an infrequent and unreliable bus service connecting Bradwell to Colchester and Braintree, residents would need to use cars for transport to go shopping and for employment. Bradwell residents have an above average car ownership as a result of the poor public transport.

Bradwell dwellings typically have large back gardens, and this is to be encouraged in a rural location and for food security. Planning permission for one dwelling on land adjacent to BRAD2047 23/01026/FUL (4,500 sqm) was granted on condition that an orchard and an area for growing vegetables would be provided in line with the Neighbourhood Plan Design guidelines.

Accordingly, BRAD2047 would accommodate at most two dwellings, which is below the threshold to go in the Local Plan.

The site is not suitable for sustainable development.

BRAD2408 Housing/Employment/Special housing/Mixed use/shops/self- build/Affordable Housing Land South of Bridge Hall Barn, Hollies Road, Bradwell

Comments: Background: It has been suggested by the developer that the land between Rectory Meadow and Hollies Road should be developed to join up the Village and the Hollies Road/Bridge Hall Road Communities. These sites (BRAD2047 and BRAD2048) do not fulfil that objective – they merely create isolated developments.

It is suggested that expansion of the village through these sites would justify employment, special housing, mixed use, shops, self-build, affordable housing, and a doctors surgery.

Population statistics (2021 Census)

Bradwell with Pattiswick 555	Geographic area
Stisted 661	Tye Green 0.7362 sq. km
Tye Green 1415	Coggeshall 1,569 sq. km
Cressing (inc. Tye Green) 1987	Silver End 5.047 sq. km
Coggeshall 3765	Bradwell 9.734 sq. km
Silver End 3915	Cressing 10.52 sq. km
	Stisted 12.39 sq. km

Discussion: Cressing does not justify a doctors surgery, while Coggeshall and Silver End do. The population of Bradwell would have to increase to over 3,500 to justify a surgery.

The proposed development would therefore need to provide homes for at least 3,000 people.

Tye Green is urban in character – its population is 1415 and the area covered is 0.73 sq. km

To accommodate 3,000 people, an area of > 1.5 sq. km is required

The proposed area for development is less than the current development envelope for Bradwell Village, which accommodates only half of the Parish population i.e. 100 dwellings and 250 people.

The proposed area cannot justify the population required for a doctors surgery.

The proposal is for employment, special housing, mixed use, shops, self-build, and affordable housing.

Bradwell has a shop in the garage/service station at the east end of the village, which is too far to walk from this proposed site.

Stisted has a Community Shop in the centre of the village.

The shop/Post Office in Tye Green has just closed. There are no other shops in Cressing.

It is unlikely that the proposed development would justify a viable shop, let alone shops.

This leaves employment, special housing, mixed use, self-build, and affordable housing.

Impact on the A120: The design capacity of the A120 is 16,500 vehicle movements per day. The current load is in excess of 25,000 vehicle movements per day. DfT Circular 1/2020 makes clear that no new

junctions will be permitted onto the A120 until a relief road has been built (unlikely in the lifetime of the revised Neighbourhood Plan).

All traffic from the proposed development would have to enter and exit via Hollies Road. Access to Hollies Road would be on a blind bend.

Due to the poor public transport services available in Bradwell, residents are forced to use cars for transport. 92% of households have at least one car. 28.19% have one car; 36.56% have two cars and 27.13% have three or more cars.

16.22% of the Bradwell population are not old enough to drive a car.

If accommodation for 250 people is to be provided...

92% of 250 people will want to drive a car – 230 cars, which suggests an additional 400 vehicle movements onto the A120 every day.

[Context: The IWMF is restricted to 850 vehicle movements per day.]

All of this traffic would have to access the road network via Hollies Road. Such an increase in A120 traffic is unacceptable.

Road Safety: Hollies Road has no pavement and there is no safe crossing on the A120 at its junction with Hollies Road / Bridge Hall Road. At least 15% of the population will be of school age. Essex County Council does not provide free transport for Bradwell young people to get to school.

40 children will have to walk along Hollies Road to the A120 bus stop to catch the bus to school. They will have to cross the A120 where the speed limit is 60mph and there is no safe crossing.

Design: Bradwell dwellings typically have large back gardens, and this is to be encouraged in a rural location and for food security. Planning permission for one dwelling on land adjacent to BRAD2047

23/01026/FUL (4,500 sqm) was granted on condition that an orchard and an area for growing vegetables would be provided in line with the Neighbourhood Plan Design guidelines. Similarly, BRAD2047 would accommodate at most two dwelling or two semi-detached dwellings, which is below the threshold to go in the Local Plan.

This requirement lowers the housing density below that of an urban settlement (i.e. Cressing Tye Green) and means the provision of additional services would not be viable for BRAD2048, increasing

dependency on car transport to Braintree and Coggeshall on the very busy and accident-prone A120.

Conclusion: This site is not suitable for sustainable development.

Proposed: Cllr Dunn; Seconded Cllr Lockey; All in favour,
RESOLVED

24-5/202 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFRESH

The Chair had incorporated the feedback from residents and data provided by RCCE in the draft Neighbourhood Plan document which had been received by Councillors, summarising the changes. He sought approval from Councillors of the changes and once agreed would formulate an Action Plan. Proposed: Cllr Lockey; Seconded Cllr Deighton; All in favour, RESOLVED

The Chair would be meeting Alan Massow on 12 December to discuss the housing policy as there was no evidence that more housing was required in the Parish. He noted that the age profile had shifted since the last Plan was compiled in 2019 and there was now an older population. He referred to the earlier discussion with National Highways and Essex Highways which would be helpful to formulate the Action Plan. The Clerk had previously contacted PC James Draper and Clive Stewart (Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for the Parish) but had yet been able to secure a date when they were able to attend a Parish Council meeting. She would contact them again and invite them to the January meeting.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Parish Council had received a grant from Groundworks UK for the Neighbourhood Plan refresh exercise and that any unspent funds would be refunded.

ACTION - CLERK

24-5/203 PLAYING FIELD: Cllr Kinder had advised the Clerk that there was nothing to report other than the Playing Field looked good after its recent cut. She said the Contractor was keen to cut the brambles to the side of the path. Cllr Lockey said this was something that the individual who laid the path could do at the time.

24-5/204 PATH TO THE PLAYING FIELD: As noted in item 24-5/195, the Clerk had still not received all of the quotes. It was agreed to move this item to January for discussion and consideration along with

the budget, and to approve whether or not to go ahead with the work and whether the Locality Fund was required for this project.

24-5/205 FOOTPATHS

There was nothing to report from the Footpath's Officer.

24-5/206 A120 FOOTPATHS & POSSIBLE PSPO REQUEST

The Chair referred to the ongoing complaints to the Parish Council in increased 'activity' in the various laybys and footpaths. He said that, in order to request a PSPO (Public Space Protection Order), the Parish Council needed to build a body of evidence to present to BDC for consideration.

Cllr Lockey advised of a recent incident near to his property whereby a parent was collecting her daughter and had parked outside, only for someone to attempt to get into her car. She was naturally very shaken and upset, and he had advised that she report this to the police. The Chair asked that details of this incident be forwarded to the Clerk to contribute towards making a case. The Chair asked Councillors to consider other legal ways in which evidence could be obtained.

24-5/207 LINKS SOLAR FARM

The Clerk reported that she had sent a further e-mail to Low Carbon on 25 November, requesting payment of an invoice for reimbursement of legal fees, and answers to the following:

- When the panels will be energised;
- When the Parish Council could expect its first payment and how much would this be;
- When the e-doc could be expected for signature.

To date there had been no response (previous e-mails had been sent on 10th, 16th, and 28th October) so she would write a formal letter advising that the Parish Council would be seeking legal advice should if they not receive a reply. She would also contact the Parish Council in Royden who were using Low Carbon to install their solar farm to see if they were also experiencing problems with the lack of contact.

ACTION – CLERK

24-5/208 CCTV/FLY-TIPPING IN BRADWELL VILLAGE

The Clerk has been trying to progress the installation of the CCTV camera at the recycling bank and had received a form from BDC

requesting the landowners sign to discharge BDC from any expense, liability, or claims. Ceres Property Management (acting for Bradwell Estates) are content for the pole and CCTV to be installed but not willing to accept any liability for the camera, pole or anything relating to it. Councillors agreed that the Parish Council should accept this providing this is covered under its insurance. The Clerk would seek confirmation and complete this section of the form.

ACTION - CLERK

24-5/209 PARISH NEWSLETTER

The Chair confirmed that, from January 2025, the parish newsletter would be jointly owned with Stisted Parish Council. The first issue would be produced in February and be delivered free to every resident in the Parish. With regards to delivering the newsletter, there had been welcome offers from some residents in Bradwell but also an offer from a younger member of the village would be prepared to undertake this as a paid role. The Parish Council would discuss this again in January and when it would be better placed to consider whether there was a requirement to employ someone to assist with delivering this.

24-5/210 ANGLIAN WATER FREE WATER SAVING PRODUCTS

The Clerk had received information from Anglian Water offering free water saving products such as bath buoys (a blow-up device that fits in a bath to help reduce the amount of water needed for children's bath times) and reduced flow shower heads to assist with reducing the amount of water coming from the shower without effecting the 'showering experience'. The Clerk agreed to advertise these products to residents via Facebook and the Parish Council website, encouraging those residents who would benefit most to e-mail her so an order could be placed. ACTION - CLERK

24-5/211 RECTORY MEADOW

The Chair updated Councillors on the Friends of Rectory Meadow Ltd, **which was separate from the work of the Parish Council.** This relates to a dispute between the residents of Residents of Rectory Meadow and a claimed Right of Way for Motor Vehicles to access Land South of Coggeshall Road via Rectory Meadow, leading to High

Court action which is being defended by residents of Rectory Meadow on behalf of the Village.

24-5/212 VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Cllr Harding reported on the following:

- There were still potholes at the recycling bank, which had been previously reported, so he would raise these with Cllr Playle again.
- The cracks in the road at Five Ash Lane and Keepers Lane had still not been repaired, this is something else he would report to Cllr Playle.
- Cllr Harding had undertaken an inspection of the bus shelters and there was nothing requiring urgent action and proposed to discuss his findings at the January meeting.

24-5/213 INFORMATION EXCHANGE & AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Future agenda items:

- 2025/26 final Budget/Precept considerations
- Bus shelters in the Village
- Distribution of the Parish Newsletter
- Quotes for path to the Playing Field

24-5/214 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

- i. The next Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 13 January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Bradwell
- ii. Items for inclusion in the agenda to be sent to the Clerk no later than 12 noon on Friday 3 January 2025.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

ANGLIAN WATER FREEBIES!

Anglian Water are offering some bathroom devices to support customers save water, energy & money. A **Bath Buoy** is a blow-up device that fits in a bath to help reduce the amount of water needed for children's bath times, enabling families to save up to 15 litres per bath time and maybe even more. A **reduced flow shower head** helps to reduce the amount of water coming from the shower by up to five litres per minute, without effecting the showering experience.

If you, or anyone you know, would benefit from one of these devices, please e-mail the Parish Clerk at clerktohppc@outlook.com by **31 January 2025**.

Anglia Water's terms and conditions for their water saving devices can be found here for information:

<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/hidden-pages/community-giveaways-terms-conditions/>

Bradwell with Pattiswick Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 13 January 2025 at Bradwell Village Hall, Church Road, Bradwell

Present: Cllr Tony Dunn (Chair), Cllr Glenn Lockey (Vice-Chair), Cllr Adam Deighton, Cllr Craig Evans, Cllr Antony Harding, Cllr Lesley Kinder, Cllr Michael Turner

In attendance: Mrs. Nicki Watkins, Clerk & RFO, PC James Draper, Braintree Community Safety & Engagement Officer, Essex Police, Simon Attwood, Neighbourhood Watch Deputy Co-ordinator, Braintree District, 11 members of the public were in attendance

24-5/215 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair declared the meeting open at 7.30pm and welcomed those present. Apologies had been received from Cllr Ross Playle, County Councillor for Witham Northern and Cllr Walsh, District Councillor, Coggeshall Ward.

24-5/216 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members of the Council are subject to the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020 (The Revised Code), adopted at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 13 May 2024. Appendix B requires Councillors to register and disclose pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.

Cllrs. Turner and Kinder declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda items 24-25/223, as a member of the Village Hall Management Committee, where the Budget was being discussed, and requests had been approved to contribute to defibrillator training and give grants to the Village Hall.

24-5/217 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND OTHER MATTERS THAT ARE OF MUTUAL INTEREST

A member of the public referred to recent social media activity regarding a sensitive issue in the village. Whilst the Parish Council had not received any contact relating to this issue, it was not permitted to comment on individual cases, either in person or on social media, and it was important to ensure the process of the official organisations involved was followed. Concern was also raised by a resident regarding, what they considered to be a safeguarding issue in the village. The Parish Council took all concerns seriously, however in this instance it had no authority to act. As PC James Draper was in attendance, he considered and advised that this was a matter requiring discussion outside of the Parish Council meeting. He would take this forward with the individuals concerned.

A member of the public reported the considerable amount of litter and general rubbish along Coggeshall Road by the BP Garage, including at the bus shelter. The Clerk would report this to the Street Scene Team at Braintree District Council and request they attend to this.

ACTION – CLERK

24-5/219 (This item was brought forward) BRAINTREE COMMUNITY SAFETY & ENGAGEMENT OFFICER, ESSEX POLICE

PC James Draper had been invited to discuss concerns and issues raised by residents in the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire. This predominantly related to the laybys in the village where there appeared to be an increase in “offensive” activity. The Chair said that the Parish Council was exploring how it could apply for a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to deter such activity.

PC Draper confirmed that only Braintree District Council could apply a PSPO, which could relate to any disorderly activity such drug taking and drunken/antisocial/sexual behaviour. He suggested it would be helpful for individuals and/or the Parish Council to record when such activity takes place, as it needs to prove and provide evidence on how this behaviour affects the community. He recommended the Parish

Council hold a separate public meeting with residents to discuss all the concerns and how it would go about collating its evidence to present to BDC.

The Chair thanked PC Draper for his advice, noting this would be added to a future agenda for the Parish Council to consider how best to take forward.

PC Draper advised that crime in general across the Braintree District had reduced. He urged residents to report all crimes and reminded them that non-urgent 999 crimes could also be reported either on-line or by dialling 101, as unless it's reported it cannot be reviewed and/or dealt with.

Residents could also use Crimestoppers to report concerns (i.e. drug related, anti-social and suspicious behaviour). He stressed that all reports were completely anonymous (even the Police are unaware of where the report has come from), but it gave the Police an opportunity to patrol the area.

He also referred to the Op Growth incentive that the Braintree Community Policing Team have been trailing, where local police officers patrol a village/town on a particular date and invite residents to join them, providing an opportunity for any concerns/issues about the village and surrounding area to be raised. The last one in Bradwell took place on 23 November, and another is planned for March. The Clerk would advertise the date on the Notice Board, Parish Council website and Facebook in due course.

PC Draper advised there had also been a reduction in Hare Coursing this year, and that the Essex Police Rural Policing Team had been actively advising on how best to tackle the issue.

PC Draper left the meeting at 8.10pm

24-5/218 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR BRAintree DISTRICT

Another request identified in the recent Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire was a request to reinstate a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the parish. Simon Attwood (Deputy Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator for the Braintree District) had been invited to the meeting to explain what was required.

Mr. Attwood explained that there were three levels of Neighbourhood Watch operating across the UK:

- National Association – who provide stickers and a general e-mail, but not general data about the area;
- Essex Association – as above, but hold quarterly meetings where general trends and advice are discussed; and
- District Association – local to villages and towns. Local co-ordinators (volunteers) in each village are responsible for distributing newsletters and leaflets, putting up NHW street signs, providing stickers for bins and windows, issuing personal alarms to those who might benefit, applying street sign, visiting those without internet access (typically more elderly residents). Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators liaise with other parish co-ordinators across the district and meet with local police to discuss issues closer to home and how to tackle those. Localised data is available on crimes that happen across the district which can be made available to residents.

It is up to each village to decide what would work better for their parish, Mr. Attwood's view was that district co-ordination tends to work better for villages, where there is plenty of support from District Co-ordinators. He stressed that it is not the responsibility of the Neighbourhood Watch to tackle crime, that continues to be the responsibility of the police. The starting point was to engage volunteers to decide how best to take the scheme forward.

The Chair thanked Mr. Attwood for his clear explanation and for his time.

The Clerk would pull together the localised crime information circulated by the District Co-ordinator to include in the next newsletter, and she would also encourage volunteers who would be prepared to assist with running a scheme in the parish.

Mr. Stewart left the meeting at 8.25pm

ACTION – CLERK

24-5/220 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Apologies had been received by Cllrs. Playle and Walsh. Both had sent updates which were read by the Chair as follow:

i. Cllr Playle reported on the following:

Devolution Priority Programme - Essex County Council held an Extraordinary Full Council Meeting on 10 January to debate the Government proposals in the recent white paper. A full press release had been issued but, in short it focused on three things:

- Working with central Government, upper tier and lower tier authorities to deliver a mayoral combined county authority with a view to holding a mayoral election in May 2026;
- A commitment in principle to develop a proposal for local government reorganisation (abolition of ECC, and redrawing of district, city and borough councils into unitary authorities);
- Requests the Government to postpone the ordinary elections to Essex County Council due to be held on 1 May 2025, initially by 12 months to May 2026 to enable the Council to focus on developing proposals for devolution and local government reorganisation as prerequisite of taking part in the Government's Devolution Priority Programme.

The next step would be to wait to hear whether Essex has been accepted by the Government to partake in the priority wave of devolution, a response is expected at the end of this month/early February.

Update on the failed reinstatement works at Hollies Road – Cllr Lauren Shaw, Deputy Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport, had advised that, when the team had attended the site, it was noted that the gap in the road had widened, meaning reinstatement would take longer than the permit afforded them. They had therefore, reverted to the council in order to arrange a site meeting to discuss both dates and materials in order to address the concerns.

ii. **Cllr Walsh reported on the following:**

BDC recycling/waste management consultation – proposals for the new waste collection scheme included a third bin for residents to collect glass and for residents to no longer have to use plastic sacks for recycling. Some collections would alternate on a fortnightly or three weekly basis, with other items being collected every week. It was unclear how the new collections would work for those needing

assistance or living in flats. He noted that BDC had done much on this project; members were only recently aware and did not shape new scheme.

Devolution – As per Cllr Playle’s report, Essex (and possibly Southend and Thurrock Councils) had expressed interest to Government on a reform that, if approved, would replace ECC and all Essex Districts with single tier Unitary Authorities and an elected Mayor for which elections may be held in 2026. District Councillors would serve out their current terms, but it is understood that County elections this May would not be held with members extended in office until new authorities take over in 2027. It was noted that, to date, there had been no consultation with members of public or District Councils. Whilst it was considered this incentive would bring local government closer to people, there would be no local/district councils, and some functions would aggregate upwards to new elected Mayors.

Cllr Dennis Abram has been home for a few weeks and making good progress and hopes to be able to start attending PC etc meetings in due course.

24-5/221 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2024

Councillors received and considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 December 2024 and resolved to approve them as a true record.

The minutes were signed by the Chair.

Proposed: Cllr Lockey; Seconded: Cllr Turner; All in favour,
RESOLVED.

24-5/222 FINANCIAL REPORTS

i. Councillors received and approved the financial statements to 31 December 2024. There were no queries.

Proposed: Cllr Turner; Seconded Cllr Kinder; All in favour,
RESOLVED.

ii. Councillors approved payments for December 2024. There were no queries.

Proposed: Cllr Lockey; Seconded Cllr Dunn; All in favour,
RESOLVED.

24-5/230 (This item was brought forward) LINKS SOLAR FARM

The Clerk had written to Beverley Rodbard-Hedderwick (Stakeholder Manager at Links Solar) on 2 January, copied to the CEO, expressing her concern and disappointment at the lack of engagement with the Parish Council regarding the following points:

- Community Benefit Deed had not been sent to the Parish Council for e-signature;
 - Confirmation had not been provided regarding if/when the panels had been energised and whether work at the farm was now complete;
 - Confirmation of when the Parish Council could expect its first payment;
 - Failure to re-imburse the Parish Council's legal fees as outlined in the invoice sent on 10 October 2024, breaching the 30-day payment terms.
- In her letter she had advised that, should there be no response addressing all the issues by 31 January 2025, she would contact Birketts Solicitors again to seek their legal advice.

Councillors considered the negative impact on the Parish Council finances, should Low Carbon be unable to fulfil its commitments. It was agreed that, should there be no further contact by 31 January 2025, the Clerk write to Pritti Patel, Member of Parliament for the area, copied to District and County Councillors, Bradwell Estates and Low Carbon's CEO, making them aware of the situation, seeking their advice and support and highlighting the impact this has, not only to the finances, but the community in general due to the disruption, not to mention the significant loss of crops which could have grown on the field.

ACTION – CLERK

24-5/225 (This item was brought forward) PATH TO THE PLAYING FIELD

At the September 2024 meeting (24-5/131), the Parish Council agreed to make improvements to the path leading to the playing field and that it would apply for a Locality Fund to contribute towards the cost of this. However, from the quotes received to date it had become apparent that the cost of the path was more than originally expected. Even with a grant from the Locality Fund, financing the path from the current

budget would have a detrimental effect on the Parish Council's finances.

It was therefore proposed to postpone this project and consider the cost of this when considering the 2025/26 precept request. The Clerk would add the path to the POSI (Potential Space Improvement Plan).

Proposed: Cllr Evans; Seconded Cllr Turner; All in favour,

RESOLVED

ACTION – CLERK

24-5/223 BUDGET 2025/26

Councillors had agreed the Budget for 2025/26 in principle at the last meeting, and the Clerk had finalised the agreed changes. Councillors were now required to finalise the budget in conjunction, and with consideration to, the precept request for 2025/26.

There were no further changes, and the budget was formally agreed to be adopted.

Proposed: Cllr Turner; Seconded Cllr Evans; All in favour,

RESOLVED.

The Clerk advised that, with regards to the unmetered lighting supplied by SSE, the last invoice paid by the Parish Council was for £88.03, for the period 1-28 February 2024, dated 22 April 2024. She was aware from other Clerks, that SSE were experiencing problems with its on-line billing system and that invoices had not been issued to other councils. Based on the last invoice, it was estimated that the outstanding amount would be in the region of £1,000. As the Parish Council had budgeted for this amount, the Chair suggested that a cheque be prepared for SSE to pay for lighting until the end of March 2025, which would settle the account for the current budget year and fulfil the Parish Council's requirements for the audit.

Councillors agreed this proposal. The Clerk suggested contacting SSE a final time to see if the issue could be resolved and, if not, she would calculate the outstanding amount and prepare a cheque to present at the March meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Dunn; Seconded Cllr Evans; All in favour, **RESOLVED.**

ACTION – CLERK

24-5/224 PRECEPT 2025/26

The Parish Council had received notification from BDC for its 2025/26 precept request. In recent years the Parish Council had resisted increasing this, however the Clerk had met with the Chair to review the budget figures and future finances, and it had become apparent that, unless an increase was applied this year, the Parish Council would fall into a deficit.

Councillors discussed the financial statements, including the impact of income from the solar farm not materialising, the plan to install a path to the playing field, which would have to be a future project, and the requirement to retain 50% in reserves.

Based on this, the Chair proposed submitting a request for £16,900, equating to an increase just over 40% (an annual increase per household of £21.52, approx. £1.79 per month). Councillors agreed there was no choice other than to apply an increase this year and hoped income from Low Carbon did materialise which could be off set against future precepts.

A statement to residents explaining the increase would be prepared and publicised to residents.

Proposed: Cllr Dunn; Seconded Cllr Lockey; All in favour,
RESOLVED.

ACTION – CLERK

24-5/226 PLANNING MATTERS

New Applications/Variances:

i. **24/02562/HH - Erection of Barn** Comments by 14/01/2025

There were no comments from the Parish Council

24-5/227 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFRESH

Following the last meeting, the Chair had revised para 4.55 and the entire (Annex 3) Action Plan. He had met with Alan Massow (Principal Planning Policy Officer at BDC), who had provided comments and suggestions on the documents. He had offered to assist with updating the policy numbers at various sections of the plan if DAC (the Parish Council's Planning Consultants) were unable to do this.

The amended document was now with BDC and DAC for completion. Once this was finalized, the next stage would require the Councillor to hand deliver the document to all residents within the Parish, with a summary of the changes made and asking for residents' agreement to the changes.

The Chair sought resolution to include two further changes, reinstatement of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and to work with BDP and the Police services to try to introduce a PSPO to the area by the Church layby.

Proposed: Cllr Dunn; Seconded Cllr Evans; All in favour, **RESOLVED**

Councillors were reminded that the Parish Council had received a grant from Groundworks UK for the Neighbourhood Plan refresh exercise and that any unspent funds would be refunded.

24-5/228 PLAYING FIELD

Cllr Kinder had nothing to report on the playing field.

24-5/229 FOOTPATHS

There was nothing to report on the footpaths.

Cllr Turner asked whether there had been any further information regarding Footpath. 33, whereby it appeared that damaged undertaken to the bridge had been done deliberately. The Clerk had not been made aware of anything and would contact the Footpath's Officer and report back.

ACTION – CLERK

24-5/231 CCTV/FLY-TIPPING IN BRADWELL VILLAGE

The Clerk had contacted the Parish Council's insurance company who had confirmed that the post and surrounding area would be covered under the Parish Council's insurance policy. BDC had confirmed their equipment and data handling would be covered by their insurance. On that basis the Clerk had completed the permit to proceed which was being processed by BDC. As soon as the Clerk knew when the CCTV would be installed, she would inform the Councillors. She would also advise residents via the website, Facebook and the parish newsletter.

24-5/232 PARISH NEWSLETTER

With effect from February and going forward, all households in the Bradwell, Pattiswick and Stisted parishes would receive a free copy of the newsletter, which would mostly be funded through advertising. Some volunteers have offered to assist with delivering the newsletters across the parish. Should anyone does not receive a copy, they are requested to let the Clerk know, who will pass details on to the Editor. Should anyone have any items for future newsletters, or are interested in advertising in the newsletter, they should e-mail Eleanor McMillan at emcmillan46@gmail.com. Articles need to be sent to her by the 20th of the month preceding publication.

If anyone would like to assist with distributing the newsletter either in Bradwell or Pattiswick they should let the Clerk know.

24-5/233 BUS-STOP INSPECTIONS

Cllr Harding had undertaken an inspection of the bus stops owned by the Parish Council and Councillors had received his report.

Whilst there was nothing urgent to report, Councillors were made aware that the bus stop by the BP garage was structurally in a good state, but there was an amount of rubbish overspilling from the bin. The Clerk would report this when she reports the rubbish along this stretch of Coggeshall Road. The broken glass previously reported at the October meeting, appeared to have been repaired, but this had not been actioned by the Parish Council. Whilst it was previously understood the bus shelter belonged to the Parish Council; the Clerk was asked to confirm this at the next meeting.

Regarding the bus stop along from Waduds going towards Braintree, whilst action was not urgently required, it appeared to be in disrepair. The covering roof was buckled and covered in grass and foliage; the ground around the shelter is uneven and there is a mound of earth higher than the shelter, impacting the framework. There is a tree growing behind the shelter and a number of items of litter and the area looks generally tired. The Chair thought the area around the shelter belonged to Essex Highways and asked Cllr Harding to raise the issue with them and report back at the next meeting.

ACTION – CLLR HARDING/CLERK

24-5/234 ESSEX VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2025

In 2024, the RCCE had reinstated its Essex Village of the Year competition. The Parish Council had decided not to enter at that time given the short notice, however Councillors were asked to consider whether they wanted to enter in 2025 and who would take responsibility for compiling the application.

There was a mixed response from Councillors as to whether the Parish Council should submit an entry for the village. The Clerk was asked to circulate the application form to Councillors for consideration at the next meeting.

ACTION- CLERK

24-5/235 VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Cllr Harding reported on the following:

- The potholes at the recycling centre were yet to be repaired. As the land belongs to Bradwell Estates, Cllr Harding was liaising with Ceres Property and Essex
- The cracks in the road at Five Ash Lane and Keepers Lane remained unrepaired and appeared to be getting worse. Cllr Playle was aware and was taking this forward.

Cllr Kinder had been made aware that a few lorry drivers had used the side of a house situated along by the BP garage as a toilet. This appeared to happen as the facilities at the BP garage were unavailable during the evenings/overnight. With reference to PC Draper's advice, anyone who saw such behaviour should maintain a record and speak to the police for advice.

24-5/236 RECTORY MEADOW

The Chair updated Councillors on the Friends of Rectory Meadow Ltd, which was separate to the work of the Parish Council. This relates to a dispute between the residents of Rectory Meadow and a claimed Right of Way for Motor Vehicles to access Land South of Coggeshall Road via Rectory Meadow, leading to High Court action which is being defended by residents of Rectory Meadow on behalf of the Village.

24-5/237 INFORMATION EXCHANGE & AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Future agenda items:

- 2025 Village of the Year
- Bus shelters
- Holy Trinity Church
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Links Solar Farm

24-5/238 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

- The next Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 10 February 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Bradwell
 - Items for inclusion in the agenda to be sent to the Clerk no later than 12 noon on Friday 31 January 2025.
- The meeting closed at 9.30pm



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Bradwell Village Hall

Pub/Social the last Friday of the
month from 7.30pm
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Future Dates for the diary:
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Everyone Welcome
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ESSEX DEMENTIA CARE

Meetings are held in Bradwell Village Hall, Monday 11.00 - 3.30,
Wednesday & Thursday 11.00 - 4.00, please telephone
01245 363789 to book a place.

Kelly Bleasdale

CRAFT CHAT GROUP

We welcome residents from Bradwell

The craft group meets in The Montefiore Institute, Stisted on
Wednesdays at 1.30pm. See page 6

For further information, please contact:

anitaburnett@btinternet.com

BRADWELL VILLAGE HALL SWAPPING BOX

The swapping box is full to capacity please pop-along and help yourself
to a few books for all the family thus making room for a selection of
new. The box is situated outside the village hall for everyone to use.

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Please note you must have the person you are referring's permission. Lines open Monday to Friday 8am-7pm and Saturday 9am-12pm.



**Essex
Wellbeing Service**



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Stisted Community Shop	8
Claverings Farm Holiday Lodges	9
BritLabels – local printer	10
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