

BRINDLE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish held on 18 March 2024 at 7.30pm

at Brindle Community Hall, Water Street, Brindle, PR6 8NH

Present:	Cllr Darren Cranshaw	Chair
	Cllr David Metcalfe	Vice-Chair
	Cllr Louise Crosdale, Cllr Cath Singleton, Cllr John Baldwin, Cllr John Swann	Parish Councillors
	Cty Cllr Alan Cullens	Chair Lancashire County Council and County Councillor
In attendance:	PC Connor Cross and four members of the public	

Agenda Item:

1 Appointment of Chairman

Cllr Cranshaw was nominated to be appointed Chairman of the meeting.

2 Apologies and Announcements

The meeting was saddened to learn of the passing of Ralph McMullen. Mr McMullen was a former Parish Councillor, founder member of Brindle Historical Society and was an active member of the village community. The meeting stood in silence as a mark of respect and gratitude.

Apologies were received from Cllr Bill Nelson.

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 27.03.2023 were agreed as a true and correct record for signing by the Chair.

4 Annual Review 2023-2024

The Chair presented his annual review of the year:

"Last year's review was dominated by the passing of our then Clerk, Tony Harkness after 40 years of dedicated service to the parish council and people of Brindle. This loss continued into the year under review and Tony will always be remembered.

We were very fortunate to recruit following open competition a new clerk, Katherine Milnes. Katherine has done a fantastic job transforming the way the parish council works and in providing excellent support to councillors.

Katherine was instrumental in developing our new website at www.brindleparishcouncil.org.uk, moving to online banking and modernising the way we operate. Ensuring a clean bill of health on our audit, providing professional advice, guidance and support, Katherine has settled admirably into her role.

His Majesty the King's Coronation was a highlight for the community during the year with a number of local activities to mark this important historical event for our country.

A key focus of the year has been working with local residents on the issue of speeding around the parish. We were pleased to host a meeting with Andy Pratt, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership to discuss this most important issue. The parish council has raised the issue with the County Council as the highways and transportation authority and also Lancashire Police.

Working with local residents we have developed an action plan to help us lobby and work with others to make our roads safer. Actions included setting a Community Speed Watch Scheme, signage and also encouraging reporting incidents and areas of concern on the appropriate websites. The county council are undertaking speeding surveys in the village to help quantify the issue so that mitigations can be put in place.

We are looking at purchasing a Speed Indicator Device (SPID) and will continue to do all we can to improve the situation. I would like to pay tribute to all residents who are doing a great job in raising the profile and helping to promote the message of reducing speed and driving safely.

Planning remained a key area of focus for the Parish Council in considering all applications to ensure they fit in with the character of the parish – with mixed success. We continue to champion the importance of safeguarding the green belt and ensuring development does not impact negatively on the parish. We have supported local community groups, including the Community Hall, Village Show and Brindle Over Fifty Fives. We also provided some funding for the toad survey and species protection work around Smithy Lane and the centre of the village.

Our concern about community safety and crime continues, particularly around Denham Quarry and we were disappointed not to have very much liaison with the Police and will continue to push for more police visibility at this site.

We have been well represented at the Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC) to make sure our voice was heard and also at Chorley Council's Liaison Committee.

We were proud to be finalists in the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition and pleased that St James' Church of England Primary School and Brindle Community were highly commended in these prestigious awards. Well done to all our residents for all that they do to keep the village neat and tidy and everyone at Brindle St James' Primary Schools and the Trustees of Brindle Community Hall for their brilliant work – it is very much appreciated.

We must also mention the Parish Pound which is a great resource and tranquil area for people to enjoy as well as being a collection point for the food bank. We provided a Christmas tree this year which was beautifully decorated by local families who seemed to have great fun. Many thanks to Gemma Webster, her family and other locals for all their work on the Pound. The Webster family continue to make a major contribution to village life.

We were pleased to support Brindle Community Hall with its centenary celebrations with the local community at a fun day. It was great to see that this vision of those returning from the horrors of the First World War of having a place of recreation fit for heroes continues today. It was very appropriate that the current owner of the Brindle Estate, William de-Hamel opened the celebratory event 100 years since Lord Chesham the then owner of the Brindle Estate opened the first hall.

The residents of Top 'oth Lane should be very proud of their work maintaining the innovative library in the old red telephone box and also the home to a de-fibrillator. We were pleased to pay for the replacement of the de-fibrillator pads, which we hope will not be needed.

We are grateful to our district councillors – Councillors Michelle Beach, Alan Cullens and Pauline McGovern – for all that they do on our behalf at Chorley Council. Alan also goes a great job as our Lancashire County Councillor.

We also celebrated the 25 years of valuable service of Councillor John Baldwin and made a presentation to him. The celebration was delayed because of COVID and in fact John has now served some 28 years!

We have started to develop a number of important community projects to pursue next year, which together with increased costs have forced us to increase our parish precept by a relatively small amount, following many years of it remaining the same.

I really appreciate the hard work and support of my vice-chair, David Metcalfe and all Members of the Parish Council for all that they do for Brindle.

Finally, I must place on record my gratitude to Katherine Milnes for her dedicated, professional and excellent service as our clerk.

I commend this report to the Parish Council.

RESOLVED

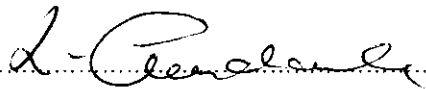
The report be noted.

5. Any Other Business

None

6. Matters Raised by Members of the Public

None

Signed.....  Chair

Dated..... 10/2/25