



**BRAMLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Annual Assembly meeting 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Apologies were received from Mark Vivian and Troy Saunders, 4 members of the public attended the meeting, as well as Surrey Councillor Kevin Deanus and PC Gavin Greenaway and Sergeant Phil Bayman.

1. The meeting minutes held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023 were approved and signed by Mr Leung.

2. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

3. Police Report

PC Gavin Greenaway reported that their main focus is on rural crime. A great deal of resource has been allocated to it and the work is ongoing. This has resulted in a lot of success in seizing vehicles and 2 people have been arrested and subsequently bailed with strict conditions for the killing of lambs at a local farm.

Following a spate of burglaries stolen items have been recovered in Surrey and Sussex and returned to their owners.

Test purchases have been carried out in 6 local shops using underage police cadets to attempt to purchase alcohol and vapes. 3 stores passed, the 3 that failed will be retested. This helps stop underage drinking and the resulting anti-social behaviour.

Sergeant Phil Bayman reported on a large increase in the theft of quad bikes and farm vehicles in Bramley, Albury and Gomshall which is having a huge impact on farming especially around the lambing season. Sergeant Bayman asked residents to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity on their suspicious activity online portal, Cllr Marshall pointed out that there is a link to the portal on Bramley Parish Council's website. Sergeant Bayman said the help of local residents reporting suspicious activity has been hugely beneficial and he said a massive thanks to the community. Cllr Austin thanked the police for all their support and hard work in the Parish.

Following a question from a member of the public Sergeant Bayman confirmed that they do have rural volunteers and special constables.

4. Mr Leung, Chairman of Bramley Parish Council, then presented his report for the year as follows:

Good evening, Thank you all for coming to Bramley's Annual Assembly

I would like to start by thanking all of the Councillors and Clerks for their hard work throughout the year, and I would also like to send out a special Thank You to our County Councillor Kevin Deanus and our Borough Councillor Michael Goodridge for attending nearly every one of our Parish meetings to keep us informed on our Borough and County Council, and help out on a range of issues.

Last year 5 of our more senior Councillor retired and since then we have had 5 new Councillors joining us, Jane Austin, Nick Gravenell, Colin Marshall, Troy Saunders and Mark Vivian, together with our long time Councillors Francesca, Bob and Tony they all have been working very hard and taking on various task for our village.

Our Parish Clerk Lindi Jansen van Rensburg resigned from her position in January this year, we are lucky to have our assistant clerk Debbie Ersser taking on the Job as acting Clerk while we look for a replacement clerk.

Traffic

Speeding on the A281 continues to be a problem for Bramley, and hopefully the situation will improve as work has already begun on installing Average Speed Cameras between Chestnut Way and Park Drive.

Thames Water



Bramley has been affected by water supply problems early last November, Boxing Day and January this year, large parts of Bramley have suffered with no or very low water pressure, I would like to thank Jane for actively dealing with these matters and keeping us updated.

#### Eastwood Road Playground

The council has agreed that the Eastwood Road playground need improvement and updating. Our Councillors Jane, Collin and Mark are leading this project, a survey regarding preferences on the playground's style and equipment has been held, we had over 130 responses and received some good data.

Our Councillors Collin and Jane are currently setting up a Charity to Fundraise for new playground equipment.

#### Library

We are lucky to have an amazing team of volunteers to operate our Library, without them Bramley would not have a Library, once again the volunteers have been working very hard and held a lot of activities for children especially during school holidays. A big thank you to all the volunteers.

#### Planning

We have received an update from County Councillor Kevin Deanus that progress has been made at Surrey County Council regarding the project on the former school playing field.

Thanks to Francesca and Nick, good progress has been made regarding the ownership of the Bowling Club's ground, if you would like to know more about these projects, let us know and we can fill you in.

#### Crime

There has been a spike in break-ins and burglaries earlier this year in Bramley, the police have increased their presence in the area, including increasing patrolling and using unmarked vehicles to combat the problem.

There are also increased numbers of anti-social behaviour, graffiti, vandalism, trespass and damaging of property, local residents, landowners and farmers has been working with the police, reporting suspicious activities and achieving result.

#### Fuel Leak

The fuel leak and fumes on the High Street and in the steam continued to be a problem for most of last year, a public meeting was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2024, the main concern discussed at the meeting was a pipe issue. There has been continuous update on the issue, and the latest update from Asda is that work has begun on cleaning up the site, they have begun extraction of the contaminated water and fuel from the ground, they are also digging up the forecourt and will inspect all relevant tanks, parts and equipment, this will take place until the end of May.

#### Road Works

The Bramley section of A281 has seen higher than usual temporary traffic light this year, some of the temporary light were up due to the fuel leak as Thames Water need to replace certain pipe that has been contaminated by the fuel, and some temporary light that were up longer than usual were also due to the fuel leak, as they discovered fuel when they opened up the ground.

Obviously, I cannot report on everything that has happened during the last year, but if anyone would like more details on any issue, please talk to any one of us or email our clerk, we will do our best to give you all the relevant information.

Thank You

Patrick Leung, Chairman Bramley Parish Council

5. Moving on to the council's finance,



The balance of BPC audited accounts as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 stood at £66,083, which included earmarked reserves of £45,000, £10,971 of CIL funds and £826 Surrey County Member's Allocation.

The early indication for BPC accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 is a cash balance of £89,295, including earmarked reserves of £46,700, £23,803 CIL funds and £826 SCC Member's Allocation.

#### Receipts:

The Parish Council received a Precept of £75,000 and CIL funds of £12,832.

#### Payments:

The Parish Council spent £2,300 on repairs to the drains at the Pavilion on Gosden Common, the balance of the total cost of £6,900 was funded by The Sports Pavilion Trust and the Bramley Fete committee.

Staff wages were higher in line with the National Association of Local Council pay scales.

Other significant expenditure included £460 for a new laptop for the clerk.

The Parish Council was advised by the auditor that general reserves need to be built up in line with the guidance from The National Association of Local Councils. In 2023-24 these reserves were increased by nearly £10,000.

#### Precept

Bramley Parish Council have faced significant financial challenges over the past few years predominantly due to the legally required separation of Bramley Village Hall charity from the Parish Council. The Council can no longer rely on the income received from Village Hall charges, which had in previous years been used for projects carried out by the Parish Council. All of the Parish Council income now comes from the precept, which is generated from the Council Tax that Bramley residents pay to Waverley Borough Council. As previously stated, the Parish Council also need to increase their general reserves in line with the guidance from The National Association of Local Councils to approximately £40k. On this basis the Precept for 2024/25 has been set at a figure of £93,536 (it was £75,000 in 2023/24). This equates to an annual increase of just under £10 for a Band D household in Bramley.

In 2023/24 the Parish Council invested £45,000 of its earmarked reserves in a 1 year fixed term deposit account with United Trust Bank. We received interest of £1403 from this investment. £45,000 was reinvested in a further 1 year deposit account for the coming year.

The RFO asked that those present note that these figures are still subject to internal and external audits. All accounts are available to view at the Parish Council offices by appointment.

Thank you.

#### 6. Any other business

- a. A resident thanked the Councillors for all their hard work over the year, especially considering the higher than usual number of issues in the Parish.
- b. Surrey County Councillor Kevin Deanus stated that it was a huge achievement and a reflection of the hard work by the Parish Council and Surrey County Council to have had an average speed check camera installed in the village. To put it into context there are over 3,500 miles of roads in Surrey and only 6 average speed check cameras have been installed in the county in the past year.



- c. A resident asked members to review their reserves strategy over the next 6 months and consider reallocating earmarked and general reserves. The chairman said he would add this to the agenda for next month's Parish Council meeting.
- d. A resident reported that she had been the victim of a computer scam and had lost all her documents. The clerk will send her the details of a local IT specialist.

Mr Leung thanked those who had attended. The meeting closed at 18.40 followed by refreshments and informal discussion.

Agreed and signed..... 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025