



**BRAMLEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Annual Assembly meeting 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

Present: Messrs J Austin (Chairman), Cllrs B Stern, P Leung, F Stern, M England, M Vivian, P Wright. G Smith and 3 members of the public were also present.

Apologies were received from Nick Gravenell.

1. The meeting minutes held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025 were approved and signed by Chair Austin.
2. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025.
3. Jane Austin, Chairman of Bramley Parish Council, then presented her report for the year as follows:

Good evening everyone and thank you for joining us at this year's Annual Parish Meeting.

It has been another busy, but mostly very positive, year for Bramley Parish Council. I would like to begin by placing on record my sincere thanks to all of my fellow councillors, who work incredibly hard as volunteers and often with far too little thanks.

I am always especially grateful for the many unspoken and unprompted efforts that keep our parish running day to day - whether that is waiting in for a delivery, repairing a wooden panel, reporting a pothole, or quietly stepping in to solve a problem before most people even know it exists.

And of course, our Clerk - and in many ways our real boss - is Debbie Ersser.

Debbie is simply fantastic and works incredibly hard for this parish every single day. It is always worth reminding ourselves that she also doubles as our Finance Manager, a role she carries out with the same professionalism and care. Debbie, we would truly be lost without you. Thank you for everything you do.

As we continue to recover from the fuel leak, the community has really come together in the last year. It has been brilliant to see the clean up-work of brighten up Bramley and the daffodils are making us all smile.

I will dwell for a moment on our ongoing frustrations. We are still dealing with many of the consequences and wider impacts of the fuel leak. And we continue to deal with the busy A281, utility company roadworks, and road repairs -with the delays and the disruption that these inevitably bring.

But in more positive news, we are pleased to see a new crossing near the school and other safety improvements now coming forward, alongside promised improvements to internet connectivity.

Our subcommittees have made real progress over the last year, and I would like to thank the chairs of all these committees.

The Asda Subcommittee has had the difficult task of allocating funds to worthy local projects within Asda's understandably tight requirements. I am pleased that just over £380,000 of the £512,000 community fund has now been officially allocated, and I again want to place on record my thanks to everyone involved in that detailed and careful work.

Alongside the fuel leak recovery, we have also continued to make progress on a number of parish projects, ensuring that the day-to-day work of the Council has continued.



We are delighted that Bramley Bowls Club has now been taken into the Parish Council's ownership, and we look forward to taking this exciting project forward.

The Bramley Sports Subcommittee has also picked up the important work of managing Gosden Common and the newly named Bramley Sports Pavilion, and we look forward to seeing this project develop over the coming year.

I know the Planning committee and our newly resurrected resilience committee continue with ongoing work for the village.

This year has also brought significant change to the Council itself. We said goodbye to Tony Coleman, who served Bramley fantastically over many years with real dedication and commitment to the village. We also saw the departure of Troy Saunders and Colin Marshall, both of whom made valued contributions during their time on the Council, and I would like to thank them for their service.

At the same time, I am delighted to welcome our new councillors: Mark England, Graham Smith and Paul Wright.

Looking forward, we now have a number of clear priorities and challenges as a Council. Now that we are back up to full capacity in terms of councillors, I do feel that at times we have lacked an underpinning strategic direction.

As Chair, I would like us to prioritise a clearer vision for our parish: develop our vision - what matters most to our residents, what we want Bramley to look like in the years ahead, and where the Council can make the greatest difference.

To help achieve that, I will be proposing that we appoint a project lead to take this work forward at our next meeting. Within that I expect some clear themes for improvement will crystallise – which I expect will include improving our lines of communication, accountability and collaboration.

We have already identified we need to update our website now needs updating as a clear priority project, so that it is modern, accessible and genuinely useful for residents and that as a Council we need to improve our communications generally, ensuring residents are kept better informed about the masses of work we do, local issues and opportunities to engage.

I look forward to taking this forward with you all. Finally it has been a privilege to serve as Chair of this Council and to work alongside you all this last year.

Jane Austin, Chairman Bramley Parish Council

#### 4. Moving on to the council's finance,

The balance of BPC audited accounts as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 stood at £132,042 which includes earmarked reserves of £45,300. The cash balance also includes £47,665 CIL funds and £1,744 SCC Member's Allocation.

The early indication for BPC accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 is that there is a cash balance of £134,655 which includes earmarked reserves of £33,565. The cash balance also includes £50,093 CIL funds and £1,369 SCC Member's Allocation

#### **Receipts:**

The Parish Council received a Precept of £95,406. The £23,862 CIL funds transferred to Bramley Community Spaces for Eastwood Road Playground were returned to BPC to administer. We also



received a grant of £1,000 from Bramley Fete committee for a bench at Eastwood Road Playground in memory of Andrew Pote.

**Payments:**

The Parish Council spent £9,011 on Eastwood Road Playground with most of the cost of the refurbishment being paid by the Asda Community Fund, £3,875 to finance the transfer of the Bowls Club and £8,489 on reinforcing the bund and improving the parking at Gosden Common all from CIL funds. We also spent £11,465 on refurbishing the showers, a new disabled toilet and general repairs at Bramley Pavilion and £1,890 on 2 new noticeboards.

The general reserves were £51,567 at 31.03.26 in line with JPAG regulations as recommended by the auditor.

**Precept**

We are pleased to report that we have maintained the Precept for 2026/27 at the same level as 2025/26, £95,406.

In 2025/26 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 £2,076 from this investment. £45,000 was reinvested in a further 1-year deposit account for the coming year. We have also invested £38,000 in a 3-month bond & £50,000 in a high interest easy access account, both with United Trust Bank.

The RFO asked those present to note that these figures for March 2026 were still subject to both internal and external audit. All accounts are available to view at the Parish Council offices by appointment.

5. Any other business - None

The meeting closed at 18.15 followed by refreshments and informal discussion.

Agreed and signed..... 8<sup>th</sup> April 2027