

BRADFIELD ST CLARE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2021

This meeting was due to be held on 4th May 2021, but due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic the parishioners, councillors, and group organisers were unable to meet face to face in the Village Hall, and instead the meeting was held remotely, before the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

The Parish Clerk has contacted all clubs and organisations that would usually submit an annual report at the Annual Parish Meeting and this is a record of the reports that have been filed.

1. To consider and approve the Annual Parish Meeting report of 14th May 2020.

Cllr Hignett proposed and Cllr Kirk seconded that the report was a true reflection of the reports submitted.

Thereafter Clerk explained that due to the ongoing pandemic she had contact groups and organisations in the village for reports for the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting. Those reports are provided within this document.

2021 Reports from local organisations and clubs

St Clare Churchwarden Report (2020)

It has been a strange year for the Church in Bradfield St Clare. Early on in the pandemic we were informed that we had to lock the door to the Church until further notice. This was very hard, as our inclination was to keep the door open at weekends in order to allow people to go in and pray for their families, their friends and the nation. We also had to find an alternative way to worship, and so our benefice (St Clare is part of a five parish benefice) began livestreaming from the Rectory, and once allowed back in Church the service was broadcast from Cockfield.

In the brief respite in the summer Bradfield St Clare held a service of Evening Prayer, and then a Harvest Service, but normal services will not resume until after the 21st June 2021. Financially we have managed to pay our bills without dipping into the reserves, and there is money in the fabric fund to allow payment for any unexpected building works. Unfortunately, also due to the pandemic, the normal fundraising events have not been held, although it is hoped that they will resume after the current restrictions are lifted.

The Church has seen some changes in its Parochial Church Council this last year, following the Annual Parochial Church meeting which was held in October of 2020 (postponed from April again due to the pandemic). There were only 5 people present at the meeting (the Rector made 6) with spaces on the PCC and the prospect of no Churchwardens as Mrs Margaret Newlands informed the meeting that she would be resigning in February 2021 due to her moving away from the area. There was some discussion and a proposal to join with neighbouring Cockfield PCC to become a united parish, however, following a letter to all the residents of Bradfield St Clare, several people came forward to fill the vacant seats on the

PCC, and we now have two prospective Churchwardens who will hopefully be elected in May this year at the APCM. This is very good news for the Church in Bradfield St Clare.

The Church is very well maintained, and the PCC is grateful to George Collins Builders for the support and hard work that it puts in to keep it so. The Churchyard is also well maintained by a family in the Parish and is supported in part by a grant from the Parish Council.

The benefice has a licensed Minister for Children and Family work, who has kept in touch with families throughout the pandemic. At Christmas and Easter some families in Bradfield St Clare received activities for their children, and we hope to see them at a future Messy Church in the benefice.

The Church is very grateful to Bradfield St Clare residents for their support of the Church and look forward to seeing more of them in person in 2021.

Rev Canon Sharon Potter
Rector

Bradfield St Clare Village Hall

Year 2020 was a very disappointing year for the Bradfield St Clare Village Hall. There are conditions and guidelines relating to the closure and reopening of Village Halls etc, which have and still do prevent us from opening our Village Hall and which we are still unable to meet or fulfil in order to ensure the safety of users.

The Committee were still meeting on the dates planned but, unfortunately, we had to cancel January's planned meeting owing to the fact that it was midwinter, the weather no longer being in our favour and another lockdown. Up until then we had been meeting outside and in line with any Covid regulations in place at the time. One of the main points on the Agenda for the January meeting was, of course, the reopening of the Village Hall, but unfortunately, I cannot say when we might be able to do this, perhaps when the rules change and or the programme of vaccinations has been rolled out. The Committee continue to monitor the situation.

Fortunately, we, along with Village Halls throughout the country, received a substantial grant from the government to compensate for the loss of rental income. This has helped to ensure our survival and enable us to carry on when it is Ok to reopen.

On a brighter note, the time the hall has been closed has not been wasted as we have had underway a project to relay and level the path leading to the Village Hall, repair the boundary fence and install pathway lighting. This is all to improve safety when entering and leaving the hall. I am very pleased to report that all work has now been completed so entering and exiting the Village Hall will be much safer on those darker evenings.

Also, a member of the Bradfield St Clare Parish Council has been in contact with the Water Board requesting that they do something about the brambles that grow over the fence bordering their property, outlining the danger to the public when entering the hall as they can quite easily catch your face. Again, I can happily report that this work has been carried out.

The Committee thanks all Parishioners for their continued support and looks forward to being able to get back to normal.

John Kirk (Chair of the Village Hall Committee)

Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association

Introduction

The Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association (SNWA) Bury St Edmunds Area B covers the 6 parishes of Bradfield Combust with Stanning filed, **Bradfield St Clare**, Bradfield St George, Rushbrooke with Rougham, Little and Great Welnetham, and Nowton.

The statistics below have been extracted from the Suffolk Constabulary's website and the 14 defined crime categories is a National system used by 43 police forces across England & Wales. It is recognized that the National reporting format has its limitations.

2020 Statistics

During 2020, **Bradfield St Clare** reported/recorded crimes just 3 crimes: 1 x burglary, 1 x criminal damage/arson and 1 x anti-social behaviour. This of course is a very low crime rate and the lowest of our 6 Area B parishes. The 2020 monthly average for the whole of Area B was 13 (cf. 9 in 2019) while the monthly average for the whole of the Bury St Edmunds Police Reporting Area was 480 (of course, the majority occurred in Bury St Edmunds itself).

Points of Note

- Violence & Sexual (incl Domestic Abuse): Our Area B saw a **64% increase** (Covid-19 impact?) & the category accounted for **43%** of our Area B recorded crimes.
- Anti-Social Behaviour: a slight increase on 2019 & accounted for 18% of local crimes.
- Burglary: small decrease on 2019 and accounted for 3% of crimes.
- Cybercrime (scams) continues to be a huge problem and thanks to victims forwarding scam emails to report@fishing.gov.uk, between April and December 2020 the National Cyber Security Centre have taken down over 26,000 scams and 48,000 URLs.
- For the year ending June 2020, the Office for National Statistics ranks Suffolk as having the 10th lowest crime rate out of 43 Police Forces (excl. British Transport) across England & Wales, with Suffolk being second lowest, in the East of England 6 counties.

Area B Network

SNWA Bury St Edmunds Area B Network continues to be extremely healthy and proactive. Over 100 local residents receive alerts and monthly stats via e-mail (inc our County and Borough Cllrs as well as our MP's office) however, social media is proving

hugely successful. The [nextdoor.co.uk](https://www.nextdoor.co.uk) site is highly recommended. Alerts and monthly stats etc are posted on 3 parish/village facebook pages (Bradfield Combust & Stanningfield Residents, Rougham Village Community and Great Whelnetham Residents) as well as the BSE Villages Coronavirus Community Support page reaching hundreds of followers. The monthly stats and other information are also uploaded onto the Bury St Edmunds Area B page of the SNWA's website (suffolknwa.co.uk/bseb.html). It is estimated that well over 2,000 residents (with some duplication) in our Area B are now connected electronically to our NHW network.

Team Effort

Finally, thank you to our 7 registered NHW Scheme Coordinators, parish councils & clerks, residents, our CEO, SNT, SNWA, the various agencies and other key individuals for making our Area B NHW Network meaningful and hugely successful.

Andrew Tucker

SNWA BSE Area B Network Coord

Parish Neighbourhood Watch coordinator is Dianne Bullard

KIT Cafe

We have been unable to open the Kit Café since the onset of Covid 19 restrictions. The last time we opened was over a year ago on Saturday 15th February 2020 where we had a joint Valentines and Shrove Tuesday celebration. The hall was decorated with red roses, heart shaped lights and sweet treats. We served both sweet and savoury pancakes and waffles. We had around 40 visitors to the café and it was a lovely memorable occasion.

Val Nunn

Book Club

The Book Club last met on 18th February 2020 before Covid 19 restrictions were in place. There are no plans at the moment to meet and we will decide the future of the club once the village hall reopens. We were down to only six members prior to restrictions and since then one member has moved and another has just had a baby. I think we will need to attract at least two new members and confirm the interest of existing members to make the club worthwhile. I shall put out some feelers once we have a date for reopening.

Val Nunn

Footpath Warden

The footpath running alongside horse fields at St Clare Hall

Disruption to this path has been ongoing over the last couple of years, due to the debris from ditch digging reducing the width and leaving an uneven and waterlogged

path. However, since a visit from the Area Rights of Way Officer, Mr Craggs has levelled and seeded the area and created a new pathway.

Signs and walkways

I have been inspecting the footpath signs and wooden walkways over ditches and have sent photographs of ones that need repairing or replacing to the Council.

Fenella Fraser
Footpath Warden

County Cllr Karen Soons

Reports provided throughout the year and available on village website at bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net

Borough Cllr Sara Mildmay-White

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Date of 2022 Annual Parish Meeting to be agreed later in the year.