# West Bradford Parish Council Clerk: Andrew Glover 24 Hillside Drive Clitheroe Lancs BB7 4TG

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Minutes of the meeting of West Bradford Parish Council held on Wednesday 29 January 2025 at West Bradford Village Hall

Members present:	Parish Cllr A Bristol (Chair)
	Parish Cllr R Chew (Vice Chair)
	Parish Cllr H Best
	Parish Cllr M Fox
	Parish Cllr R Marsden
Apologies:	Cllr K Horkin MBE (RVBC)
Clerk present:	Andrew Glover
County Cllr present:	None
Members of the public / other	None
persons present:	

1.	Declarations of Pecuniary, Other Registrable and Non-Registrable Interests	
	None	
2.	Minutes / Matters Arising	
a)	Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2024:	
	The minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2024 were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.	
	Proposed by: Cllr M Fox Seconded by: Cllr H Best	5
	Resolved The signed minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2024 would be posted on the Parish Council website	Clerk
u.	NB – no meeting had been held in December 2024.	

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b)	Matters arising:	
i)	None	
3.	Public questions, comments or representations:	
	None	
4.	Update from Ward Councillor present:	
	None	
5.	Bradford Bridge	
	At the November meeting, members had considered an incident - reported by Cllr Chew – which had apparently resulted in further damage to the bridge's coping stones. Although, in previous correspondence, LCC had stated that the damage to the coping stones was not dangerous and had indicated its intention to repair the coping stones some time in 2025, members had asked the Clerk to report this latest incident (and presumed subsequent damage) to LCC. The Clerk had done so and members noted that the following response had been received: "Our inspector has visited to see the new damage. He notes that the damage has worsened, but does not consider it necessary to arrange or bring forward any additional work."	
	It was commented that the bridge had recently suffered yet further impact damage, and as a result a portion of the wall had been temporarily coned off.	
6.	Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme (HARP)	
a)	Update – planning application 3/2021/0661	
i)	Feedback to United Utilities (UU)	
	At the November meeting, Cllr Fox had reported on UU's intention to seek planning consent for a new location for the Park and Ride facility. The preferred site was now on land to the west of Pimlico Link Rd, and members had expressed real concern that the resulting traffic to and from the site would exacerbate the already difficult flow of traffic seeking to access the A59 trunk road. In members' opinion, the preferred solution to this situation would be the establishment of a new roundabout at the A59 / Pimlico Link Rd junction. As requested, the Clerk had sought to report this view to UU as part of its ongoing consultation exercise. However, he had discovered that the online consultation had in fact concluded on 22 November 2024. Instead, the Clerk therefore opted to refer members' comments directly to Iain Pilling (UU's Area Engagement Lead – Lancashire). The Clerk had subsequently been informed by UU representatives that members' comments had been received.	
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ii)	Preferred bidder	
ł	It had been established that a consortium consisting of STRABAG and Equitix had been named as the preferred bidder for HARP. The formal award of the contract was expected in the first half of 2025.	
	It was understood that STRABAG UK would undertake design and construction duties, whilst STRABAG and Equitix would manage the financial aspects of the project.	
7.	Overview of financial position:	ange (j. marija -
a)	Monthly accounts – November 2024	
	The Clerk submitted details of income and expenditure for the month of November 2024 for approval by the Parish Council and signing-off by the Chair.	
	Resolved That the record for November 2024 as presented would be signed off	
b)	Monthly accounts – December 2024	
	The Clerk had intended – in the usual manner – to submit details of income and expenditure for the month of December 2024 for approval by the Parish Council and signing-off by the Chair. However, the Nat West bank statement for December 2024 had not bee received via the postal service, and consequently the necessary reconciliation exercise had not been completed.	
	Resolved Members agreed to defer consideration of the accounts from December 2024 until the next meeting	
c)	Budget Monitoring – Q3 2024/25	
	The Clerk provided members with a budget report for Q3 2024/25 for their consideration. Key points included:	
	<ul> <li>income was in excess of budget by c£1,000, to date totalling £11,086. This was due to larger than expected returns on the Concurrent Functions Grant and VAT refund, as well as an unbudgeted grant of £300 from the LCC Town and Parish Champion; and</li> <li>expenditure was below budget:</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>expenditure was below budget:         <ul> <li>spend on the Lengthsman had this year amounted to c£848, £352 below budget, with only £90 paid out in salary for Q3;</li> <li>over the course of the year to date, the Clerk's salary was below budget by £126, and PAYE was below budget by £9; and</li> <li>garden maintenance had exceeded budget by £161, but this had been largely offset by a grant from RVBC (Ribble Valley in Bloom) for £100.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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Members were pleased to note that, three-quarters of the way through financial the year, the Parish Council held assets of c£11,500. d) Precept 2025/26 At the November meeting, the Parish Council had agreed to raise its precept by 5% to £9,310 during 2025/26. As required, the Clerk had returned the required authorisation to RVBC in advance of the deadline of 24 December 2024. In addition, members had asked the Clerk to publicise the increase in precept via the Parish Council website. This had been done on 29 November, and by the date of the meeting had been viewed on 6 occasions only. 8. Governance A) Resignation of Clerk / appointment of successor i) Actions to date At the November meeting, the Clerk had indicated his intention to resign. As a result, members had asked that an approach be made to Chatburn Parish Council (members there having been understood to have interviewed for a Clerk on 27 November, and it was possible that some unsuccessful candidates may be interested in the West Bradford role). An approach to the Parish Council had been made but unfortunately no interest in filing the post had been forthcoming. With the agreement of the Chair, the following pre-Xmas actions had therefore been taken: • a job advertisement had been placed on both the RVBC website and the Parish Council website; and an email outlining the vacancy had been circulated via the village network. Unbeknown to the Clerk, all job advertisements placed on the RVBC website were also automatically placed on national recruitment websites such as Indeed and Total. Unfortunately, the wording used by these recruitment agencies had caused a considerable amount of confusion, as reference had referred to the job vacancy being in "Bradford" (West Yorkshire) rather than West Bradford. As a result, 17 applications had subsequently been made and withdrawn when the true location of the post became clear, at considerable inconvenience to the Clerk. On 22 January 2025, a total of 8 application forms had been sent out by the Clerk, with a deadline for response of 2 February. A full list of recipients was presented for members' information. ii) Proposed next steps Given the anticipated number of candidates who had to date expressed an interest in filling the post, a formal recruitment process would need to be agreed. It was agreed that a selection panel of the Chair, Vice Chair and Cllr Best would be convened to oversee the appointment process (with the Clerk supporting members in an advisory capacity).

1	After some discussion, the following timescale for the recruitment process was identified	
90. 2010	<ul> <li>3 February – should a shortlisting exercise be necessary, the selection panel would meet at 7pm (Cllr Chew's house). It was agreed that ideally no more than 3 candidates would be interviewed;</li> <li>4 February - Clerk to advise applicants whether or not they had been selected for interview;</li> <li>24 February – interviews to be held from 6-9pm, at the Village Hall; and</li> <li>25 February – candidates to be advised of outcome of recruitment process.</li> </ul>	
	2024. It remained the current Clerk's intention to service the Parish Council meeting to be held on 26 March 2025, before handing over to the new Clerk at that point.	
	Resolved The above timescale would be formally adopted Clerk to contact the Village Hall Bookings Secretary and reserve an interview room for 24 February	Clerk
iii)	Revisiting / adoption of employment documentation	40
	Members were invited to revisit / approve the following documentation:	
	<ul> <li>Clerk's contract of employment / Job Description;</li> <li>draft person specification;</li> <li>draft job application form; and</li> <li>draft question proforma for use at interview stage.</li> </ul>	
	Resolved Members agreed to endorse / adopt the above documentation	
В)	Information Commissioner – payment of annual fee 2025/26	
	Organisations that process personal data are subject to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.	Ξ.
	Members were reminded that – as a data controller – the Parish Council was obliged under the Data Protection (Charges and Information) Regulations 2018 to pay an annual data protection fee of £40 by 10 March 2024.	
	As payment could not be made by cheque, the Clerk offered to pay the fee from his own assets and asked members to sign cheque number 1341 in recompense for his outlay.	
	Resolved Members agreed to: • approve the payment of £40 to ICO; and	

	<ul> <li>ask the Clerk to send payment to ICO subject to appropriate reimbursement</li> </ul>
9.	Planning applications considered
A)	Planning applications - for consideration as a statutory consultee:
i)	None
B)	Other Planning issues
	Planning application no:3/2024/0977 Proposal: Prior notification of proposed multi-purpose agricultural building 36.6m long, 20n wide, 7m high to eaves, 9.78m high to ridge under part 6 Class A of the GDPO [sic] Location: Laneside Farm, Grindleton Road, West Bradford BB7 4QJ
	At the request of the Chair, in early December 2024 members had been invited to consider the above "prior notification" submitted to RVBC. This content of this notification had appeared very similar to that previously set out in application 3/2022/0737, to which the Parish Council had submitted an objection. Members therefore considered this latest application by email and concluded that many of the objections made by the Parish Council in 2022 remained valid now. These included doubts about the true agricultural use of the land - members continued to believe that the reference to sheep and cows in the prior notification did not reflect the primarily industrial nature of the site. The wording of Part 6 Class A of the General Permitted Development Order 2015 stated that agricultural Permitted Development could only be relied upon where the development was "reasonably necessary for the purposes of agriculture within that unit". Members felt that little had changed in that regard.
	As a result, on 13 December 2024 the Clerk had submitted a letter to RVBC on members' behalf. A copy of the letter was provided for members' information.
	Members noted that, with regard to this application, RVBC had subsequently determined that "PERMISSION NOT REQUIRED".
C)	List of contested applications
	The Clerk continued to compile a list of contested applications and submit this to members on a regular basis for their consideration. The purpose of this exercise was to assist members in keeping track of these applications, and to provide more clarity around the subsequent determinations made by RVBC / Planning Inspectorate.
	Members noted that, with regard to planning application 3/2024/0143 (regularisation of construction of car port to front), RVBC had approved this application with conditions. Condition 3 of the decision notice stated:

	"The car port hereby approved shall not be occupied or used for any other purposes than those incidental to the residential use of the dwelling known as 1 Meadow Croft and shall not be used for any commercial use or in association with any business"; and	
	The log entries for both applications 3/2024/0977 and 3/2024/0143 had been updated.	
10.	Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition (LBKVC) 2025	
a)	Entry to 2025 competition	
	The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by the event organisers, who had once again invited West Bradford parish to participate in the annual competition.	
	After due discussion, and consideration of the documentation relating to an application, members agreed to defer making a decision on whether to enter the competition in 2025. This was due to the resignation of the Lengthsman (considered in minute item 15 below). Without a Lengthsman in post, no decision on entry could be made.	ja Ja
	<ul> <li>Resolved</li> <li>Members agreed to: <ul> <li>defer consideration of whether to enter the 2025 competition until the February meeting, by which time the position regarding appointment of a replacement Lengthsman may have become clearer</li> <li>Clerk to diary this discussion</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Clerk
b)	Information Evening	
	Members noted that the event organisers were hosting a Village Information evening, to be held at Hutton Village Hall on 12 March 2025. The purpose of this event was to allow the organising committee to meet village representatives and exchange information about the competition.	
	Resolved Attendance at this event was not required	
11.	Action Plan 2024	
a)	Content of Action Plan 2024	
	A completed Action Plan for 2024 had been produced, and an updated version was presented for members' consideration.	
	Resolved Members agreed to sign off the completed Action Plan for 2024	

Action	2023	2024
Number of planning applications considered	11	16
Number of planning consultation responses submitted to RVBC or planning inspectorate	3	6
Number of highways referrals to LCC	4	7
Referrals to RVBC planning enforcement	1	5
LBKVC	Highly Commended (ie placed 3 <sup>rd</sup> or 4 <sup>th</sup> ) in Championship village class. (NB – several recognitions in Outstanding Features categories)	Highly Commended (ie placed 3 <sup>rd</sup> or 4 <sup>th</sup> ) in Small village class. (NB – 0 recognitions in Outstanding Features categories)
Governance	Completed re-election process for 4 serving members Appointed new parish councillor after a successful co-option process Successful completion of internal audit process and secured exemption from external audit Obtained new PC email address in prep for next year's external audit Member attendance at RVBC training on Code of Conduct, with updating of guidance for members as a result	Successful completion of internal audit process and secured exemption from external audit Complied with data protection requirements by registering with ICO

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	Complied with data protection requirements by registering with ICO	
ΗΑΡ	Submitted detailed response to RVBC consultation exercise on HARP planning application Secured compensation from LCC for cost of Clerk's time in organising special meeting	Began to develop closer working relations with key United Utilities staff
Partnership working	Improved communication links established with PC David Green	N/a

#### Miscellaneous:

- supported a local event to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D Day landings;
- continued efforts to establish legal ownership of Pinfold, culminating in submission of required legal documentation to Land Registry;
- begun researching acquisition of 3 x stone signs at key village access points

   grant funding secured from LCC Parish and Town Champion;
- continued campaign to keep village (and especially the Coronation Gardens and Westfield Drive) free from dog mess;
- monitored work of new Lengthsman;
- new battery acquired for defibrillator, which has been maintained by a village resident;
- lobbied LCC to secure additional grit bins around the village;
- pursued formal complaint against RVBC for alleged non-compliance with its own planning policies (when numerous objections were submitted collectively by residents);
- successfully secured assistance of LCC to remove fallen tree on footpath from West Clough to Heys Farm (FP03444016);
- challenged RVBC on high charges for grass cutting contract;
- responded to RVBC re Review of Settlement Boundaries and Revision of Facilities/Services Data Within Settlements;
- secured a new waste bin (from RVBC) to replace an old and overflowing one on Clitheroe Rd;
- sought provision of a road sweeping vehicle from RVBC to remove autumnal leaf debris;
- pest control issue reported to RVBC (drain on Clitheroe Rd);

	<ul> <li>redwood tree acquired (to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of RVBC);</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>considered (and participated in) formal consultation exercises as</li> </ul>	
	appropriate;	
	<ul> <li>flag flown on all relevant civic occasions;</li> <li>Xmas tree acquired and dressed;</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Remembrance Sunday service held; wreath laid; banner erected; and</li> </ul>	
	poppies displayed around village	
	<ul> <li>fuel spillage, and dumping of paint by contractor, both reported to</li> </ul>	
	Environment Agency;	
	acquired portrait of King Charles III (displayed in Village Hall);	
	<ul> <li>begun to revamp welcome letter for all new residents in the village; and</li> <li>begun efforts to replace the Clerk following his resignation.</li> </ul>	
	Resolved Members agreed that a summary of the activity 2024 should be placed on the	Clerk
	Parish Council website	CIEIK
c)	Draft Action Plan 2025	
	The Clerk had put together a draft Action Plan for 2025, which he presented for members' consideration.	
	Resolved Members agreed to adopt the proposed Action Plan for 2025	
	Members agreed to adopt the proposed Action Plan for 2025	
12.	New signage – access to the village	
	At the November meeting, members had considered a number of steps to progress	
	the acquisition of new signage at the 3 road entrances to the village. Measures discussed had included the following:	
a)	as agreed, Cllr Best had contacted the owner of a property at the junction of Eaves Hall Lane / Waddington Rd, and enquired whether she would be willing for one of the stones to be erected either in or on her garden wall abutting the highway. The	
	owner had indicated her support in principle for this approach, but the wall in question was currently unstable and the Parish Council would need to rectify this as a condition of her agreement.	
	This then raised the question of whether planning consent would still be required. The Clerk surmised that consent may still be required, even if the stone were	
	erected on private land rather than the highway. In the course of an application, the views of the Highways Authority would be sought; that body had previously indicated its opposition to any installation within the required distance of 450mm	
	from the carriageway; and	
<b>۲</b>		
b)	the Clerk had contacted LCC Highways and enquired whether – should the stone	
b)	the Clerk had contacted LCC Highways and enquired whether – should the stone instead be positioned on waste land adjacent to the highway on the Clitheroe side	
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there was sufficient space to allow for the required distance of 450mm from the carriageway to be met). However, no response had been received to date. Cllr Fox reported that he had approached a local resident living on Clitheroe Rd,

and he had indicated his willingness for a stone to be erected on his private land in close proximity to the river walk stile. This was considered a very helpful gesture, although issues of planning consent and distance from the carriageway may still remain.

### 13. Xmas preparations etc

### a) <u>Village Christmas tree</u>

The village Xmas tree had once again been provided free of charge by Heidelberg Materials. It had been dressed by members (assisted by the Chair's son) on 7 December, despite ongoing weather issues due to Storm Darragh.

The tree would kindly be taken down by the Chair and Vice Chair following this meeting.

# Resolved

Members thanked all those involved for their efforts

Cllr Chew reported that a tree had blown down in the recent storms and was lying across the Straitgate public right of way. It was agreed that, when taking down the Xmas tree, the Chair would bring a chain saw and cut up the fallen tree.

## Resolved Chair to action

Chair

### b) <u>Xmas tree / lights</u>

A cheque for £50 was yet to be given to Sam Wrathall to compensate for electricity used to power the lights.

## Resolved Members approved payment

### c) Xmas gifts

The Parish Council had agreed to purchase Xmas gifts to thank residents who may have supported them over the previous 12 months. The two gifts (each of a £30 gift voucher for the 3 Millstones) were given for assistance with maintenance of (i) the Parish Council's website and (ii) the defibrillator at the junction of Grindleton Rd / Westfield Drive.

14.	Village "welcome letter"	
	As agreed at the November meeting, Cllr Chew had undertaken work to revamp the wording of the letter currently sent to all new residents of the village. The purpose of this would be to expand the current wording so as to incorporate references to other key bodies such as the Parish Council and the Hub.	2
	The latest version of Cllr Chew's draft had been circulated prior to the meeting. All present agreed that Cllr Chew's text was an improvement on that previously used, and were very comfortable with the wording she had compiled setting out the role of the Parish Council.	
	Resolved Members thanked ClIr Chew for her efforts, and agreed that – when she updated the Village Hall Management Committee on this issue at its next meeting – the Parish Council's support for her latest version should be conveyed	RC
15.	Lengthsman	
a)	Invoices	
	Members noted that the Lengthsman had not submitted an invoice for work undertaken since that carried out in September 2024.	
b)	Resignation of Lengthsman	
	At the October meeting, it had been agreed that the Clerk would write to the Lengthsman and invite him to attend the Parish Council meeting to be held in January 2025. The purpose of this would be to:	
	<ul> <li>allow both members and the Lengthsman to reflect on how 2024 had gone (from both his perspective and that of members); and</li> <li>better understand his intentions for 2025 (bearing in mind (i) health issues; (ii) the Lengthsman was on an annual fixed term contract due to expire on 28 February 2025; and (iii) the importance of 20-25 hours per month being worked in the key period of May – July 2025).</li> </ul>	
	In the course of this correspondence, the Lengthsman had tendered his resignation due to reasons of ill-health. With regard to securing a replacement Lengthsman, members agreed the following measures:	
	<ul> <li>Clerk to draft an advertisement for the vacant post;</li> <li>this would be displayed on the village notice board (Clerk to arrange), and also circulated via the village Facebook pages and email circulation list (Cllr Chew to arrange); and</li> </ul>	Clerk Clerk RC
	• <b>Clir Chew</b> would arrange for circulation of the advert around 3 Rivers Country Park.	RC
	Resolved Clerk / RC to action	

17.	Reports from sub-committees / other meetings attended	
	<ul> <li>Playing Field / Village Hall – Cllr Fox reported that work to (i) the new patio to the rear of the Village Hall and (ii) the fitting of new doors between the lounge and main hall was progressing well.</li> <li>Parish Councils' Liaison Committee – the next meeting was to be held on 30 January 2025. As both the Chair and Vice Chair were unavailable to attend, it was agreed that apologies would be sent.</li> <li>Lancashire Association of Local Councils – no update; and</li> <li>Hanson Cement Liaison Committee – date of next meeting tbc</li> </ul>	
18.	Correspondence / requests received	
a)	Forest of Bowland National Landscape - Landscape Character Assessment Refresh	
	In 2009, the Forest of Bowland National Landscape was seeking to update its Landscape Character Assessment of the area, and members were invited to nominate a parish councillor to participate in this exercise. After due consideration, members were uncertain that they could contribute greatly to this project and declined to participate further.	
b)	Lancashire Constabulary	
	An approach had been received from Lancashire Constabulary's Ribble Valley Neighbourhood Policing Team, asking for confirmation of the dates of future parish council meetings; officers could then attend when on duty and subject to availability.	
	As requested, the dates had been forwarded by the Clerk on 29 January.	
19.	Any Other Business	
a)	Inclement weather	
а - 2 - 8	Members were aware that, prior to Xmas, the torrential rain had impacted the village. Severe flooding had occurred at locations in the village, particularly at the junction of Grindleton Rd / Chapel Lane – long-standing residents of the village had never seen the problem as bad as on this occasion.	a.
	In addition:	
	<ul> <li>Cllr Chew had asked the Clerk to report to LCC frost damage to the wall adjacent to Bradford Brook (western side of Clitheroe Rd). The Clerk had actioned this, with LCC subsequently agreeing to "inspect the area and instruct the team to carry out any remedial work required at the earliest opportunity"; and</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>the Clerk had been requested by a local resident to obtain a refill for the communal grit bucket on Hillside Drive. An approach to LCC had been made on 12 January 2025.</li> </ul>	

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	Cllr Chew reported that the blocked grate on Chapel Lane (previously reported to LCC) had now been cleaned by that agency.			
b)	Resignation of parish councillor			
	Cllr Chew advised members that she was intending to step down from her role as a parish councillor within the coming weeks (once a new Clerk had been appointed). This was due to her desire to pursue other commitments and interests.			
	Resolved Cllr Chew to confirm her intentions to the Parish Clerk in writing			RC
	In addition, Cllr Best indicated that she too would be stepping down, although her timescale was somewhat longer; she would await completion of the project to erect the stones at key access points to the village. It was therefore agreed that no written confirmation of Cllr Best's stance was yet required.			×
	Members expressed their disappointment at both decisions, but fully understood the reasons put forward.			
c)	Redwood tree			
	The Chair reported that the redwood tree (provided by RVBC to commemorate its 50tgh anniversary) had finally been planted in the grounds of the Village Hall.			
d)	Next meeting			
	Cllr Fox reported that the date of the next meeting would now coincide with the delayed AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee. It was agreed that the date of the meeting should be moved to Thursday 27 February 2025.			
	Resolved Clerk to arrange via Village Hall Booking Secretary			
	Date / time of next meeting:			
	The next scheduled meeting of West Bradford Parish Council was to be held at 7.30pm on Weds 26 February 2025 (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)			
	The meeting closed at 8.18pm.			
Signed by:				
		Date:	Cllr A Bristol	
		26.2.25	Chair Audure Brown	