

**Brinkley Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Annual Village meeting held on Monday 19th May 2025**  
**At 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall, High Street, Brinkley**

**Councillors present:**

Cllr Monks, Cllr Coley, Cllr Aubert, Cllr McIntyre

**Also Present:**

Hayley Livermore  
John Trapp  
Representative from Ellesmere centre

The Chairman, Councillor Ian Monks, welcomed everyone.

**Apologies:**

Cllr Beamish

**Annual reports follow:**

**EAST CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Significant achievements and decisions by ECDC**

Recognising the need for accessible play areas for all children, and having an audit of current playgrounds to judge whether they can be adapted.

Planning for waste bin collection to meet Government specifications, collecting general waste in bins, and encouraging more recycling.

Still no progress with parking enforcement throughout the District.

A Conservative member of the Council became an Independent and has formed a political group with the Lib Dems. The two political groups comprise 14 members each. However, a Lib Dem member has had to resign due to ill-health, and at the by-election a Lib Dem was elected, so it remains 14-all.

Officers predict a considerable increase in costs for building the Mepal Crematorium. Although there is sufficient CIL money to cover the increase in costs, it would mean that other infrastructure enhancements would be curtailed.

Street cleansing and bin collection targets are not quite being met. However, there is improvement.

Several more Neighbourhood Plans have been adopted. In the light of the Local Government Reorganisation it has been decided that not to proceed with the Local Plan, as it would be soon superseded by the new authority.

The District Council tax remains the same.

**CAMBS COUNTY COUNCIL**

This is my last report as your County Councillor, and I am very sad to be leaving.

Congratulations to my successor and I wish him well, as he grapples with the various issues that will face him.

Sadly, a lot of voters voted along national lines, rather than on local issues, but this is the democracy that we have and I believe passionately in our democracy, even if it kicks you in the teeth from time to time.

I am still an elected member of East Cambridgeshire District Council and a senior member of the ruling administration of ECDC, so will have some effect on Swaffham Bulbeck, although not as your ward Councillor.

I summarise the events that have happened over the last year.

Highways

Swaffham Heath Rd/A 1303 Crossroads

After four years of waiting, the new staggered junction was opened towards the end of 2024. I am aware of one accident since, involving a motor cyclist and a car. We just need to keep vigilant and ensure that the safety of all road users is paramount.

#### Capital Maintenance of roads programme

The County Council has introduced a new system for the major resurfacing works which uses a scoring matrix to assess the roads most in need of major work.

That sounds a good idea, but I believe that the scoring matrix is very biased towards urban areas, leaving an unlevel playing field.

The normal pothole repairs come out of the revenue budget, but there needs to be better workmanship on those repairs than currently is the case.

#### LHI Scheme

I am proud to have worked with officers and the Parish Council on improvements to the 6 Mile Bottom Road junction in the village.

Hopefully, this will improve safety at that junction.

#### Mill Road Bridge

Back in October 2024, the Highways & Transport Committee voted to restrict Mill Road bridge in Cambridge to taxis, buses, and blue badge holders.

I am opposed to this scheme, as no account of the effect on side roads off Mill Road, such as Tennison Road and Coleridge Road, together with the extra traffic created on Cherry Hinton Road and Coldhams Lane was considered.

There is still an ongoing legal challenge to this decision, so watch this space.

#### Highways Weedkilling

Our group opposed the Council's decision in 2023 to stop chemical weedkilling to save money.

I believed this to be a false economy and in 2024, the County Council were forced to reintroduce the chemical weedkilling, due to the state that it left our roads in.

Parishes and areas were able to continue without chemical weedkilling, which Cambridge City decided not to use. The state of roads such as Trumpington Road shows this to be an incorrect policy.

#### Busways – Cambridge to Cambourne and CSET

The Council voted to proceed with the busway from Cambourne to Cambridge going through an ancient orchard in Coton at a cost of £200m, as well as another busway going into Addenbrookes going over open countryside and the Gog Magog Hills at a cost of £162m.

I opposed both of those schemes, as there are much cheaper on-road solutions, which do not carve open our countryside.

#### Council Reorganisation

The County Council held a special meeting on 18th March to agree the Council's response to the Government's Council reorganisation, which Government requested for 21st March, with East Cambridgeshire District Council meeting on 20th March.

The response to Government consisted of a joint letter from all of the Councils within Peterborough and Cambridgeshire excluding Fenland.

The response was very much a holding response and Government are stating that the final decision from the council is sent by 28th November and if the tier 2 authorities, i.e. District Councils cannot agree, then the County Council makes the decision.

Whilst I agree that there was a need for a reorganisation, this has been imposed by Government with little discussion and no opportunity for residents to comment.

#### Buses

The mayor, as his last act before announcing that he was not standing for election, decided to implement franchising. I have huge concerns on how this will be financed and could cause a huge financial burden on residents for many years to come.

The extra buses promised as part of the precept increase in 2024 had to go out to tender again, with it looking likely that those services will happen sometime during the summer, a year after residents were paying for them.

This will include a direct service from Bottisham to the sixth form colleges and Addenbrookes.

#### Kingsway Solar

Kingsway Solar is a proposed 3,700-acre solar farm, which will encircle West Wratting and Weston Colville, whilst taking the resulting electricity ten miles on pylons across the countryside to the Burwell substation.

I spoke as the local member at the Environment & Green Investment Committee at County Council in March to express my concerns about the proposed application and was the only local member to speak on this issue.

The application is in totally the wrong position, and I will continue to push for a decision that thinks about residents rather than those of opportunistic applicants.

Sincere thanks for all of the help that I have had from residents over the last four years and I will continue to hold the ruling County Council administration to account for their actions that I believe to be wrong for residents. Please contact me on any of the issues that I mentioned.

Alan Sharp

### **BRINKLEY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FROM Ian Monks**

The chair stated that there are 5 Key issues/progress to take from the year 24/25:

1. We are now much closer to the parish council purchasing the land on which the allotments sit and we hope this to be finalised in the next few months.
2. The chair would like to acknowledge all the work that has taken place on the play area at Beechcroft and thanked Cllr Coley for his hard work on this.
3. The proposal for Kingsway Solar park-no doubt there will be more meetings and correspondence regarding this in the coming months.
4. There has been an increase in planning applications in the parish and will no doubt be more to come.
5. The Parish council has engaged with new landowners in the parish.

### **TRUSTEES OF THE BRINKLEY MEMORIAL HALL**

The past year has been much of the same for the Memorial Hall.

We have had to spend about £ 1000 on repairs to the building, fixing roof tiles, painting soffit boards and replacing a window in the men's loo. Although it does not look so good now, we had a major cut back of the hedges around our boundaries so it will be easier to maintain them in the future.

The regular hirers contribute a continuous income stream for us and various other hirings have meant that we have made a small profit of £ 378 on receipts of £ 4232.

Our other income sources included a successful quiz night and refreshment table at the auction, and interest earned on the deposit account.

We continue to struggle with new ideas for fund raising and getting more use from the Hall but have managed to recruit a new member for the committee.

We all hope to continue the good work in 2025.

### **THE BRINKLEY PCC Achievements**

#### **Achievements of the Brinkley PCC during 2024**

1. 4 meetings of the PCC were held on 16th January, 10th April, 31st July, and 18th November. Our Annual Meeting was held on 10th April.

2. The parish has held Holy Communion services on the 1st Sunday of every month, (apart from September, when we 'donated' a communion service to Carlton); and Morning Prayer services on the 3rd Sunday. We held the Benefice Ash Wednesday service on 27th March, a 3-parish (Brinkley, Burrough Green, Westley Waterless) Remembrance Service, and held a Midnight Mass service on 24th December. We have held 3 funerals, 1 baptism, and 1 interment of ashes.

3. There were 4 principle fund raising events held in 2024, which raised the sum of £4484 (not including gift aid)

- We provided teas for Open Gardens

We held an auction in September.

- We held a quiz night in October, a summer social in June, and a winter fair in December

- We produced a village Christmas card which raised money for the church (£ 1290) and for the Newmarket Open Door (£ 367.50).

4. The parish paid its full share, of £ 7174.77 to the diocese.
5. The Church Electoral roll currently stands at 15 members.
6. The PCC continues to maintain the fabric of the church.
  - PAT testing is current, all appliances having been tested in March, 2022
  - a working party worked on clearing the churchyard in August, and clearing drainpipes. A bench was repainted, and the church gate was re-oiled. The working party also removed much of the ivy from the front church wall, exposing the work needing to be done. A local craftsman will be employed when the weather is better, to repair the wall. It has been covered in hessian for the winter period to prevent further damage.
  - the old pipe organ was tuned in July.
7. The bells are rung fortnightly, along with tuition ringing for beginners.
8. The book exchange has been extended to jigsaws also, alongside the newspapers and the Food Bank boxes within the church porch.

#### **BURROUGH GREEN PLAYGROUP**

No report sent

#### **BURROUGH GREEN ARCHIVE GROUP**

The archive group continues to run.

#### **VILLAGE VOICE NEWSLETTER**

Another good year for Village Voice with lots of articles of interest to local residents delivered free to every resident. (460 copies across the four villages)  
Print costs average about £205 monthly and advertising brings in approx. £900 annually. A shortfall of approx. £1560. Parish Council donations are therefore an essential part of the financing. Fortunately, a large legacy in 2023 covered the print costs for a year enabling funds to be maintained, but that is now running low.

I hope you value the magazine as a source of information for your residents, especially those not on social media.

I would be very grateful if you could again support Village Voice this year. Your donation is vital to its publication.

#### **ELLESMERE CENTRE**

The Ellesmere Centre is a non profit making charitable trust managed by a Board of Trustees whose aim is to provide good quality, affordable community facilities for the advancement of education, lectures, arts, sports, social gatherings, other forms of recreation, leisure pastimes and community provision, to the inhabitants of the seven local parishes of Stetchworth, Dullingham, Woodditton, Kirtling, Burrough Green, Brinkley and Westley Waterless. Looking for representatives from Parish councils. There is now a sharing shed which was established to support members of the local community in times of need. It also offers the opportunity to share seeds, plants and excess crops grown at home to save waste.

Signed by Parish Council Chairman: -----

Date: -----

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