



Bramshaw Parish Council

New Forest Hampshire

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Bramshaw Parish Council held in the **main hall, Bramshaw Village Hall** on **Tuesday 27th May 2025 at 19:00.**

All minutes are draft until ratified at the next meeting

MINUTES

Annual Parish Meeting

1. Attendance register

Signed by all present

2. Apologies

- Cllr. Medley

3. Welcome by Cllr Thomas and apology on behalf of Cllr. Mark Medley, Chair of Bramshaw Parish Council

- Good evening everyone. For those I haven't met, I'm Vaughan Thomas and I've lived here almost eleven years.
- I'd like to welcome you all to the Annual General Meeting of Bramshaw Parish Council. It's a pleasure to see familiar faces and to share with you the work we've undertaken over the past year.

4. To receive the Annual Report by Chairman

- Firstly, I want to thank our chair, Mark Medley, who unfortunately can't be with us this evening, and my fellow councillors for their continued dedication and service to our community. Your commitment and hard work have made a real difference.
- I'd also like to extend our appreciation to our Clerk, Diana O'Grady, who only joined us some 6 months ago, whose diligence keeps our operations running smoothly and professionally.
- Over the last year, we've made progress on several fronts. From addressing issues in local infrastructure to addressing planning concerns and advocating for our residents, we've worked to ensure Bramshaw remains a safe, vibrant, and well-represented parish. Some of these issues remain a challenge, particularly the flooding and drainage problems which continue to blight a number of our residents.
- Community engagement remains a cornerstone of our efforts. Whether through public consultations, village events, or open council meetings, we've aimed to keep our residents informed and involved. We know the importance of your voices, and we continue to welcome your input.
- I would like to thank Martin Vann for his sterling efforts over the last 10 years where he has played a very active role in successfully implementing traffic calming, fibre broadband to most of Bramshaw as well as actively involved in planning issues and such like. We are in the process of recruiting a replacement and would welcome applications.
- Of course, challenges remain—from budget constraints to environmental concerns—but together, we face them with resilience and resolve. Looking ahead, we are committed to enhancing communication, supporting sustainable initiatives, and ensuring our village remains a place we are proud to call home.

- Thank you once again for your support and for being part of this evening. I look forward to another productive and collaborative year for Bramshaw Parish.
- Thank you.

5. To receive the Financial Statement by the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, Diana O’Grady

- The annual audit of the governance of Bramshaw Parish Council and the accounts for financial year ending 31 March 2025 was carried out in May 2025.
- The Council has increased the precept request from £10,000 to £11,000 for the coming year, 2025 - 2026. This was necessary to keep up with inflation and with the higher NI rates, and results in an increase in Council tax of £2.06pa on a band D property.
- As well as budgeting for expenses relating to council administration and normal maintenance within the parish, the Council is obliged to hold £5,500 as general reserves. Council finances remain in a sound position with a current balance in excess of £10,000 (including reserves).
- A grant was received this year from HCC to support HCC Parish Lengthsman Scheme. The Council received £2200 towards Lengthsman costs; this is expected to continue into 2025 – 2026. The clerk is attempting to secure a ‘go to’ person for Lengthsman work rather than looking around each time work needs to be done and has also approached Brockenhurst Parish Council enquiring about becoming part of their Cluster scheme.
- The Parish Council made grants and donations in the year 2024 - 2025 to Bramshaw Parochial Church council and Citizens Advice New Forest, totalling £450.00
- The total Parish Council expenditure in 2024 – 2025 was £11,040.58 ex VAT
- The Parish Council assets are estimated to hold a value of over £6,000 and are adequately insured.
- You can view the Parish Council finances yourself at any time on the Bramshaw Parish Council website, with details published monthly in the minutes.

6. To receive the Report from David Ilsley, interim Head of Planning New Forest National Park Authority

The NPA including planning is funded by the country as a whole, from central Government. There are large efforts to secure external funding to help towards costs.

Planning policies are being reviewed but the legal protection for the habitat hasn’t changed, therefore most of the policies are still fit for purpose.

Housing pressures in rural areas countrywide are huge. New Forest District is being asked to deliver 1500 houses a year for the next 20 years. Cost of planning applications will be increasing.

50% of Forest land is owned by FE and much of the work they do around the Forest doesn’t need planning permission. NPA works closely with FE on a lot of work.

7. To receive the report from County Councillor Edward Heron

Cllr. Heron is opposed to merging the New Forest with the larger unitary authorities.

Cllr Heron gave a breakdown of the funds being spent around the County. Roads are a very low priority.

8. To receive the Report by/from New Forest District Councillors Cllr Joe Reilly and Cllr Derek Tipp

Report from District Cllr. Tipp

Annual Report for the Year 2025 on NFDC

- It has been another challenging year financially with the government reducing our expected funding settlement by £0.5 million. Also the promised re-imbursement of the increase in

national insurance only covered 25% of it, leaving another £0.5 million deficit. Despite this a balanced budget has been achieved with a council tax increase of £5.98 for the year for a band D property.

- This includes £8 million for the new waste service which will comply with new regulations to include a weekly food waste collection and the wheely bins which will make the work safer. We have also spent another £8 million on our new depot in Hardley to replace the one at Hounsdown.
- I can also report that the Council underwent a corporate peer challenge which reported very positively about the working of the Council, particularly the leadership, which was very encouraging.
- £13.5 million has been set aside from the ring-fenced housing revenue account for repairs this year as we continue to improve the quality and energy efficiency of our council housing. New challenging targets have been set by government for housing and recent surveys have shown that our tenants have scored us highly and we are among the best council housing providers in the country.
- We are also set to spend £45 million on new council homes over the next 3 years. This will only make a small, (though important) dent in the long waiting list for homes. As you may have heard, the government wants to get £1.5 million homes built across the country by 2029, including 30,000 in the New Forest over the next 20 years, according to their formula.
- We are currently putting together a new Local Plan which will look at the many constraints we have which should substantially reduce this figure. But even if we are able to persuade a planning inspector to cut this number in half it will still be an enormous challenge, considering we are currently building only half of that. The government want to reduce the power of planning committees by using pre-set policies to be fast-tracked by planning officers.
- On a more positive note the Council continues to fund many excellent projects across the district with its various schemes including the CIL money which comes out of new developments. Over £11 million of CIL funding will be spent over the next 3 years across the district to improve town centres, open spaces, sports facilities among many others.
- Of course I cannot avoid mentioning the bombshell announcement of local government re-organisation which has somewhat deflated the mood at the Council. We are all passionate about delivering a first-class service to the area we know and have served for many years. The idea of being merged into a much larger council is bound to mean that each area has less focus and different priorities emerge. No decisions have been taken about who we will be merged with. Discussions are ongoing and in the coming months we will find out whether any agreement at all can be reached. If not then we may have to leave our future in the hands of the government – not a prospect any of us want.
- I hope there will be an opportunity soon for you all to have a meaningful say in a proper consultation. I believe it is wrong that this should have been announced before any consultation. It is ironic that the alleged purpose of this, according to the government white paper, is to “bring democracy closer to the people.”

9. Items requested by the public and any questions

None

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting of Bramshaw Parish Council held in the
main hall, Bramshaw Village Hall on Tuesday 27th May 2025 at 19:00.

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MINUTES

Annual General Meeting and Ordinary Meeting

Present: Cllr. Thomas
Cllr. Coutts
Cllr. Harrison
Cllr. Bennison

1/25 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

- Cllr Medley was proposed as Chair by Cllr. Thomas, this was seconded by Cllr. Coutts
- Cllr. Bennison proposed Cllr. Thomas as Vice-Chair, this was seconded by Cllr. Harrison
- Chair and Vice-Chair were duly elected.

2/25 Declarations of office of Chair and Vice Chair

- Chair will make and sign his declaration at the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council.
- Vice-Chair made and signed his declaration at the meeting.

3/25 Apologies for absence

- Cllr. Medley

4/25 Public Participation period

- Two members of the public from Speedwatch have recorded drivers reaching up to 50mph
- Brockenhurst Speedwatch have a Facebook page and are raising funds for equipment.

5/25 Declaration of Interests and dispensation requests

None declared

6/25 To confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 22nd April 2025

- Minutes agreed by all who were present and signed and dated by Chair.

7/25 To agree amount of Chair allowance 2025 – 2026

- Postponed to next meeting.

8/25 Appointment of Parish Representatives/Responsibilities

- Allocated responsibilities are generally decided at meetings based on interest and time.
 - Cllr Bennison usually attends the following meetings, but is happy for any other Councillors to do so
 - New Forest Association of Local Councils (NFALC)
 - New Forest Consultative Panel
 - NE Quadrant meetings
 - Payments Signatories – Cllrs Medley and Clerk
 - Lengthsman Management – Clerk

Items ongoing

9/25 Traffic Calming

- As above in Public Participation

10/25 Village flooding

- Cllr Tipp intervened with a letter to Cllr. Bowerman. Clerk has received an acknowledgement.

11/25 Noticeboards

- All noticeboards renovated and now in place in Fritham, Stocks Cross and one in the shop.

12/25 Hedges around the village

- Clerk has sent 5 x letters and believes the golf club and Max Hadley have cut back their hedges. Councillors will check the hedges at Ryans Cottage, Ash Cottage and the Warrens estate.

13/25 Recruitment of new Councillors

- Mr. Gary Loveless has accepted the offer of becoming a Councillor to Bramshaw Parish Council and will complete and sign new Councillor paperwork at the next meeting.

14/25 Review of Bramshaw Parish Council Standing Orders 2025

- Postponed to next meeting.

New items

15/25 Other reports from Parish Representatives

- No further reports were made by Councillors.

16/25 Agree Audit Governance statements

- Statements were read out to the meeting and agreed.

17/25 Agree Bank reconciliation at 2025.03.31, explanation of variances 2024 – 2025, VAT claim 2024 – 2025

- Bank reconciliation was agreed in the April meeting, there were no significant variances and the VAT claim was agreed by the meeting.

18/25 Agree Accounting statements 2024 – 2025 including the Certificate of Exemption

- The accounting statements were agreed by the meeting.

19/25 Agree the annual internal controls report

- Statements were read at the meeting and agreed by all present.

20/25 Agree Exercise of Public Rights dates as Tues 3rd June to Mon 14th July inclusive.

- Agreed at the meeting.

21/25 Agree appointment of auditor for 2025 – 2026

- Agreed to appoint Do the Numbers, Eleanor Greene again for the coming year.

22/25 Agree insurer for 2025 – 2027

- NB. Gallagher have minimum premium of £700pa
- Too small for Clear Councils
- Too small for CAS limited
- Quote from Zurich received and circulated electronically
- Waiting on quote from James Hallam
 - Clerk to contact the current insurer, Clear Councils, regarding a quote for the coming three year period. If it's close to the quote from Zurich then Council has agreed to remain with Clear Councils.
 - Clerk authorised to take this forward.

23/25 Planning

New Applications

25/00338FULL The New House, MERRY ORCHARD, BRAMSHAW,
LYNDHURST, SO43 7JG

1no. two storey and single storey extension, 2no. single storey extensions; roof alterations;
alterations to doors and windows; replacement garage, new access; gate and fence;
demolition existing garage

Decision: 3 We recommend permission with the comment below.

Comments: The original site plan and the block plan show the original application for the garage and not the superseded garage.

25/00367FULL Fritham House, ROAD THROUGH FRITHAM, FRITHAM,
LYNDHURST, SO43 7HH

Renovate Car Park; install 12 drainage aco channels connecting to new soak away; replace posts; remove gravel

Decision: 3 We recommend permission

Trees

25/00521CONS 1, MORGANS VALE, BRAMSHAW, LYNDHURST, SO43 7JG

Removal of 2 limbs from 1 x Beech tree (T1 on the plan)

Removal of 3 lower limbs from 1 x Ash tree (T2 on the plan)

Comments: No comments

24/25 Finance

- The Annual audit of the Parish Council took place on Thursday 15th May 2025,
- Following documents circulated electronically:
 - Internal Audit report
 - Audit Governance statements
 - Bank reconciliation at 2025.03.31, explanation of variances 2024 – 2025, VAT claim 2024 – 2025
 - Accounting statements 2024 – 2025
 - Annual internal controls report 2024 – 2025
- Invoices circulated electronically
 - Internal auditor invoice 12/1791
 - Village Hall invoice 967
- Payments for authorisation
 - Internal Auditor invoice £190.00
 - Village Hall invoice £35.00
- Payments above were authorised by the meeting

BRAMSHAW PARISH COUNCIL				
CASH FLOW REPORT		Period: Apr - May 2025		
PAYMENTS	Payments			
Date paid	Method	Payee	Details	TOTAL
25-Apr-25	SO	Diana O'Grady	April salary and expenses	440.93
25-Apr-25	DD	HMRC	HMRC Tax and NI	205.06
16-Apr-25	Online	HALC	Annual membership and levy INV 7275	366.00
			TOTAL	1,011.99
RECEIPTS	Receipts			
Date	Method	Payee	Details	TOTAL
28-Apr-25	Online	NFDC	Precept part 1	5,500.00
			TOTAL	5,500.00
FOR APPROVAL	For Approval			
Inv Date	Method	Payee	Details	TOTAL
30-Apr-25	Online	Village Hall	Hall hire for PC meeting 2022_BVH_967	35.00
15-May-25	Online	Do the Numbers Ltd.	Parish Council internal audit 2024 - 2025 12/1791	190.00
			TOTAL	225.00
UPCOMING				
Date	Method	Payee	Details	TOTAL
27-May-25	online	Diana O'Grady	May salary and expenses	440.93
			TOTAL	440.93
BANK	BALANCE	15,555.54		
	FORECAST	14,889.61		

25/25 Future Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of Bramshaw Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 24th June 2025** at 19:30, in the Community Room of Bramshaw Village Hall

Meeting ended 21:49