

DRAFT UNTIL SIGNED

Minutes of the Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield Annual Parish Meeting held at Stanningfield Village Hall on Monday 18th May 2026 at 6.30pm

Members of the Electorate

1 member of the electorate was present.

West Suffolk Councillor Sara Mildmay-White

A reminder to everyone that the meeting was being recorded for accurate writing of the minutes.

010	Introduction The Chair welcomed those present.	
011	Confirmation of the minutes of the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting. The minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 12 th May 2025 were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were signed by the Chair of the meeting.	
012	Annual Report of the Parish Council by the Chair of the Parish Council My report starts with a big thank you to residents and members of the PC who give their time freely for the benefit of others with enthusiasm and a strong sense of community spirit. We began by installing a new notice board for Stanningfield, which I know has been well received, not only because of its new location but also for its informative content. The Village sign was removed and has been remade using resin, with the design carefully copied from the original. Its metal frame has also been repaired and re-painted. Operation Clean Up at the Allotments was a major project and remains an ongoing commitment for the Parish Council. Cooperation from tenants has been key to its success and the project has been well received. PC's and volunteers worked hard to clear the site and continue to spend time clearing rubbish. Thank you to Richard Duchesne for mowing the area and helping with the groundworks to date. The Community Policing Engagement Team held a meet-and-greet on the village green. The event was well attended and positively received by residents who had previously raised concerns of ASB with the Parish Council, and we were pleased to play a significant role in helping to address those matters. Following this, the Parish Council has recently purchased two new SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices), the data from which will be forwarded to the police. As councillors, we continue to review and consider prospective projects aimed at maintaining and enhancing the local environment. At present, we are exploring the renewal of playground equipment and are seeking appropriate funding to enable this work to proceed. This	

	<p>has been a lengthy process, involving the investigation of potential suppliers as well as consultation with children in the village to better understand what facilities they would value most.</p> <p>The Parish Council held a Remembrance Service at the war memorial and intends to do so again this year, following requests from attendees that it become a regular event. This year, the area will be further enhanced by poppies created by members of The Poppy Project, a group established as a direct result of the service.</p> <p>The Parish Council has overseen ground maintenance and repairs throughout the village and has appointed Stuart Bradman as Tree Specialist to oversee the care and maintenance of our trees.</p> <p>Plans to renovate the black-and-white signpost are currently under way. As a familiar and valued feature of the village which reflects its history, it was felt that this important landmark should be preserved.</p> <p>The Parish Council has also supported, by way of a grant, the revival of a local bi-monthly newsletter, now entitled Village Voice. The publication has been very well received, with residents already enquiring as to when the next issue may be expected. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers, it is delivered to every household in Stanningfield and Bradfield Combust.</p> <p>As Chairman, I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to all those who serve on the Parish Council and who work diligently to maintain and enhance the villages that we are proud to call home. I would also like to express my gratitude to our hardworking Parish Clerk, Jane Spenser, for her invaluable help, support, encouragement, and knowledge. The work of the Council would not be possible without her dedication and commitment.</p>	
013	<p>To note the annual accounts for 2025/26</p> <p>The unaudited accounts of the Parish Council have been completed, and the Parish Council end the financial year with £31,982.46.</p>	
014	<p>Reports from grant recipients</p> <p>Report from Glynis Broad, Editor of The Village Voice</p> <p>When Ruth Duchesne and I joined the Parish Council our prime objective was to improve communication within the villages to build community spirit and opportunities for social interaction. Previously the 'yellow book' had been a valuable communication tool in local villages but ceased to exist following the death of its editor; we received many complaints that without the trusty yellow book people did not know what was happening or what opportunities were available to meet neighbours.</p> <p>We knew that a 'parish magazine', for want of a better term, would fill the gap and go some way to solving the problems. So, Village Voice was born. We were aware that a magazine in stiff covers would not be a cheap option but we needed our creation to be impressive enough that it would not go straight in the recycling bin. The Village Voice</p>	

	<p>would be published every two months and was to be delivered to every house in Stanningfield with a number of copies being available in The Manger for residents of Bradfield Combust. We decided to start with just eight pages and see what response we got. The comments were many and favourable, local businesses asked to advertise and by the third edition the Village Voice had doubled in size. The fourth and latest edition had an increased distribution to include every home in Bradfield Combust. Future editions will be even larger as we continue to attract more advertising.</p> <p>Producing a village magazine is not a cheap undertaking and in the beginning an injection of cash was required while building advertising revenue. We would like to thank Sara Mildmay-White for her support in providing a grant from the Locality Fund. Currently we have eight advertisers who have committed to advertising for a full year and we are actively looking for more. After four editions our finances are still in the black but realistically, with a distribution of only 255 homes, the Village Voice is unlikely to be self-financing. However, it does continue to fulfil the Parish Council's objectives of encouraging communication and a sense of community.</p>	
015	<p>Reports from community groups</p> <p>Karen reports for - Stanningfield Art & Craft Group</p> <p>Since the Parish Meeting in May 2025, our members have made the decision to permanently include crafting in our art group. We are advertising for new members in the current edition of the Village Voice. It has been agreed to return to the Village Hall from 2nd July. The hall hire charge will be paid from our funds for a trial period of three months. If we are unable to gain new membership we will have to revert to the current arrangement of meeting in private homes.</p> <p>We are changing the time the group meets from Thursday afternoons to a 10.30 – 12.30pm Thursday morning in the hope we may encourage members who have young or school aged children to join us. Our session fee will increase to £4 including refreshments.</p> <p>There will be an added charge when we engage a tutor for a session or arrange to visit an exhibition. We need to recruit a minimum of 2 new members to cover costs of hiring the hall, refreshments and expenses. Our group recently visited Moyse's Hall for the Faces exhibition - people behind the portraits, which was interesting.</p>	
016	<p>To invite the public to raise any matters for discussion</p> <p>Nothing was raised.</p>	
017	<p>Consideration and decisions on subjects so discussed</p> <p>Nothing was raised for discussion.</p>	
018	<p>Meeting closed 6.53pm</p>	