

EAST WITTERING & BRACKLESHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14th May 2026 at 6.00pm AT BRACKLESHAM BARN, BEECH AVENUE, BRACKLESHAM

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Reeves
Joe O'Sullivan
Doug Holden
Joanna El-Batal
Chris Ford

Pamela Kensington
Beverley Ford
Deborah Picken
Victoria Ford Coates
Katy Spragg
15 x members of the public

IN ATTENDANCE

Tracey Glithero Parish Clerk
Vicky Middleton Deputy Parish Clerk

APOLOGIES

Elizabeth Hamilton CDC Councillor
Izabela Mayne WSCC Councillor

ABSENT

Iain Ballantyne

The Parish Council Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th May 2025 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed the Chair.

2. Apologies for Absence

Received from Elizabeth Hamilton and Izabela Mayne

3. Chairman's Report

The Chair gave the following report:

Achievements of The Parish Council this year:

We have installed Solar Panels onto the roof at Bracklesham Barn, using funds received from local housing development, this not only improves our biodiversity but also offers considerable electricity cost savings – almost £3000 in the first year.

We have replaced the old rusting, damaged bus shelter on Stocks Lane.

Despite the area not being owned by the Parish Council we undertook the work to make improvements to the damaged, broken paving slabs at Kingfisher Parade in East Wittering – these paving slabs were becoming a trip hazard and despite many requests for the landowners to improve the area no response was received. We are working with West Sussex County Council regarding repairs to the wall along The Parade, until this wall is repaired, we are unable to carry out any further improvements to East Wittering Village.

We continued to use the grant received from the National Lottery to clear shingle from the foreshore.

Work is ongoing to replace the public benches as they reach the end of their useful life – 4 have been replaced in 2025 with at least another 5 in the pipeline for 2026.

The PC purchased the new lights for the village Christmas Tree to support the new group of volunteers that have taken on the responsibility for the Christmas Lights Events – thank you to them for a very successful 2025 switch on.

Bracklesham Barn hire is growing thanks to the hard work of Vicky, since she joined the council staff income from The Barn hire has increased by almost £11,000.

We hosted the first Summer Picnic at Bracklesham Barn in August, which was a great success, this year's event will be held on 15th August and will be bigger and better than ever. We also hosted our first Christmas Afternoon Tea in December, the event was a triumph, the entertainment provided by Dawn Gracy was really well received. We will be holding another similar event this December.

We gave Community Grants this year to:

Chichester Food Bank
4Sight
St. Wilfrids Hospice
Tylers Trust
Brent Lodge
Outside The Box
Heartspace
Mill Hamlet Players
Youth Dream
Twinning Association

We continued to contribute towards:

The Community Warden
The Youth Worker
The Mobile Tip
The Manhood Peninsular Partnership Officer
The Allotments
The Street Lights
Additional grass cutting and bin emptying throughout the year.

Our Parish Clerk passed her CiLCA Qualification in June 2025 and our Deputy Clerk is currently studying towards the qualification.

4. Community Awards

The Parish Council is delighted to announce the launch of our inaugural Community Awards Scheme. Many residents generously contribute their time and efforts to our parish without seeking recognition. It is important to us to acknowledge and thank these individuals for their dedication.

Winners will be featured on our notice boards, social media channels, and website, providing well-deserved recognition from the wider community. We are pleased to make this an annual award, with the hope that it will continue to grow and celebrate outstanding contributions in years to come.

Young Person of the Year

Awarded to Belle Savage. For being so actively involved in supporting the younger children at the Youth Dream Youth Club on Thursday evenings and participating in a range of additional after-school activities.

Business with a Heart

Awarded to Rosarios. Who organise an annual free Christmas dinner for local single residents, often hosting over 100 attendees, ensuring that elderly or vulnerable members of the community are cared for during the festive season.

Community Champion Award

Awarded to Maureen Warwick. Who provides home-cooked meals to those unable to prepare food for themselves, all at her own expense.

We sincerely thank everyone who took the time to nominate this year's candidates. Congratulations to all nominees and winners. Please watch our notice boards, social media, and website for details on next year's nomination period.

5. Questions from residents

Although it is now easier to cross at Stocks Lane, it is still difficult to cross Bracklesham Lane, can anything be done to improve this? - Investigations carried out before the new crossing was installed found that no further improvements are possible in this area because of the number of dropped kerbs and property accesses.

The speed of traffic down Bracklesham Lane is causing a problem should we have a speed camera in that location? We have previously tried to set up a speed watch group, however, due to a lack of volunteers have been unable to proceed, we will add this to our Business Plan and take it up with WSCC Highways.

BF commented that the summer picnic last year was a great success and thanked the community for supporting the event. We will be holding another summer picnic on 15th August this year and urged everyone to come along.

Signed _____ Chair

Date _____