

BRASTED PARISH COUNCIL

Annette Hanson
Parish Clerk

Tel: 01732 455374
clerk@brastedparishccouncil.gov.uk

Minutes: Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 13 April 2026 at 7 pm at Brasted Recreation Ground Pavilion

Present: Parish Councillors N McSheehy (Chair), D Edgar, S Heath, H Furness, L O'Hara, G Bickerton, D Binsted, C Rogowska

In attendance: PC Wilson
Cllrs Nigel Williams, Michelle Alger, Sandra Robinson (District Councillors)
Roger Rogowski (Church warden, St Martin's Church)
Brasted Chart Recreation Ground Committee
Brasted Tennis Club

Apologies: None

Public: 9 members of the Public were present

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 14 April 2025 were received and accepted as correct.
3. The Chairman's Report for the year 2025/26

Firstly, I'd like to thank all the councillors who not only attend the meetings once a month but continuously support our parish behind the scenes (sorting the finances, helping to arrange care for those in need and reviewing all the planning applications are among a few of our many tasks) and of course a huge thank you to Annette our Clerk who actually runs the show.

Over the last year we've had some very positive developments around the parish. David has organised and fitted two new benches on the village Green and Helen has organised a defibrillator course for the Toys Hill residents. We were also able to offer grants to a number of organisations (Brasted Chart Recreation Ground Committee, Baby Umbrella, British Royal Legion, We Are Beams, Citizens Advice, Air Ambulance & St Martin's Church). It's wonderful we are able to do this.

Going forward we continue our commitment to ensure the drains are maintained and regularly cleared to help additional pressure on the High Street. The trees at Pipers Green, the recreation ground, the village green, Toys Hill are all surveyed and maintenance promptly arranged.

Last but not least, the turning on of the Christmas lights. The wind and rain arrived exactly as we began but the locals all turned out and a child from the Chart turned on the lights. The hot mulled wine and the mince pies were well received.

4. The following Community Reports were presented:

4.1 PC Wilson

Requested members of the public get in touch via MyCommunityVoice.

The biggest issue is the lack of reporting.

If a crime is in progress then dial 999.

If a crime has already happened then dial 101.

Sevenoaks District Council:

4.2 SDC Councillor Nigel Williams

KCC member for Sevenoaks West & SDC Cllr for Brasted, Sundridge & Ide Hill and Chevening and portfolio holder for Planning & Infrastructure (roads, schools, medical centres, utilities etc), responsible for Plan 2042 which has moved to Regulation 19 (testing evidence of suitability of land put forward by land owners for development).

One of his priorities is to attend as many parish council meetings as possible.

It has been an unprecedented year of change and sometimes turmoil at KCC. Reform took over running KCC last May, the budget for 2026/27 has been passed due to the large Reform majority.

Local government reorganisation will be finalised in July 2026.

Nigel is working hard to improve the lives of residents (working on blocked drains, parking issues, speeding).

4.3 SDC Councillor Michelle Alger

Sits on committees for People & Places and Cleaner & Greener.

Food waste collection due to start on Monday 27th April, this is a legal requirement for SDC. All households will receive 2 wheelie bins and 2 food waste caddies, there are concerns that some residents won't be able to accommodate the wheelie bins and there is currently no clear plan for repurposing existing wheelie bins and the green waste sacks. Final food waste roadshow to take place this Saturday in Sevenoaks. MA is also in advanced discussions to establish a reuse shop at Dunbrik.

Cllr David Edgar noted a recent flytip on Brasted Hill Road but noted that Enforcement officers do not work on Fridays which is not helpful. He also noted that the video on food waste caddies is very helpful.

A member of the public queried when the regular collection of glass will take place. MA confirmed probably June.

4.4 SDC Councillor Sandra Robinson

Sits on Audit and Scrutiny Committees.

Confirmed that the cost of green recycling bags was approx. £250k, the same as annual cost of supplying clear plastic bags. These have been used for 2 years leading to a theoretical saving of £250k, however, as replacement green bags were also issued the saving may be less than this.

Unfortunately Head of Dunbrik has recently resigned and therefore won't be overseeing the implementation of the new waste collection, SDC has an external consultant who will be overseeing this.

Main issues:

1. *Audit of District Council accounts*

Financial reporting position has worsened. Insufficient auditing took place during Covid which has led to many Councils' accounts being disclaimed. SDC's accounts have also disclaimed as there are discrepancies on double the number of accounting lines as prior year due to lack of evidence. There are issues on the fixed asset register and the movement on reserves. The Head of Finance & Head of Internal Audit have recently resigned.

2. *Old Coal Yard Planning Appeal*

Key issue is that district council doesn't have sufficient site provision for traveller communities or an up-to-date Local Plan (which leads to a presumption in favour of development). SDC currently estimate 193 new traveller sites are needed, but SDC's Local Plan 2042 has only made provision for 140 sites. Hence there is a shortfall of 40-50 sites.

3. *Heverswood Lodge Planning Appeal*

Development Management Committee refused planning permission; however the Planning Inspector allowed the application on appeal. SR feels this is a significant loss to the character of the Conservation Area. SR is not clear whether the Inspector signed off on the drawings submitted or the actual building that has been built. SR noted the residence was not in a Conservation Area and suggested BPC look at updating the Brasted Conservation Area.

Suggested an A25 traffic count for peak hours Mon – Fri counting cars and HGV's during school term time as a base line in advance of Covers Farm building works.

Also suggested new signage at bottom of Rectory Lane and Church Road – no entry to vehicles over 7.5 tonnes except for access, insurance wouldn't cover any vehicles which breach this.

4.5 Roger Rogowski (Church warden) from St Martin's Church

The church is in a period of vacancy as the interim rector Lynette Leithead retired at the beginning of January 2026. Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill and Brasted will be joined as one joint benefice with one full-time rector on 1 February 2026. The formal agreement is that the parishes will be managed with separate PCC's and with separate finances. The church wardens from the respective churches now meet on an as required basis to discuss joint issues. The job advertisement for a new rector closed last week and the interviews will start shortly.

In the meantime, we are starting to realise some of the benefits of pooling resources with our neighbours. We have access to two additional lay ministers and are sharing office and administrative costs. It is still business as usual at St Martin's with a regular pattern of service. Cover for all services is in place until the end of October, joint services will be held on a rota basis for the 3 months when there are five Sundays.

The parish council was thanked for financial assistance with the upkeep of the church yard.

During this period of vacancy, the pattern of service was changed so that Communion services are only on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month, and a morning worship service is held on the 1st and 4th Sundays. The feedback has been that people do appreciate the more informal morning service.

The church is keen for more engagement with the local community with a focus on young people and families.

A new website was launched last year; there is a Church Facebook page and a presence on the 'A Church Near You' website.

4.6 Brasted Chart Recreation Ground Committee

Reported on another successful year, with 3 main events: Spring picnic, July barbeque and September fete. In 2025 experienced an increase in outgoings so that without the £400 grant from BPC the committee would have been in the red. The committee expressed their thanks for the grant from the parish council.

A lot of money has been spent on grounds maintenance of the recreation ground, and an annual safety inspection. The space provides opportunities for people from further afield such as Crystal Palace as well as local residents and is used for picnics, barbeques, a space to meet neighbours and watch the children grow.

Going forward, a new planted up space where people can meet in a more intimate way could be created at the recreation ground. The replacement cost of some of the equipment is prohibitive and a low maintenance area for older people might be useful in future.

4.7 Tennis Club

The Tennis club requested that BPC revisit the increased hire rates charged to the tennis club for the hire of the court. The club have sprayed the courts with moss treatment, the courts were clear of moss thereafter,

saving the council the cost of a third-party contractor. BPC agreed to review the rates at the next council meeting.

5 Further matters for discussion and questions from Parishioners
None.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 7.57pm.