

Brampton Ash Parish Council – Summer News Update

Welcome to the Brampton Ash PC News Update, this is where we would like to share with you some of the actions the PC has undertaken along with some of the issues we encounter. Our aim has always been to provide services to the parish in a very cost-effective manner. However, there are a number of issues which are going to drive up these costs and we wish to share these with you. We hope you find this leaflet enlightening but also thought provoking. If you have any comments, please feel free to contact the Clerk at the email address at the end of this News Update.

Traffic Management

You might have noticed that, periodically, there is a speed monitor installed in the village which displays the speed of the vehicles passing through. The PC used to arrange for these to be installed twice a year. However, we managed to secure a grant from North Northamptonshire Council which allowed us to purchase our own speed monitor which includes a free two-year guarantee. You will see that it is currently installed on the lamp post in the centre of the village, hopefully this is reducing the speed of traffic flowing through our village. The equipment was free but there are other costs which are being incurred such as insurance, and after the two-year guarantee period there will likely be some potential maintenance and repair costs.



Village Defibrillator

In the spring of 2023 we purchased and installed the village defibrillator in the old telephone box at the entry to village, courtesy of an insurance payout from the bus shelter that was destroyed by arson. Should any resident within the village have a cardiac arrest then this defibrillator could be life-



saving. There are detailed instructions in the casing of the defibrillator that explains how to use a defibrillator. In the case of an emergency please call 999 before using this defibrillator.

The defibrillator requires regular maintenance which currently costs the PC £196 a year.



We also renovated and painted the telephone box and installed paving from Hermitage Road up to the door of the telephone box to make it easier and safer to access. The paving was paid for by the PC as were the painting materials and replacement panes of glass, however, the time for undertaking that renovation was provided free by the councillors.

Spring daffodils and snow drops

About 10 years ago we had a planting campaign to sow over 2,000 daffodils in and around the village. Every spring since then the results of that effort can be seen with those daffodils welcoming



the spring back. They are spectacular and enhance the views around our village. We also planted hundreds of snow drops, however, only a few dozen of those have survived. It is our plan to undertake



another snow drop planting exercise towards the end of the summer and hopefully we will all benefit from that display next spring.

Increased Costs

Changing Legal Requirements

There are a number of new legal requirements being placed on Parish Councils. At the moment we are able to keep our current website which costs £78 per year but it is highly likely that, within the very near future, we will be legally required to have a gov.uk website and email addresses for all councillors at an approximate cost of £300 per year.

The Clerk to the council is currently paid for 70 hours work annually. However, with all the new requirements being placed on the Parish Council the actual work undertaken by the Clerk over the past 10 years has risen to around 160 hours a year. The Clerk will retire in June 2026, at which point the new Clerk will need to be paid for 160 hours annually. This will raise the costs by around £1,000.

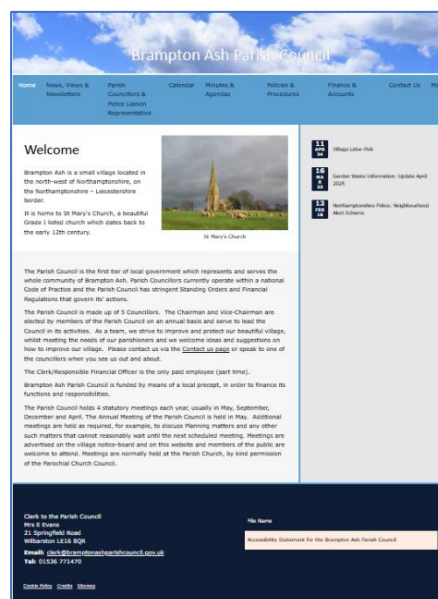
Managing the PC Assets

There are a number of assets owned by the PC such as a notice board, bench, tree guards, defibrillator, litter pickers, speed monitor, etc. Next year the insurance charges will rise to approximately £450 (from £200), partially due to the new banding used by the insurance company.

Conclusion

As you can see, the PC is dedicated to enhancing the environment in Brampton Ash. Our aim is also to control the costs that need to be incurred and therefore keep the precept charged to the residents as low as possible. It is, however, inevitable that the precept in 2026-27 will need to rise approximately to an annual fee of £107 for a band D property.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Parish Council.



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