

Minutes of a meeting of the Briantspuddle Village Hall Committee held on

4th February 2026 in the Jubilee Room, Briantspuddle Village Hall

Present: Stuart Chorley (Chair), Allan Smith (Treasurer), Anne Colquhoun (Secretary), Fiona Hogger, Angela Tozer (Booking Secretary).

1. **Apologies:** Julia Bradbury.
2. **Conflict of Interest:** None
3. **Approval of the minutes of 3rd December 2025** –the minutes were approved and signed as a true copy.
4. **Matters arising** from the minutes: None
5. **Treasurer's Report** – the treasurer circulated the monthly summary of the accounts which were mainly routine and on target. The premises license has been paid. Our electricity bill is slightly down. Profit from the Christmas Fair will be shown in January – it was almost identical to last year (£385.46). £600 of extra interest will be generated by the transfer of funds to the Trust Bank. The accounts are ready for auditing and will be submitted. Expenses totaling £79.02 were approved by all present to be paid to the Treasurer for his purchase of a radiator thermostat replacement, two motion detector replacements, and the temporary event notice (which will be billed to the Social Club). The matter of a parish grant was discussed but it was decided there was no need for one this year. There were no further questions for the treasurer.
6. **Bookings Report** – Angela reported that bookings are busy. She had received a booking from our MP, Lloyd Hatton, which had been printed from the website – she thought it would have been courteous for the MP's office to discuss the date prior to booking.
7. **Email dated 19th January 2026 from Community Group** - the secretary had received an email from Jenny Beedle on behalf of the community group informing the trustees that the kitchen had been left in a filthy condition on two occasions, and it requires a professional clean before it can be used again. In addition, one of the hot plates was left on and was found glowing red with fat smoking, in December. This posed a severe fire risk. There was no record of the kitchen being hired on these two occasions. The treasurer has arranged for the cooker to be professionally cleaned on 11th February 2026. Discussion followed and it was agreed that:
 - a) The cooker be turned off at the wall after each use
 - b) Whilst hirers are welcome to use the kettle and microwave, no-one should use the cooker without prior booking (or if used as a “one-off” then the Booking secretary should be notified within 48 hours)
 - c) An up-to-date list of key holders should be obtained and a notification will be sent to them all, and to all hirers, outlining the points raised above, and stressing the importance of leaving the kitchen clean and tidy after each use
 - d) It was suggested that a caretaker be employed to check the kitchen at the end of each hiring, but it was not considered to be practical at this stage
8. **Future events – Open Gardens 2026** - despite the flooding locally, it was felt that the gardens would recover in time. Stuart reported that the committee was organized. There would not be a flower festival at the church this year, but additional flower

arrangements would be in place, with a collection box.

9. AOB:

a) Stuart mentioned that over the previous year discussions have been had around the fact that the current treasurer is doing far more than the role of treasurer requires. Not in some small part due to the reluctance of others to get involved. Stuart had offered to get involved with maintenance roles like the boiler, fire alarm system, extinguishers and electrics. Stuart expressed concern that the treasurer hadn't kept him informed of meetings with contractors to effect that handover and that the treasurer continues to take on more jobs than he needs to especially as he would like to reduce his workload. The treasurer will give Stuart a list of jobs he wishes to relinquish before the next meeting in April. It would be helpful if an understudy, trustee, or volunteer without the responsibility of trustee, could be found to learn about the various jobs that are undertaken. It was pointed out that we are short of committee members, particularly those representing the various organizations. Stuart intimated that he may not stand again as Chairman after the AGM which will take place on 21st May 2026.

b) Stuart has been given a framed picture of a pair of cottages at Turnerspudde (the cottages have recently been sold but were part of the Bladen estate), and it was proposed to hang the picture in the hall. The parish council should be notified of its value as they insure the pictures.

**10. DONM – Wednesday 1st April 2026 at 7pm.
AGM – Thursday 21st May 2026**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Anne Colquhoun
Hon Secretary