

# **BRACEBRIDGE HEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

Bracebridge Heath Community Library, London Road, Bracebridge Heath, Lincoln, LN4 2LA  
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## **Bracebridge Heath Parish Council**

### **Annual Report 2022-2023**

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## What does your Parish Council do?

As the lowest tier of local government, parish councils provide services at a very local level. For Bracebridge Heath Parish Council this includes but is not limited to:

### Play parks

Stane Drive  
Grantham Road  
Grace's park at the Recreation Ground

### Green spaces

Recreation Ground  
St John's Square  
Grantham Road Allotments  
Woodland Walk  
St John's Hospital Cemetery

### Street Furniture

Bus shelters  
Defibrillators  
Noticeboards  
Litter and dog waste bins  
Benches

### Buildings

Community Hub and Library  
Pavilion  
Village Hall



A parish council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the parish and has an overall responsibility for the well-being of its local community.

It is the level government closest to the community, with the district authority above it in the hierarchy. As it is the authority closest to the people, parish councils are invariably the first place people will go with concerns or ideas. For this reason they are a vital part of any community.

Its work falls into three main categories:

- representing the local community
- delivering services to meet local needs
- striving to improve quality of life in the parish

## Our people

### Staff

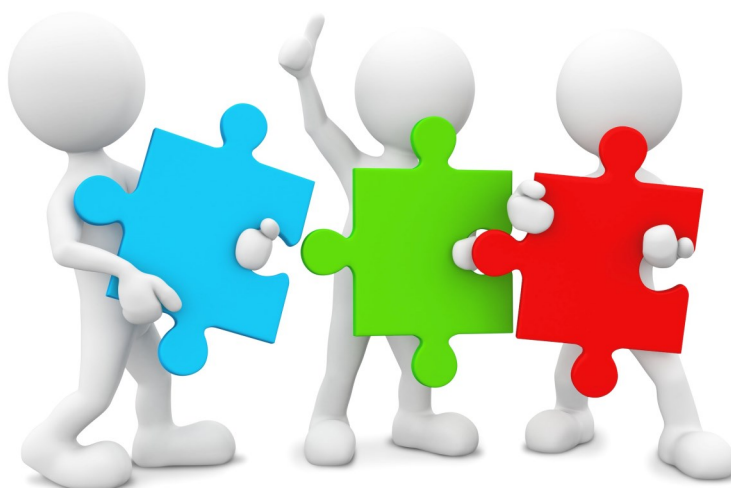
The council employs a part time clerk and RFO and deputy clerk. The clerks advise on legal issues, manage the budget, staff and projects.

A part time caretaker looks after our buildings and supervises our grounds maintenance contracts. A facilities cleaner keeps our buildings and outside areas looking clean and tidy, regularly litter picking throughout the village.

### Councillors

The council has 13 seats; seven are currently filled. Councillors meet once per month at meetings of the Full Council.

Council business is worked on in detail by staff and councillors and matters are then debated and a decision made in a public meeting.



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### Volunteers

Bracebridge Heath Parish Council is supported by volunteers in the community hub and library, wombling and assistance during events such as Remembrance Sunday and installation of the Christmas tree each year.

**In total volunteers contribute in excess of 1200 hours each year. That's worth at least £12,240 (National Living Wage)**

**Councillors**—Chris Barr, Carole Broad, Chris Callan, Sue Manders, Val Marden, Rob Stone and Kate Trought.

**Staff**—Stacey Knowles (Clerk and RFO), Rachel Fraser (Deputy Clerk), Dave Cole (Caretaker) and Rebecca Shirley (Facilities Cleaner)

## Chairman's report

Thanks go to my colleagues on the council for their dedication and commitment over the last year. Each member of Council brings their own experience and skills to the role and contribute in different ways to the community and to the council.

### Councillors

Following the elections in May 2023, we have said goodbye to four members of council. Our sincere thanks go to Funmi Adeyemi, Jordan Moran, Aarron Smith and Ann Walker for their commitment to the council. We appreciate their contribution and service to the village and wish them well for the future.

We welcome back councillors Chris Barr, Carole Broad, Val Marden, Sue Manders, Rob Stone and Kate Trought. Thank you to everyone who has put themselves forward for election and for supporting the democratic process.

Bracebridge Heath Parish Council has thirteen seats in total and the council is now actively looking to fill the vacancies. Being a councillor can sometimes be a difficult role particularly in managing existing commitments alongside council business and sometimes having to make difficult decisions. However, it is also a rewarding position that brings you closer to the community you live in, helping to shape and make positive changes for residents.

### Volunteers

Our volunteers play an important role in our community; from helping to run the library to litter picking and to planning events. Thank you to all our volunteers who give up their time to make a positive difference throughout our village.

As always, we thank our library volunteers for their continued efforts with this facility. Following closure due to Covid and issues with the condition of the library building in the last year, our enthusiastic volunteer team has been expanding the services available in the library. This includes supporting residents with digital queries, story time and a mixture of events to suit everyone. We very much appreciate the work that our library volunteers do in keeping the library open and making it such a welcoming space for customers.

The Wombles of Bracebridge Heath has continued to help keep our village clean and tidy. Now meeting once a month, the group is a friendly social event which takes positive action for residents. Thank you to everyone involved in this. Thank you also to Cllr Barr, who was successful in an application to the Lincolnshire Co-operative and was chosen for community champion funding. This initiative has raised £812 to support the Wombles in keeping the village a clean and pleasant place to live.

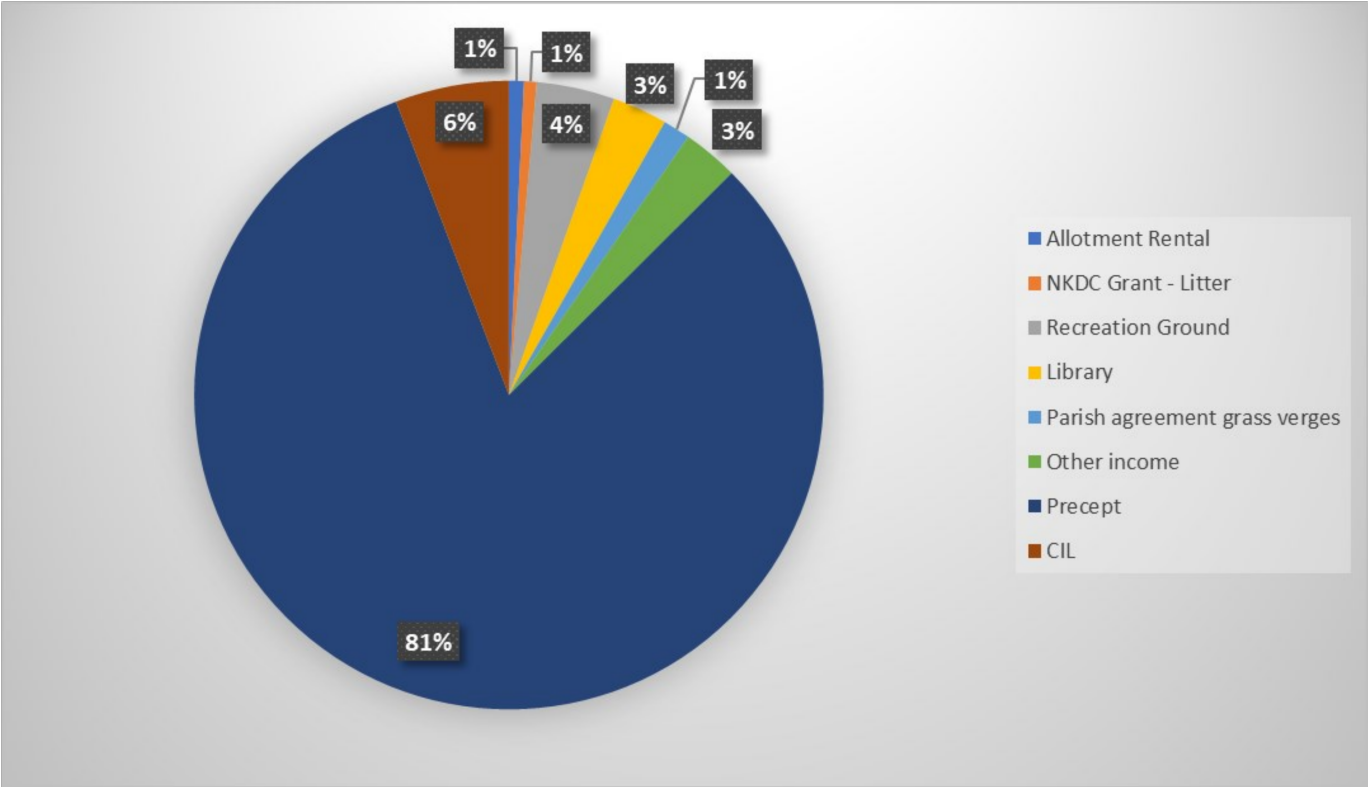
As always we give thanks to our volunteers who assisted with the village Christmas tree. Thanks go to Burrows Recovery and Mr Rob Rickels who worked alongside our village caretaker to put the tree up and decorate with lights.

### Staffing

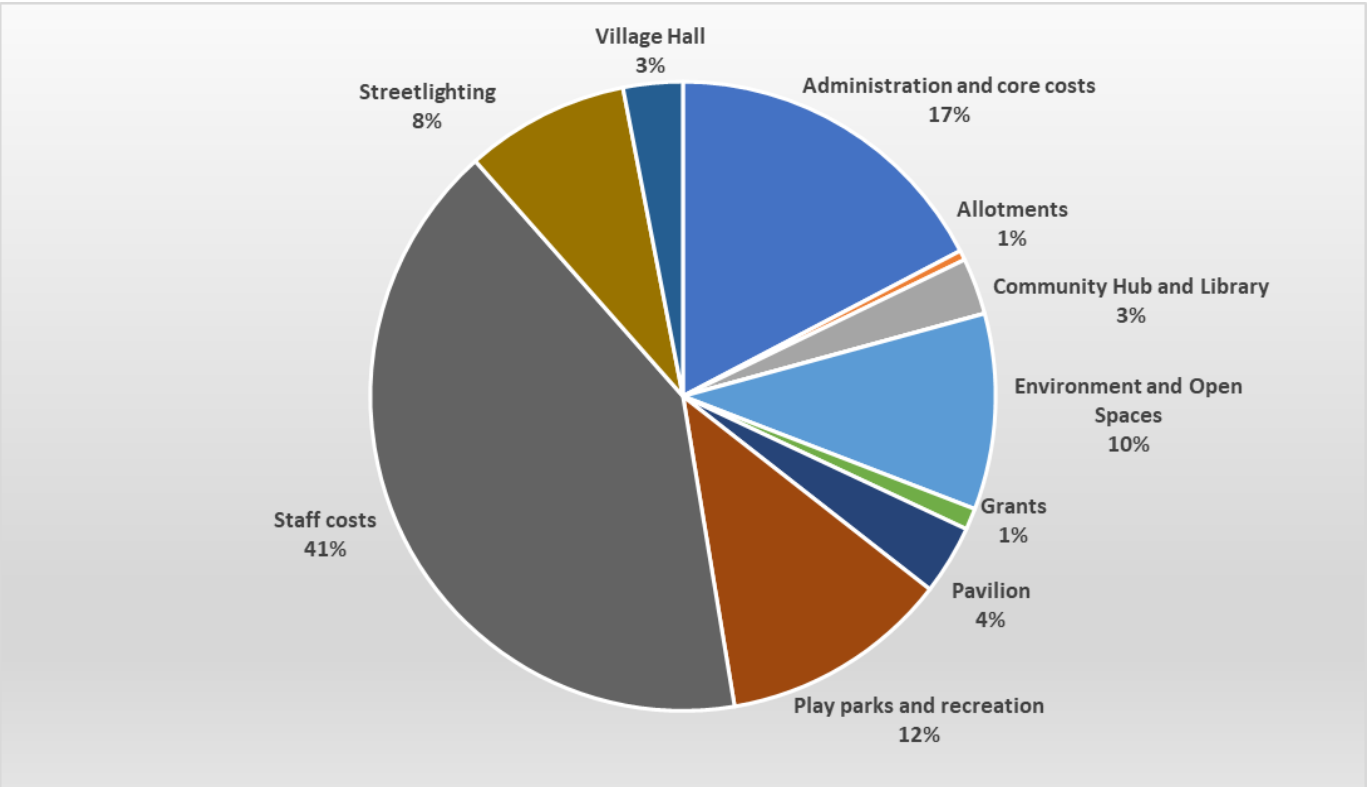
As Chairman, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all our staff who continue to work hard on behalf of our residents.



# Annual income 2022-2023



# Annual expenditure 2022-2023



# 2022-2023 in summary

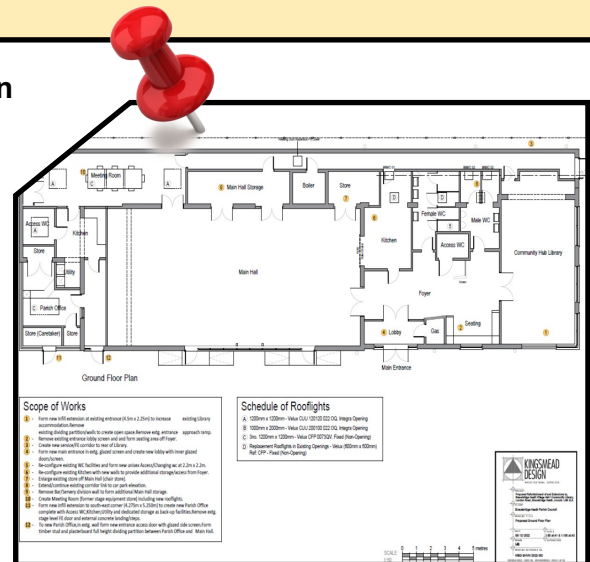
## Village Hall

Of course, one of the most substantial projects we have undertaken in the last year was to start the process of refurbishing the village hall.

Our vision is to deliver a modern community facility at the heart of the village. A community space for all; young and old, to meet for recreation, social events, education, and entertainment, catering for the needs of today and for a larger community in the decades ahead.

Our objectives are to refurbish the building throughout and extend to ensure it meets the village's future needs. This project also includes the creation of a dedicated space for the community hub and library. The current site for the community hub is leased through Lincolnshire County Council. It is tired and outdated and lacks energy efficiency. A new space within the village hall will help to secure the future of the community hub and library and its services. It will also enable us to improve the existing services and experience for volunteers and library users, with better facilities and possible expansion of the services offered.

## Proposed floorplan



Following termination of the lease with the Village Hall Management Committee in May 2022, the council has carried out the following:

- Agreeing a new layout and scope of works
- Working with an architect to visualise the changes
- Carrying out a public consultation to determine support for the project
- Requesting permission to borrow from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities so that a loan can be taken out to fund the work
- Submitting grant applications
- Submitting an application for planning permission for the two extensions to the building
- Submitting an application to building control
- Completing pre-construction survey
- Producing tender documentation so that the council can tender for the works.

There is still a significant amount of work to do. The council hopes to have everything completed and ready to reopen by the end of the year.

All updates are provided on our website on dedicated pages <https://bracebridge-heath.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>.

## Community facilities – pavilion and library

The community hub and library finally reopened in May 2022 after several months of closure due to the leaking roof. We are grateful to Lincolnshire County Council for getting this repaired and enabling us to return to offering our community hub and library. Thank you to our volunteers for making this such a welcoming and pleasant facility to be involved with.

The pavilion has also been undergoing some repairs including improvements to the kitchen and extension of the CCTV system so that additional areas of the recreation ground are covered.

The pavilion is available for private hire including birthday parties, Christenings etc. Thank you to all our regular hirers who are providing clubs and services for all residents to be involved with.

Thank you to staff, Dave and Becky, for maintaining our buildings.

## Playparks and recreation facilities

We have play parks at Stane Drive, Grantham Road and Grace's Park at the Recreation Ground. Various repairs have been carried out throughout the year but the most significant change is the replacement of the toddler multi-play unit at Grantham Road which opened just before Christmas.

We continue to maintain the tennis courts, MU-GA, outdoor gym equipment and the football pitches for our residents.



## Grass Cutting and Grounds Maintenance

The Council has recently agreed to enter into a Parish Agreement for Urban Highway Grass Cutting with Lincolnshire County Council. This will now be a rolling agreement until either party cancel. The council has accepted a two year contract for the cutting of grass verges which will be carried out seven times per year. This is an enhanced programme of cutting in comparison to the minimum requirements which is just 3 cuts per year.

The council has also entered a contract for the maintenance of grounds owned by the parish council including land at St John's Square, Grantham Road park, Red Hall Farm Lane and the Recreation Ground. This is a two year contract which also includes hedge cutting at various locations and maintenance of the football pitches.



## Civic Events and Ceremonies

A Remembrance Sunday service was held outside at the War Memorial this year. Thank you to everyone involved in holding this event. We understand that residents are keen to return to normal with a church service and parade to the war memorial and the parish council hopes to support this for the service in 2023.

Thank you to everyone who put the Christmas Tree up again on the corner of Bentley Drive and Lancia Crescent. We had a short Christingle Service, led by Reverend Jacqueline Bell and carols were sung around this tree. Thank you also to the children who helped switch the lights on. We hope you enjoyed the event.



## Queen's Jubilee

Thank you to everyone who made the Queen's Jubilee a special event. Supported by the parish Council, St John's the Evangelist Church held a drop in event over the long weekend with a large display of photographs of the village through the ages. The event was supported by the WI who provided refreshments and held a cake sale. The Woolly Woodlands looked fantastic and the library was able to celebrate with some craft activities.





## Allotments

As in previous years, the interest in our allotments has continued with a number of people wishing to hire a plot. A waiting list is in place and those waiting are contacted when a plot becomes available.

Thank you to the Allotment Holders' Association for obtaining and planting trees for the Queen's Jubilee. The entrance to the site is now lined with fruit trees to complement our productive allotment site.

The allotments continue to be a thriving and vibrant community and plot holders are to be commended for their efforts in achieving this.



## Parish Council Grants

This year grants were awarded to:

Bracebridge Heath Friendship club	£250	Bracebridge Heath Allotment	
Bracebridge Heath Women's Institute	£150	Holder's Association	£200
St John's Primary Academy	£500	1st Bracebridge Heath Brownies	£135
Waddington Guides	£500		

## Defibrillators

Unfortunately, we have suffered from vandalism this year and two defibrillator cabinets have been broken beyond repair. We are very lucky to be supported by our local businesses and we would like to thank and acknowledge

- **Singleton Training Services** for purchasing and donating a new defibrillator cabinet for Sleaford Road.
- **Ford and Slater** for allowing us to site the device on their building and providing an electricity supply to the cabinet.

Thank  
YOU