

# **East Brent Parish Council**

## **Annual Parish Meeting 13th April 2026,**

### **Chairman's Annual Report**

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, fellow councilors, honored guests.

2025 was a quite year in terms of parish matters, the biggest task has been the continuing devolution from Somerset Council of certain responsibilities to the Parishes.

From our point of view this has been reviewing Somersets request for us to take over ownership of the play parks in Orchard Close, and the main park opposite the phone box. The Parish Council considered the request and discussed at great lengths the taking on of liabilities surrounding the play equipment and possible future replacement cost, in addition we also considered the Public Liability issues surrounding any possible injuries to person and that liability cost on both the PC and our Public Liability Insurance premiums.

To that end we agreed with Somerset that we were not prepared to take on the freehold and subsequent liabilities, however we were prepared to commit to undertaking the grass and hedge cutting of the parks to provide resident with the best possible recreation areas.

The Play area in Rooksbridge, known as Josephs Pound, is owned by the Parish council and we do have full responsibility for all the area within the park. To that end we undertook a total replacement of the enclosing fence at the end of the summer in 2025, with a state-of-the-art steel fence and post installation which should have a life expectancy of some 25 years, thus saving the PC monies from not having to replace timber rails and posts every year.

As some may remember, there used to be a war memorial plaque on the old chapel in Rooksbridge, that was removed when the chapel was sold and converted to a residence. After many years of languishing in various stores, we have now had the plaque placed on a sandstone base and backing and installed on the site of our main war memorial as a tribute to those remembered on the plaque.

As we are all aware the East Brent war memorial has a slight lean on it, to the South and West, Since June 2021 we have been monitoring the tilt monthly and can report that the movement are seasonal and weather related, and over the last 5 years the movements have been within tolerances.

I would like to thank all our parishioners who tirelessly undertake and organize community activities such as,

Waste pickup collections,

Friday Hub,

The monthly village hall cinema

And much more.

I do not intend to touch on our parish finances as I will leave that to Jim to detail.

Finally, a very big thank you to all councilors, and parish volunteers for their work , efforts and dedication over the past 12 month. I would also like to thank our clerk for the guidance given in steering us on the right path always and I'd like to take this opportunity to mention how much we all value Jim's hard work, experience and level-headedness

Thank you all for your support. Cllr. Kevin J Bray, 13th April 2026