

**BRINKLOW PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council**  
**Held in the Community Hall on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**Present:** Councillor J Reid (Chairman)  
Councillor T Heenan  
Councillor I Currington  
Councillor S Brown  
Councillor Karen Keene  
Councillor Judith Brickwood

Councillor H Timms (RBC)  
J Boonham (Cemetery Agent)  
D Lloyd (Clerk & RFO)  
5 Members of the public

**1. Apologies.**

None were received.

**2. Declarations of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest made.

- 3. Minutes of the last meeting.      **RESOLVED**      **That the minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>h</sup> April 2024 were approved, signed and initialled by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.****

**4. Comments, Questions or Suggestions made by Members of the Public.**

The councillors were asked if the Affordable Housing meeting went ahead with Mr Mawson and the developers; this did go ahead and the owner needs to get the ball rolling with the Parish Council supporting him. The proposal is for 18 affordable units (houses and bungalows) for members of Brinklow village. People need to register an interest in affordable housing, the form on the RBC website is not just for council housing. The housing needs survey established a small development is needed which is what is being looked into.

A tree outside of a residents house on the Crescent was trimmed by WCC recently which caused the resident an amount of stress and he attempted to stop the work. A suggestion was made that residents should be informed prior to the work via a mailing. The Parish Council will put the residents complaint forward to WCC and to also mention that the timing is not good for pruning trees.

Following various text messages being sent to residents from the Revel surgery Dr Brown explained the following: Up until now the GP dispensing services and the pharmacy services, although two separate enterprises, have shared the same team and worked from one area. After July 1st the two will split. Patients who live close to the pharmacy (in Brinklow and Smeaton lane) will have to use pharmacy services. Patients in the rural dispensing areas, Stretton, Pailton, Harborough Magna, Easenhall, Withybrook, Wolvey, Willey etc can use the GP services which will be located in the main surgery or choose to use pharmacy services. EPS stands for electronic prescribing services. This means that there will be no green paper prescriptions everything will go direct to GP dispensing or pharmacy services. This will result in a paperless service which will be much more efficient. Pharmacy is installing the full new system. This will automatically text message patients when their medications are ready, speed up processing the medications and locating the medication when collected. The installation of a system that will check all of the wholesalers for availability will enable ordering as soon as anything becomes available. Checking everything manually works but is time consuming and often they are too late in the queue and the drug is out of stock again. The pharmacy will continue to be a pharmacy lead service with all the management and checks on clinical safety that the pharmacist carries out. It was set to by the

three retired doctors to increase safety and develop a local service for the community. The expansion of pharmacy 1st clinical services will provide a massive benefit to the locality. Patients will be able to be seen immediately with earache, sore throats, tonsillitis, urinary tract infections. This service is set to expand but the pharmacy needs people to use it for prescriptions so that sufficient funding is generated by prescription services and pharmacy 1st to fund the pharmacist Paul Mills who is an amazing asset to the community.

Jeanette Lomas requested a new padlock for Pocket Park.

**5. District and County Councillor Reports for Information.**

Reports were already given by Councillors A Warwick (WCC) and T Gillias (RBC) in the Annual Parish Meeting

Councillor H Timms (RBC) reported that the Conservatives are still the largest party for RBC following the election with no overall control as before. No decision has been made as to who will take the cabinet, decisions to be made this week.

**6. Report by Cemetery Agent.**

Jennie read out her report to all present. Another quiet month doing some admin work and dealing with several enquiries from people looking for graves of long deceased relatives. Cemetery files were prepared for inspection by the Auditor. A burial is planned to take place next week. Double checking the records is ongoing, locating areas where there are spaces suitable for both burials and interments where markers will be placed to show families the options available.

**7. To Formally sign the AGAR forms.**

The forms were checked and signed by both the Chairman and the Clerk

**8. To Discuss the Playground inspection and approve the recommended work.**

Following the playground inspection the Lengthsmen have addressed a couple of the minor issues, there was a need for 2 new replacement swing seats, 3 quotes were obtained; Active Garden £160 each, Wickey £134.99 each & Online Playgrounds £129.40 each. It was agreed to purchase 2 from Online Playgrounds @ £258.80 as an emergency purchase prior to the meeting to be fitted immediately.

**APPROVED proposed by Councillor K Keene & seconded by Councillor T Heenan**

**9. To Discuss and Approve the process to follow for Planning Applications.**

A policy has been written up and was read out to all present.

**RESOLVED Approved by all to adopt the policy**

**10. To Discuss the new fees being introduced for the pre-paid SOLDO cards.**

SOLDO have informed us that they are going to introduce new fees amounting to £252 per year. Another pre-paid debit card in the name of the Parish Council is to be sourced.

**CLERK TO ACTION Add to next agenda**

**11. An update on the Speed Reduction meeting.**

Another meeting has taken place with little progress, the Parish Council are pushing to at least get permission for speed gates and for issues with the white lines to be addressed.

**12. An update on the Mowing Contract.**

The contract was to start in March but didn't commence until mid April due to the weather. When the playing field was mowed a huge amount of laying grass was left which was cleared by Councillor K Keene and the Lengthsmen which took three 4 hour sessions. The second cut should be better and he is trying to catch up with the cutting of the other areas of the village.

**13. To Discuss the Planning Consultation for Highwood Farm.**

The Council were asked for comment on this request for an additional slurry store but when additional information was requested we were informed that it was a Permitted Development not a Planning Application and we did not receive anything that we asked for clarification of. Councillor H Timms asked for the planning officers name and she will query back regarding this. The Parish Council have also sent a response to express our disappointment regarding the lack of response when the questions asked were in the interest of our residents whom we represent.

**14. To discuss the Pre-application consultation for a proposed Battery Energy Storage System.**

This proposal at Bungalow Farm, Smeaton Lane (within Coombe Fields PC) is for storage units, not panels, which couple up to overhead supplies and go into the main supply. Deemed visible from Brinklow. Feedback forms were printed and available for the public to take away with them, Councillor H Timms asked to be copied into any sent to the proposer. She also stated that Battery Storage is not allowed in the greenbelt (although Solar panels are) and the proposed site is greenbelt land being on the old chicken farm.

Questions and concerns raised were:

1. Once the battery site is up and running will the fields will be covered in solar panels to feed them.
2. Currently battery storage units are banned in the greenbelt, however solar panels are not.
3. The proposed storage unit is within sight and sound of Pedlar's Bridge, which is a scheduled monument, this will disturb the peace and tranquillity valued by parishioners on a recognised footpath which is adjacent.
4. There is a stream, Smite Brook, adjacent to the site which would be subject to pollution in the event of a fire.
5. Noise from the cooling fans will be obtrusive.
6. The map provided in the pre-submission consultation is very poor, difficult to see where the actual installation will be with reference to the existing sheds. What will the visual impact be.
7. Will there be additional traffic.
8. This is not an agricultural development so will the surrounding villages impacted by this get something back (Section 106 agreement)

The feedback form and details of the proposal were to be put onto Facebook and onto the PC website.

**15. To Discuss the Canal & Rivers Trust RE: Ell Lane.**

The amount of mud on the road on the bend of Ell Lane was queried. The contractor dealing with the Canal landslide are about to commence moving huge volumes of soil but a sweeper will be used to keep the road clear.

**16. To discuss the Pharmacy and Shelter.**

This was addressed by Dr Brown in the first section of the meeting, see Item 4.

**17. An Update on the Internal Audit of Accounts.**

The Internal Audit has taken place and the report highlighted a couple of minor things to take into consideration for the following year which can all be easily addressed. The report in general was very good and reported that the accounts were well organised, of a high standard and compliant.

**18. An Update on the Picnic Tables and Benches Project.**

The seating on the playing field is to be replaced with 4 new items of seating. Limited time offer price £1338 to be verified.

Teak Memorial benches were sourced and available to the public for £475 which includes the brass plaque and installation. 2 residents have expressed an interest, a deposit of £100 is to be requested prior to the PC placing the order. Preferred locations to be discussed.

**APPROVED Proposed by Councillor K Keene, Seconded by Councillor S Brown to purchase 4x picnic tables**

**19. An Update on the proposed Hedgehog Highway Project.**

To purchase a box of Hedgehog highway surrounds for the villagers for £150 and to purchase 6 Hedgehog houses for £89.25, some to be used as prizes for a drawing competition for the children of the village, was discussed.

**APPROVED Proposed by Chairman J Reid for both purchases Seconded by Councillor K Keene**

**20. To Minute the response given to Planning Applications between meetings.**

**Planning Consultation R24/0249** – 15 Great Balance, Brinklow – for a proposed single storey rear extension – The Parish Council responded with No Objection.

**21. To Approve the Accounts for Payment.**

Correspondence was received requesting a donation for Round the Revel – last year £125 was donated.

**APPROVED A donation of £150 proposed by Chairman J Reid, Seconded by Councillor I Currington**

Date	Chq no / EFT	Payee	Total Payments	Payment Particulars
09/05/24	EFT	Leicestershire Gardens	1665.94	2nd payment for grasscutting contract
09/05/24	EFT	Soldo	355.09	top up card for April/May transactions
09/05/24	EFT	J Boonham	317.31	salary & expenses
09/05/24	EFT	D Lloyd	411.50	salary
09/05/24	EFT	Anifeed Ltd	420.00	internal audit
09/05/24	EFT	Round the Revel	150.00	donation

**APPROVED Proposed by Chairman J Reid Seconded by Councillor I Currington**

The Cashbook, Bank reconciliation and bank statements were checked, initialled and balance agreed.

**22. Progress Reports for Information.**

- **Brinklow Castle & Playing Field** – There has been a tidy up on the Tump and the debris will be burnt once the weather permits. Work has been done on the fence around the pond.
- **Memorial Planting & Maintenance** – Some extra volunteers have offered their help with this.
- **Repairs to Lamp at Walkers Terrace** – The repair has now been completed.

**23. Correspondence received.**

- **Brinklow Football Club Request** – Permission for a new container on the playing field was received but they withdrew their request and are not ready to proceed at the moment.
- **Round the Revel request for a donation** – This was dealt with and approved in item 21

- **Any other Correspondence** – A letter received from Linfoot Homes suggested that we consider making the affordable housing available for disabled people as well as for the elderly – this was agreed by all Councillors. It was discussed what the age limit should be set at for the affordable housing for the elderly. 55 and over is the current age group for sheltered housing/supported living based on statistics so this was agreed to be used as the set limit.

**24. To confirm the date of the next meeting.**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June

The meeting closed at 9pm

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CHAIRMAN