

**BRINKLOW PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council**  
**Held in the Community Hall on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**Present:**

Councillor J Reid (Chairman)  
Councillor T Heenan  
Councillor S Brown  
Councillor K Keene  
Councillor I Currington  
Councillor M Bannister (WCC)  
Councillor T Gillias (RBC)  
Councillor H Timms (RBC)

J Boonham (Cemetery Agent)  
Ben Gaut: Beat Manager  
Ian Barker: PCSO  
25 members of the public

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies received and accepted from D. Lloyd(Clerk & RFO), Cllr J Brickwood, County Cllr Adrian Warwick.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025 were approved, signed and initialled by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings. The minutes of the informal meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August were also approved and signed.**

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

Jeanette Lomas raised:

- Sandra Vickery is taking over organising the Christmas meals for the elderly and would like a contribution of £200 from the Parish Council. County Councillor Mike Bannister mentioned the County Councillors Community Fund of £8,000 per councillor and asked Sandra to put in for this.
- The Poppy collection would be from October 23<sup>rd</sup> to November 11<sup>th</sup> and asked the parish council to pay for a wreath as usual. This was confirmed. The commemoration service will be on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> of November, organised by Phil and Sally Mawson.
- Walking with heroes: There were 26 steel figures of which we could sell 20 for £150 with funds going to the British Legion. The remainder to be kept in the container.
- The 'Welcome to Brinklow Flyer': a spreadsheet had been created for sold properties to ensure these were left for new owners.
- Rugby in Bloom: The children's gardening club at Pocket Park had won first prize. There would be a presentation on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October. Vera had won a prize for the Community Hall, and the Memorial had also won a prize.

A parishioner raised the question about the new 84 bus route through the village run by Stagecoach. This needed publicity. The route was from the Hospital of St. Cross to Nuneaton Hospital. The Parish Council will get some information about this.

Vera raised:

- The Coventry Road footpath was in very poor condition, especially by Kim's Farm. The Lengthsmen would look at this.
- The Community Hall:
  - This was in poor condition and needs pointing on two walls. Does anyone know a local builder who could do this?
  - Are there any grants available? Heather Timms mentioned the Warwickshire CAVA group, Community And Voluntary Action. She would pass contact details to John.
  - Not enough bookings, it needs promotion.
  - From the floor it was pointed out that WIFI was being installed.
  - People are removing notices from the notice board.
  - From the floor it was pointed out that changes were happening, Jill to talk to John about this.
- What is happening about the battery installation at Bungalow Farm? It was reported that this has not come up to planning yet, John has registered to speak at this session when it does come up.
- Blue rubbish sacks needed: John is still holding these.

A parishioner raised the traffic incident on Broad Street at 5:30am. Could speed calming measures be introduced? Unfortunately, from Warwickshire's point of view, there have not been enough deaths to justify anything. Heather Timms mentioned that the rumble strips in Bretford are illegal now, no new ones being installed. Tony Gillias said they were ineffective, the best way to get through them with the least vibration was to speed up! Speed humps are not allowed on a main road.

John pointed out we had placed an 18-point road safety plan with Warwickshire Highways back in 2023 with little result. We are not allowed by Warwickshire to have speed or average speed cameras. However there have been twice as many visits by the speed camera van. If there is a known local speeder, then report it to our local police and Ben Gaunt will follow through on this. Two parishioners volunteered to join our local Speed Aware Group, managed by Jennie Boonham.

Cllr Tony Gillias said the chicanes in Pailton were introduced after an extensive study of speed reduction measures. There have been problems with them causing rollovers.

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

Councillor M Bannister (WCC) reported: He held the customer and localities portfolio. This included libraries, phone services, HR and Trading Standards.

The government proposals for unitary authorities, which is being forced on us, is a big issue which will affect all 220 parish and town councils in Warwickshire. All the district councils wanted two authorities, north and south which his figures suggest would be a financial disaster. However, government sets the size of these authorities which is a minimum threshold of 500 thousand people, hence there will be one unitary authority. This could mean devolving powers down to parish and town councils which is government policy, with them taking on tasks previously done by Borough Councils.

His opinion is that this will cause problems as Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers and several parish councils are having trouble recruiting councillors. From his point of view, he needs all parish clerks to be easily available, and it may be necessary to lump parishes together. Savings from having a unitary authority are envisaged and could be passed down to Parish Councils. A survey of what facilities are where, for example Pharmacies, has been completed and is being analysed.

Warwickshire Highways had a new portfolio holder, Councillor Jennifer Warren. He will speak to her about our concerns, and we can contact her directly.

Parish Councillor Ian Currington commented that we felt that rural communities get missed and were forgotten about by city-based councillors. Please can County Councillors think about how rural communities could be treated differently.

Councillor T Gillias (RBC) reported: Three new gypsy and traveller sites being approved with an agreement that they would eventually be returned to green fields. However, of the Barnacle gypsy and traveller sites that were started unauthorised, none have been returned to green fields. Furthermore, intimidation of locals was rife.

Councillor H Timms (RBC) reported: The Warwickshire response to the draft Rugby Local plan was that they did not support the dispersal strategy.

**6. Report by Police Beat Manager Ben Gaut and our PCSO Ian Barker.**

It was important for parishioners to make our police aware of issues, even if they did not consider them serious enough to call 999 or 101. This intelligence is recorded and will be referenced if the police are called to any other incident. It was reported to them that since the police drop-in session there have been several reports of gardens being broken into. Concern was expressed by parishioners that despite Brinklow having CCTV with a good view of the incident of a speeding vehicle on Broad Street causing write offs of three vehicles, the police had not asked for the footage. The police commented that they did not need the footage for this incident, the individual responsible had been traced and was not from this area.

**7. Report by Cemetery Agent.**

Jennie read out her report to all present. There had been no burials or interments of ashes over the summer. However, people were still keen to reserve a plot in the cemetery for the future. New reserved posts had been supplied. There was a request for a new bench in the cemetery, installation to be discussed with the Lengthsmen. Their reconstruction of the bothy is making good progress. The grass contractor and Luke have kept the cemetery well cared for over the summer.

**8. Developments regarding the draft Local Plan**

- Warwickshire County Council disagree with the dispersal strategy for housing.
- They suggest Lodge Farm as a preferred site.
- If Rugby continue with additional homes in the preferred Rural Areas, they request further consultation with both the Social Care and the Integrated Care Board.
- Warwickshire County Council are also commissioning a Strategic Transport Review.
- There was supposed to be a Greenbelt review by Rugby Borough Council, nothing has been seen yet.
- A further meeting of all the threatened villages, organised by Richard Allenach, will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September. Brinklow Parish Council representatives will attend. After that we need a Brinklow Local Plan Volunteers meeting to decide what preparations we need to make for the Regulation 19 Consultation. This is currently scheduled for January 2026 but may slip.

**9. Quotes for the purchase of posts for the Ell Lane Site**

The quotation from MainLine Timber was accepted at a cost of £54.56

**APPROVED      Proposed by Cllr I Currington seconded by Cllr K Keene**

**10. Acceptance of the Government Pay rise awarded to the Clerk and Cemetery Agent**

Government pay agreement is to increase the hourly rate for SCP20 from £16.37 to £16.90 per hour – get approval to accept this and apply it to the Clerk and Cemetery agents' salary – backdated to 1st April 2025.

**APPROVED**      **Proposed by Cllr J Reid seconded by Cllr T Heenan**

**11. Funding request for winter planting in the village**

An amount of £150 was granted.

**APPROVED**      **Proposed by Cllr K Keene seconded by Cllr T Heenan**

**12. To record the completion of the external audit received 21<sup>st</sup> of July**

The audit had been completed and signed off.

**A formal vote of thanks to Debbie for her work on this was recorded**

**13. To discuss and approve playground replacements**

Some of the timber in the children's playground was showing cracks and splits. Quotes were in process. It was pointed out that the playground had passed its safety inspection.

**14. An update on the Match Funding applied for**

50/50 funding had been promised from Warwickshire Highways for our purchase and installation of Speed Gates and for a remake of the Raven Path.

**15. Police liaison meetings attendance and publicity**

The parish council will help with publicity for any future events. Beat Manager Ben Gaunt would schedule future events for evenings and weekends to get more attendance. Ben requested that he was informed of the next Parish Council date.

**16. An update on the Grass Cutting**

This was going well this year, and the grass was now under control. The Cemetery Agent had also reported that the Cemetery grass was being kept tidy.

**17. An update on the first responders request for a stab kit**

This had now been placed in the defibrillator on the village hall.

**18. Rugby in Bloom and Lengthsmen presentation update**

Rugby in Bloom had been covered in the public section. The Lengthsmen had been given a certificate during a presentation by the High Sherif of Warwickshire on the playing field.

**19. Gypsy Incursion on Ell Lane**

Planning enforcement had visited the site after reports of trees being cut down. It remains a concern that this site is a magnet for fly tippers, although the owner says he is going to install gates.

**20. To record the details of Planning Applications commented on between meetings**

Planning application R25/04 at 73 Broad Street had been supported.

**21. To consider Planning Applications received**

R25/0666 and R25/0667 at 17 The Crescent Brinklow for conversion of existing garage to bed/wet room.

Both these applications were supported.

**22. Payment made between meetings with emailed approval**

It was recorded that a payment for Oak Posts for £693.10 was approved.

### **23. To Approve the Accounts for Payment.**

Date	Chq no / EFT	Payee	Total Payments	Payment Particulars	Person making Elect Tfr	Checked & Authorised for Payment	Checked & Authorised for Payment
11/09/25	EFT	J Boonham	234.45	salary & backpay	D Lloyd		
11/09/25	EFT	D Lloyd	547.25	salary & backpay	T Heenan		
11/09/25	EFT	Luke Smith	130.50	cemetary work	D Lloyd		
11/09/25	EFT	Red Shoes	72.00	payroll services	D Lloyd		
11/09/25	EFT	Secure 21	36.00	CCTV data card	D Lloyd		
11/09/25	EFT	Godfrey Payton	180.00	6 months Tump rent	D Lloyd		
11/09/25	EFT	PAYE	610.07	PAYE	D Lloyd		
11/09/25	EFT	Astley Computers	160.00	cloud backup renewal	D Lloyd		
11/09/25	EFT	Leicestershire Gardens	2079.17	5th instalment for grasscutting contract	D Lloyd		
11/09/25	EFT	equals money	194.47	pre payment card top up	D Lloyd		
11/09/25	EFT	Glasdon UK	9343.64	Speed gates	D Lloyd		
		Two to initial to authorise the Electronic Funds Transfers at the BPC meeting					

**APPROVED      Proposed: Cllr S Brown, Seconded:  
Cllr Ian Currington and Cllr K Keene**

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

### **24. Progress Reports for Information.**

- **Brinklow Castle** – nothing to report.
- **Playing Field** - Complaints had been made about obscene language being used during matches. It would be made clear to the Football Club that we do not want this behaviour in Brinklow.

### **25. Correspondence received.**

None

### **26. To confirm the date of the next meeting.**

The next official public meeting will be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

**A vote of thanks was made to Councillor Mike Bannister for his presence.**

The meeting closed at 8:32pm

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CHAIRMAN