

BRINKLOW PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council
Held in the Community Hall on the 11th December 2025

Present:

Councillor J Reid (Chairman)
Councillor T Heenan
Councillor S Brown
Councillor K Keene
Councillor J Brickwood
Councillor I Currington

D Lloyd (Clerk & RFO)
J Boonham (Cemetery Agent)
1 member of the public

1. Apologies.

Apologies received and accepted from Councillor A Warwick (WCC), Councillor H Timms (RBC) and Councillor T Gillias (RBC)

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 13th November 2025 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.

There were no questions or comments.

5. District and County Councillor Reports for Information.

No County Councillors were present.

6. Report by Cemetery Agent.

Jennie read out her report to all present; a reservation has been made, paid for and will be marked up; and interment of ashes is pending and a meeting is arranged in the new year with a family wanting to select a plot for another interment of ashes; final arrangements are being made for a burial in December; an enquiry has been received about the installation of a memorial but this is in fact for the churchyard not the cemetery, this is being progressed with the memorial masons and they are being put in touch with the PCC Secretary to handle the enquiry. Jennie was asked by the PC to mark the locations of the war graves so that the silhouettes can be re-located and installed.

7. An update regarding tree felling at Highwood (Bluebell Woods).

Following the tree felling the work will probably continue for months to move the wood and tidy the area. Chairman J Reid is to contact the forestry commission for further details and an explanation. Jeanette Lomas has requested if the children can be involved once the replanting begins. Councillor I Currington stated that the work has caused issues for the wildlife and deer are now seen on the roadside a lot more than previously which is also a hazard for drivers.

8. An update on the BESS planning application.

Chairman J Reid spoke at the planning committee but his points were over ridden as the applicant had a report from a fire specialist who stated that the plan was ok. John pushed the concerns that existing planning agreed at this location may be being abused and the Planning Department agreed to look into this and at the current activities taking place. The Parish Council did as much as was possible in the circumstances but the planning application was approved.

9. To Approve the adoption of the Budget for 2026/2027.

The budget discussed at a recent meeting was agreed to be good and no further changes needed. Due to the current economic climate it was agreed that a one year budget was the better option.

APPROVED To adopt the budget was proposed by Chair J Reid and approved by all Councillors.

10. To Discuss and approve the Precept for 2026/27.

Rugby BC are increasing theirs by 4.99%. In light of the grass cutting cost increasing by 4%, salaries increasing by approximately 3% and there being a shortfall in our running costs compared to last years precept figure a 4% increase in the precept seems appropriate. A request for the amount of £38,279 will be submitted to the local authority Rugby Borough Council.

APPROVED Approved by the Chairman and all Councillors.

11. To Approve the cost for the Specialist mowing of the Tump.

The quote for the specialist mowing is £1,400 plus VAT dependant on what additional work is needed when the work commences. Only 1 contractor available to quote for this work so agreed to be accepted.

APPROVED Proposed: Cllr I Currington, Seconded: Cllr S Brown.

12. To Approve the purchase of the village Christmas Trees.

Trees are to be sourced locally again, a £200 donation has been received from a resident towards the cost of the trees leaving the PC with £150 to pay towards the cost.

APPROVED Proposed: Chair J Reid, Seconded Cllr K Keene

13. To Discuss and approve a Grass cutting contractor for 2026.

4 Companies were asked to quote: Smith Grayson, Spa Landscaping, Ground Control Ltd & Leicestershire Gardens. Only 2 quotes were received – Ground Control £41,008.34 plus VAT, Leicestershire Gardens £19,866.60 for a 1 year contract or £19,102.50 for the 1st year of a 3 year contract increasing 4% each year for the second and third years, the first year being the same cost as this year. The Parish Council are happy with the current contractor Leicestershire Gardens and the quote is within budget. In light of not being able to obtain a third quote, and after ensuring that there is an exit clause or a notice period stated in the contract, it was agreed to accept the Leicestershire Gardens 3 year contract quote.

APPROVED Proposed: Chair J Reid, Seconded Cllr S Brown

14. To Discuss if a review of the Cemetery fees is needed.

This was deemed necessary by the councillors, the last review was in 2017, the cost of the upkeep of the cemetery has increased a lot and there is some tree surgery needed in the cemetery. The PC have tried contacting our previous contractor without any success so another tree surgeon is to be sourced. A review of the fees is to be deferred to next year for discussion.

15. To Discuss and Approve some signage to help the local shop/local businesses.

Following the local shop asking the PC for some support, and it being felt to be such an asset for the village, a couple of signs for the village and canal side to promote the location of the local shops was discussed. Sourced from Nuneaton Signs for £214 plus VAT. Posters and fliers to promote the shops and pubs etc.. sourced for £400 plus VAT. It was agreed to purchase both to help the local businesses.

APPROVED Proposed: Chair J Reid, Seconded Cllr K Keene.

16. To Discuss improvements needed for the village and getting residents input.

A notice in Round the Revel asking for ideas for improvement/maintenance for the village in 2026 was decided as the preferred option. Lutterworth Road footpaths need clearing, if RBC will not do this the Lengthsmen will. The access to the field by the scout hut needs addressing and maybe widening to allow for increased footfall during any village events and to allow for disabled access to the field. Councillor I Currington suggested the events committee could consider contributing towards the cost of this too. The WCC 50% towards the cost of improving your village is still available & to be considered.

17. To Minute the necessary payments made between meetings.

A cheque was raised for £30 as a donation to the Royal British Legion

A payment to Nuneaton Signs for £256.80 for the order to be placed before the Christmas shutdown

Authorisations for these were taken from the Councillors prior to the payments being made.

18. To Approve the Accounts for Payment.

Date	Ch No /so	Details	Total Payments	Payment Particulars
11/12/25	EFT	Secure 21	276.00	data card & annual service/safety check
11/12/25	EFT	Rugby Borough Council	2280.00	installation of the gates
11/12/25	EFT	J Boonham	202.90	salary
11/12/25	EFT	D Lloyd	473.30	salary
11/12/25	EFT	HMRC	585.31	PAYE
11/12/25	EFT	Redshoes	72.00	payroll services
11/12/25	EFT	SA&E Friswell	420.00	christmas trees
11/12/25	EFT	Leicestershire Gardens	2079.17	8/9 grass cutting payment

**APPROVED Proposed: Cllr S Brown, Seconded:
Cllr T Heenan**

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

19. Progress Reports for Information.

Brinklow Castle – mowing already discussed in item 11

Playing Field - Someone was reportedly seen replacing the defibrillator back into its case, it was suggested that the Football Club had it available on the touchline possibly due to legislation. The Clerk is to contact Brinklow FC for an update on this situation.

It was noticed and appreciated that Brinklow FC had the drainage system spiked on the playing field.

20. Correspondence received.

None received

21. To confirm the date of the next meeting.

The Chairman thanked the Councillors for all of their hard work during 2025. The next official public meeting will be held on Thursday 15th January 2026.

The meeting closed at 8:07pm

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CHAIRMAN