

BRINKLOW PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Council
Held in the Community Hall on the 15th January 2026

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)

Councillor T Gillias (RBC)

Councillor A Warwick (WCC)

27 Members of the public

1. Apologies.

Apologies received and accepted from Councillor H Timms (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 11th December 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.

Owen Pulford: The double parking outside of the hairdressers is an accident waiting to happen – J Reid responded that WCC would not allow re-instatement of the white lines as they are being assessed but he will chase them up and request a walk around for a full assessment; Some discarded plants in Ell Lane need removing – the Lengthsmen will bag them up and ask RBC to collect.

Jeanette Lomas: requested a spring litter-pick to be organised, the Lengthsmen did one recently and collected a lot of waste. March was suggested depending on the weather; The Walking with Hero's silhouettes are all sold or re-located, 3 in the cemetery, 4 at the war memorial, some of the money was given for new glazing of the memorial in the church; £15,138.68 was collected for the poppy appeal, Sally Mawson will be taking over this role from Jeanette; on 5th February a new History Group is starting up 7.15pm in the village hall, it has had a lot of interest.

A member of the public had some suggestions regarding the draft local plan his contact details were given to the Action Group.

5. District and County Councillor Reports for Information.

Councillor A Warwick (WCC) reported WCC are currently busy due to the Local Plan and setting the budget, costs are increasing by 42%, Adult social care costing £100 million, home to school transport £40 million; 4.99% increase agreed for the Council Tax; looking at additional costs from the proposed local plan the SEND budget, already running in deficit, is predicted to go up £72 million this year which will create £14 million interest to pay on the debt.

Councillor T Gillias (RBC) reported there is a Scrutiny meeting for the Local Plan in the Town Hall tonight; figures suggest RBC employees have 17 days of sickness off per year; the last Magna Park Liaison Group he attended it was noted that Harborough DC are ahead of RBC with their local plan, likely to be adopted end 2026/early 2027. In their plan 300 acres have been allocated East of the Wayfair building on Mere Lane to accommodate likely 9 warehouses employing 2000 to 2500 workers which will increase traffic movement through Brinklow and affect the state of the roads.

6. Report by Cemetery Agent.

Jennie read out her report to all present; The Christmas and New Year period have been quite busy, a burial has taken place and two interments are due to take place. There have been several enquiries about reserving plots. Research into fees at other local cemeteries and churchyards is still ongoing, hopefully to be reported at the next meeting.

7. An update on the Local Plan.

Chair J Reid reported that a lot of meetings have been taking place, the Parish Council and nominated members of the Appeal Committee are doing everything possible to research every aspect of the Local Plan, 11 people in all each taking separate sections to research. The plan will go to Scrutiny Committee on 21st January, statements (rather than questions in order to be accepted) have been scripted to submit to include their incorrect assumption about the education capability of Brinklow. Councillor T Heenan stated that Tracy Darke, the director of planning at Westminster, is helping us with her expertise, putting responses into planning speak free of charge. 8 people are looking at different areas of the plan; Schools, Services, Traffic, Environment, Heath Lane Site, Farm Site, Conservation. Councillor A Warwick (WCC) mentioned the cancelled 2026 elections, if they had gone ahead and there was a political shift in RBC we could have called for an amendment of the local plan, this time we need to say why the plan isn't sound process, use technical arguments, WCC putting forward a stern objection, Conservatives are to submit an amended Plan for consideration. Local Plan is needed because RBC are duty bound to have a 5yr housing supply in place, otherwise builders can use this as a 'very special circumstance' to push to build anywhere. His personal opinion is the plan is likely to be adopted but this is only the start of the 6 week consultation. Support is needed outside the Town Hall on the night the plan is to be heard by RBC, banners and local support as a unit for all villages/rural areas, for a peaceful protest, date to be advertised once known. All RBC councillors were contacted by Chair J Reid asked to engage in a public coffee morning but all refused to attend. Suggestions made were to lobby each councillor to make them question their vote, object late to not give them time to get answers sorted to cause a delay, to get the media involved, to complain about no elections this year as we have a democratic right to vote. The Parish Council have set aside funds in their budget to help fight the Local Plan, crowdfunding to be considered if needed and monies from the Events committee could be applied for – documentation to be completed and submitted by the Parish Council if needed. Printing posters/fliers and Banners to aid the fight of the Local Plan, as budgeted, at a cost of £371.04 was proposed by Chair J Reid.

APPROVED-Proposed: Chair J Reid, Seconded Cllr T Heenan

8. To Approve the appointment of an Internal Auditor for the 2025/26 Accounts.

Bill Wooliscroft, the auditor used last year, is happy to audit again this year, the fees remaining the same £350.

APPROVED-Proposed: Chair J Reid, Seconded Cllr J Brickwood

9. To discuss and approve the changes regarding the Defibrillator.

Having been notified about the discontinuation of replacement parts for our current defibrillator options are to be looked at for a replacement. Charity support towards the cost of the replacement to also be considered.

10. To discuss and approve the fees to be charged to Brinklow F C.

The last negotiated increase was linked on a % basis to the mowing contract cost. This year we have obtained a zero percentage increase in the cost to be followed by a 4% increase for each of the next 2 years. On this basis Brinklow FC's representative at the meeting T Bostock was happy for this years fees to remain the same as last years, in line with the mowing costs, and will put the next 2 years suggested fees to the BFC committee for consideration.

APPROVED- Fees to remain at £1050 for 2025/26

11. An update on the Brinklow Festival 2026.

Councillor I Currington stated that the festival will go ahead again in 2026, to be advertised via banners, posters and social media. To be held on 11th & 12th July this year to fall in line with volunteers availability to run the event. He asked for full support from the village to take part.

12. To Approve the Accounts for Payment.

Date	Ch No /so	Details	Total Payments	Payment Particulars
15/01/26	EFT	True Blue Vegetation services	1560.00	tump specialist mowing
15/01/26	EFT	Greensponge	420.00	website maint & domain renewal
15/01/26	EFT	secure 21	36.00	data card
15/01/26	EFT	J Boonham	202.70	salary
15/01/26	EFT	D Lloyd	473.10	salary
15/01/26	EFT	Sloane & Sons	548.00	memorial bench and table - reimbursed
15/01/26	EFT	Brinklow community hall	15.00	hire 15/01/26
15/01/26	EFT	Leicestershire Gardens	2495.00	final grass cutting payment + vat
15/01/26	EFT	Brinklow community hall	15.00	hire 17/01/26
15/01/26	EFT	Equals Money	326.69	pre payment card top up
15/01/26	EFT	J Reid	515.87	expenses

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

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

13. Progress Reports for Information.

Brinklow Castle – A Memorial bench and table are to be installed at Brinklow Castle, the payment has been received. There is an archaeological script about the Tump on U-Tube which is very interesting.

Playing Field - The Football Club usage has already been discussed, it was noted that they have spiked the field recently to aid the drainage system, the Parish Council thanked them for this. The hedge will be machine cut in the spring time by the Parish Council.

Any other business –

14. Correspondence received for information.

None received.

15. To confirm the date of the next meeting.

The next official public meeting will be held on Thursday 12th February 2026.

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm

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CHAIRMAN