BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCIL

2025-26-6

Minutes of the Meeting of Brickhill Parish Council held in St Marks Church and Community Centre on Thursday 6th November 2025 commencing at 7.30pm.

Present:

Cllrs Fitzpatrick, Grant, Green, Rani, Holloway, Blakeman, Lamswood, the Clerk (Mrs S Bottoms) Borough Cllrs Sawyer and Rider, PCSO Charlie Jarvis-Banks (via Teams).

Absent:

Cllrs Testa, Ward and Borough Cllrs Vann and Royden.

Summary of the meeting: -
Table 1 – The Minutes

Item	Description	Action
1.	**Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Testa.	
2.	**Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** i) To receive written requests for a dispensation: None received. ii) To consider any requests for a dispensation: None received.	
3.	**To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2025:** The Minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.	

Item	Description	Action
4.	**Public Open Session**: PCSO Charlie Jarvis-Banks joined via Teams. She discussed speed data collected in mid-September in Tyne Crescent nearest The Pheasant. The average speed was 25mph. On two occasions, speeds were recorded of 69mph but it was noted that these could be emergency vehicles. Because the average speed was over 24mph, the Borough Council Highways Department will need to look at the road to ensure the existing traffic calming measures are effective. The action on Tyne Crescent had followed the results of a collision report and if there were other areas in Brickhill which it was thought were collision hot spots, she might be able to get reports done on them. Mention was made of Kimbolton Road. The police can request further speed data collection if roads are identified as possibly an issue. More of the community policing team are now trained on using the speed gun. Discussion took place regarding the fact that a Speed Watch Group is starting to be set up. Charlie said that volunteers could be requested via Beds Connected. A minimum of 5 would be required. It was noted that there had been 17 reports of shoplifting in October. A significant number of children under 16 yrs have been given behaviour contracts. Numbers of incidents had fallen over the summer but are now increasing again. She has been working with the local shops to continue to improve the situation. Discussion moved to e-bikes and e-scooters. The police now have a secure storage area for e-scooters so more action is being taken regarding confiscation. There is the opportunity to allocation community days to bring in the whole team to tackle speeding, anti-social behaviour etc. The Borough Council, DVLA and other outside agencies can also be involved. What is needed is some ideas of where and when. The Parish Council will feed back.	

Item	Description	Action
	Discussion took place around modified e-bikes. Charlie is waiting for clarification as to what speed these need to be doing to be illegal. Once confirmed, such bikes can be seized as with e-scooters. Discussion also took place around quad bikes. Charlie was thanked for attending and left the meeting.	
5.	**Financial Matters:** i) To agree the bank reconciliations and any accounts for payment: **It was resolved** to accept these (see below).	**Clerk**
6.	**To receive reports from the Borough Councillors:** Borough Cllrs Rider and Sawyer agreed to circulate their reports and the Clerk will arrange for them to be put on the website. Discussion took place around the discontinuation of ward funding and whether the Parish Council might be able to help. The projects currently in the pipeline will still be covered. The Borough Councillors were asked to give an idea of what ward funding has been spent on over the last couple of years so the parish council has an idea of what projects were involved. They were also asked to clarify how much the shortfall would be for this financial year and what the proposed plans for using that money had been. It was noted that the Borough Council has a formal consultation underway with a range of proposals regarding funding of services. The Parish Council has not been consulted as a body and are keen to know how any cuts might impact on anything that Brickhill Parish Council has funded e.g. average speed cameras. Or indeed how any cuts would impact on Brickhill parish in general. The parish council needs to know when the decisions will be taken as it may need to reflect these in the consideration of what to request in terms of precept in January.	**Clerk** **Borough Councillors**

Item	Description	Action
7.	**To receive any update re: NDP:** Following discussion, **it was resolved** to allow it to go forward with the suggested amendments from the Inspector. It will then be for the Borough Council to move the plan to the next stage in the process.	**Cllr Fitzpatrick, the Clerk**
8.	**To receive any updates re: Brickhill Community Centre:** The quote for the tree works has been accepted from Branching Out and the works to the roof has been completed. A flooring company has been out to look to quote to replace the corridor flooring on the ground floor. The Brickhill Community Association will fund the floor material and the Parish Council will fund the screeding. Quotations are being sought for the other works including painting. Cllr Fitzpatrick is waiting on the person coming back to repair the two solar panels which are not working and there is the possibility that an additional piece of kit could be installed to monitor total energy usage in the Centre.	**Cllr Fitzpatrick**
9.	**To receive an update re: Waveney Green:** i) Play area works to Waveney Green and Mowsbury Walk: At this stage it was agreed to monitor whether more mulching was required to join up the play equipment or between benches/bins and the footpath. There will be some reinstatement of footpaths in due course. ii) To discuss the possibility of the installation of bunding: Cllr Fitzpatrick has spoken with Neil at Millstream. He will respond regarding the establishment of utilities passing under Waveney Green. Cllr Fitzpatrick had discussed possible timing for the works with Millstream and they had agreed early Spring (possibly March) would be better to avoid damaging the grass.	**Clerk** **Cllr Fitzpatrick**

Item	Description	Action
	It was noted that there is no rush for the Parish Council to formally decide whether to go ahead at this stage. It was also noted that information on this has gone out in the latest Brickhill News.	
10.	**To discuss paths and walkways in Brickhill and agree any action:** Cllr Fitzpatrick has reported some and will report others.	**Cllr Fitzpatrick**
11.	**To consider and agree action re: a Parish Council work plan:** The request for a suitable container for the book swap has been made via the newsletter. Cllr Fitzpatrick has created a map for the Waveney Green trim trail and put an article in the newsletter. An official launch of this will be at 11am on the 6th December.	**Cllr Fitzpatrick**
12.	**Flooding in Brickhill:** Cllr Fitzpatrick had circulated the slides from the BATPC AGM. He spoke with various people at the end of the meeting and noted that the risk in Brickhill is essentially surface water. It is important that the parish council is informed and involved as appropriate. We fortunately now have a contact at Anglian Water. He will also write back to the three residents in Larkway and one in Dove Road who have been affected and update them.	**Cllr Fitzpatrick**

Item	Description	Action
13.	**To receive an update on the Vehicle Activation Sign for Waveney Green:** The company it was purchased from has gone into administration but an employee has been helping regarding downloading data. Via an app, it is possible to download and create a report but only of the previous month's data. It is possible to manipulate the data via an excel spreadsheet. A standard report detailing traffic speeds recorded by the VAS in Waveney Avenue for the period 19/9-2/11/25 was sent to all councillors by Cllr Fitzpatrick on 4/11/25. Some clarification needed as to the meaning of parts of the report. Consideration needs to be given for other locations in Brickhill and potentially a different supplier used.	**Cllr Fitzpatrick**
14.	**To discuss planned works in Brickhill by bpha:** Cllr Fitzpatrick has visited bpha and met with the person overseeing the refurbishment of residencies in Brickhill. A meeting has been arranged on the 16th December and the parish council and other local organisations have been invited to take part. Cllr Fitzpatrick will attend. Anyone else wishing to do so should reply to the invitation from bpha.	**All Cllrs**
15.	**To discuss Ravensden Park and 106 funding:** Cllr Fitzpatrick is still trying to confirm who is the correct officer dealing with this at the Borough Council. It is important that the parish council is consulted with regards paths and connections onto the highway to ensure they are safe and appropriate.	**Cllr Fitzpatrick**

Item	Description	Action
16.	**To receive an update on the Christmas lights switch on 2nd December:** The Clerk reported that Scott and Brickhill Primary Schools will be taking part and Santa will be attending. She has contacted the Borough to check re: power to the column and will chase for a response. She has also contacted Ivor at the lighting company. She is still to hear from All Nations to see if they can help with sound. Consideration will need to be given to budgeting for Christmas 2026 onwards as this is the last year of the three year contract.	**Clerk**
17.	**To receive any update on outstanding matters from previous meetings:** i. North Bedfordshire Pinetum: Cllrs Grant and Fitzpatrick had emailed back to the Clerk in response to an email from the Lead Arboricultural Officer who has asked to have a meeting with the parish council. Another attempt will be made to get a meeting sorted. ii. RTI: Following the last meeting, the Clerk had written to Borough Cllr Gribble to establish what the links are to the buses and the RTI signs and the QR code. The Clerk had received a response via Borough Cllr Gribble from the officer involved. They had advised not be too reliant on the old QR codes currently attached to the stops across Brickhill, they were part of an old scheme and they point towards scheduled information on buses rather than live data. A new batch of QR codes have been installed along the Kempston/Wootton/Stewartby corridor (Services 1/53/68 and C1/10) as a trial to see how public engagement is, prior to rolling them out across the rest of the Borough network at some point in the (hopefully) near future.	**Cllrs Fitzpatrick and Grant**

Item	Description	Action
	These work more on actual bus data and, once fully rolled out, should reflect cancellations and delays on services, along with the ability to select the bus, then the route and then select stops along the route that you might want to get off at. They advised holding fire on any physical RTPI systems at this point just until they see how useful these new QR codes are as a virtual replacement. The current RTI screens in Brickhill are either the dot matrix style old screens which are slightly more accurate (when the data sims are working), or the flatscreen LCD screens (which should take a direct feed from the source information but are sometimes a little less reliable with accurate information due to the nature of the data feed they use. Once the new QR codes go in around the rest of the Borough, they should be more reliably accurate than either version of screen as they (theoretically) take a direct feed from the BODS (Bus Open data System) that is, or should be, fed into by ALL the bus operators directly. iii. EWR: EWR have issued their notes from the meeting referred to in the minutes of the previous meeting. They are not very informative. iv. Newsletter: Consideration should be given as to whether any future content could be considered political and what action should be taken. v. Senior Citizens Christmas Parties: Ours is 4th December 2-4pm in the Community Centre and the one organised by the Brickhill Community Association is on the 16th December 2-4pm also in the Community Centre. All help welcome.	

Item	Description	Action
	vi. Rooksmead Pond: The Borough Council have been working on it. The lack of water means the fountain is still collapsed. Is there a reason why it is not filling with water. vii. Brickhill Primary School: There is an open invitation to parish councillors to visit. If interested, contact the school. viii. Finance Advisory Group: Date to be decided (likely to be December).	**All Cllrs** **All Cllrs**
18.	**Dates of Meetings for 2026:** 8th January, 5th February, 5th March, 2nd April, 7th May, 4th June, 2nd July, 3rd September, 1st October, 5th November.	
19.	**Correspondence**: none.	
20.	**Date of the Next Meeting:** Thursday 8th January at 7.30pm in the Biffa Room, St Marks Church and Community Centre, Calder Rise.	

Approved by .....

Chairman
8th January 2026

Table 2 Payments for Approval

Payee	Reference	Amount Paid	Transaction Details
British Telecom	DD	£ 280.74	Broadband
Mashavira	BACS 98	£ 35.00	Double payment for Allotment
Bedfordshire Pension Fund	BACS 99	£ 396.55	Pensions
C Tyrrell	BACS 100	£ 913.81	Salaries
HMRC	BACS 101	£ 1,128.93	PAYE
S Bottoms	BACS 102	£ 1,204.30	Salaries
Associated Telecom Solutions	DD	£ 21.29	Telephone
Bedford Borough Council	BACS 103	£ 257.95	Litter WG
NPower	BACS 104	£ 29.25	Electricity for Fountain
Reids Playground Maintenance	BACS 105	£ 300.00	Grafitti Removal MW
Malcolm Henrickson	BACS 106	£ 570.00	Roof Repairs BCC
S Bottoms	BACS 107	£ 132.64	Microsoft Licences
Bedford Borough Council	BACS 108	£ 1,231.24	Grass - WG
St Marks Church Community Centre	BACS 109	£ 9.88	Hall Hire
St Marks Church Community Centre	BACS 110	£ 188.33	Office Rental
St Marks Church Community Centre	BACS 111	£ 19.76	Hall Hire
	Total Payments	**£ 6,719.67**	