

Brinkley Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish council meeting at 7pm on 15th September 2025
At Brinkley Memorial Hall

Present: Cllr M Coley, Cllr A Aubert, Cllr S McIntyre, Cllr I Monks, Cllr N Beamish

Cllr John Trapp

Cllr Jonny Edge

Hayley Livermore

Item	
25-26/38	Public Forum None
25-26/39	Apologies of absence None
25-26/40	Declarations of Interest None
25-26/41	Approval of minutes 21st July 2025 Minutes of 21 st July 2025 were approved by all and signed by the chair.
25-26/42	District councillor report Circulated before the meeting and appended to these minutes. The council asked Cllr Trapp to ask for the planning application 25/00790/FUM to be called in to the planning committee if there was an indication this would be approved.

Brinkley Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish council meeting at 7pm on 15th September 2025
At Brinkley Memorial Hall

25-26/43

County councillor report

Circulated before the meeting and appended to these minutes.

Cllr Edge has met with the new Local Highways officer that will be covering Brinkley, and they are aware of all highways related issues and have pledged to get things moving on these as soon as possible.

25-26/44

Planning since the last meeting

25/00834/LBC | Installation of an ensuite shower room to a first floor bedroom in the main building and reroof and improve the outbuilding | The Brinkley Lion The Red Lion High Street Brinkley Newmarket Suffolk CB8 0RA- APPROVED

25/00790/FUM | Change of use to equine stud farm, erection of four yards including stabling, ancillary facilities, service facilities, turnout and two rural worker houses | Land Southwest Of Red Lion Public House Six Mile Bottom Road Brinkley Suffolk-PENDING CONSIDERATION

25-26/45

Play area maintenance

Large orange swing has been removed from the frame and Cllr Coley will obtain a second quote for replacing the swing set frame leg which has rotted. It was discussed that it may not be worth spending money on replacing the leg if in the future other parts of the set will be condemned and it may be more cost effective to replace the whole set. Cllr Coley to obtain a quote for new swing set.

The bark at the play area has been weeded; Cllr Aubert will keep an eye on this and arrange for it to be done again when needed.

25-26/46

Allotments including update on purchase of land

Purchase of the land has now been finalised and therefore the Parish council owns the land the allotments sit on. Cllr McIntyre to proceed with claiming grant funds for the purchase. There are currently a few plots available; details will be put in the Village voice.

25-26/47

Village maintenance including plans for village gates

We have received one quote for painting all sets of village gates at £1800. Before this can be done all vegetation needs removing from them and the gate at the Carlton end of the High Street needs

Brinkley Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish council meeting at 7pm on 15th September 2025
At Brinkley Memorial Hall

fixing; Cllr Coley agreed to do this. Clerk will obtain another quote.

25-26/48

To discuss PC rep for Ellesmere centre

The Ellesmere centre have asked for a representative from Brinkley to attend their committee meetings. After discussion it was agreed that as no parish councillors use the Ellesmere centre, we would reach out to residents via the Village Voice and Facebook to see if anyone is interested in the role.

25-26/49

To discuss possible membership of Kingsway solar alliance

The Kingsway Solar Alliance which is a group of Parish councils opposed to the Kingsway Solar farm have approached us about becoming a member. They meet regularly and after discussion it was concluded that no councillors have capacity to take on the role of attending these meetings at present. The clerk will write and state that although we cannot commit to joining, we would like to if possible be kept up to date with developments.

25-26/50

To discuss possible response to Cambs county council survey on local government reorganisation

The County Council are asking for replies to a survey to gauge opinion on their preferred Option for the proposed local government reorganisation which is Option A- Merging Cambridge City, South Cambs District and East Cambs District councils into one unitary council. It was agreed that this is the option Brinkley Parish Council would support as we have closer links to and use more amenities in Cambridge rather than Peterborough; the clerk will complete the survey on behalf of the council to reflect this.

25-26/51

To review the following policies: 1. Equality 2. Safeguarding vulnerable children and adults 3. Complaints policy 4. Code of conduct 5. Privacy notice

After review of the above policies, it was resolved to adopt them with the following changes:

Equality-New policy as since we last reviewed this NALC have introduced a template and this has been used

Safeguarding- The term 'vulnerable adults' changed to 'adults at risk of harm' and policy streamlined.

Privacy notice-No changes other than clerk email address.

Code of conduct-No changes.

Brinkley Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish council meeting at 7pm on 15th September 2025
At Brinkley Memorial Hall

Complaints- New policy as since we last reviewed this NALC have introduced a template and this has been used.

25-26/37

Finance:

- i. **Cheques for signature**-None
- ii. **Cheques since the last meeting-**
It was resolved to accept that the following payments have been made since the last meeting:
Chq 702-Capalc-£207.88
Chq 703-Mark Coley-£318.00
Chq 704-McGregor services-£312.00
Chq 705-H Livermore-£14.80
Chq 706-H Livermore-£45.55
- iii. **Bank reconciliation**-Circulated to all councillors before the meeting. Currently £9826 across the 2 accounts; expected income of £16250 and spends of £8500 before the end of the financial year.
- iv. **Annual donations- It was resolved to make the following donations:**
Brinkley PCC-£500
Village Voice-£375
Burrough Green Playgroup-£100
Kingsway community action group-£250
Proposed by IM, seconded by NB.

Meeting closed at 20:55

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

There was very little activity in the Council in August. The Leader of the Council is still pursuing Option B (with East Cambs joining Fenland, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough) for the Local Government Re organisation. The County Council has organised an online survey so that residents can have their say to their proposal for re-organisation, and this can be found on <https://yourvoice.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/your-future-councils/>. The survey closes on 3 October 2025, so do please engage with it as soon as possible. Surgery Our next surgery will be on Thursday 30th October at Brinkley Memorial Hall from 6.30pm and after an hour we propose to go to the Red Lion, Brinkley. The County Councillor, Jonny Edge, will also be present. It is not only at surgeries that you can contact us; residents can always contact us by email, letter or telephone at any time. Cllrs Charlotte Cane MP charlotte.cane@eastcambs.gov.uk) and John Trapp (john.trapp@eastcambs.gov.uk)

Brinkley Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish council meeting at 7pm on 15th September 2025
At Brinkley Memorial Hall
County councillor Jonny Edge report

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

To nobody's very great surprise, it has been revealed that the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government failed to undertake its own analysis of the financial implications of the ongoing local government reorganisation, relying instead on analysis by consultants PwC.

Fresh analysis of those figures shows that replacing the two-tier system with 58 new unitary councils with populations as low as 300,000 could end up costing £850 million over five years and deliver no long-term savings.

We will all need to watch this space to see what impact this revelation has on the ongoing process.

ADULTS & HEALTH

Cambridge Children's Hospital contractor appointed

A building contractor has been appointed to Cambridge Children's Hospital, which will be built on the same site that houses Addenbrooke's and Royal Papworth hospitals. Bouygues UK is expected to start within the next 18 months.

The facility will be the first specialist children's hospital in the East of England; the only region in the UK currently without one. The five-storey building will include 108 inpatient beds, sixteen paediatric intensive care beds, forty-two day-case beds, seven operating theatres, imaging and diagnostics, and a hospital school alongside a new research institute.

'Good' rating for adult social care services

Cambridgeshire County Council's adult social care services have been rated as 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), with its assessment finding that early support and flexible options are helping people stay independent longer.

Assessment began in November 2024, with a site visit in early April. It found that people who draw on the council's care felt supported, listened to and offered choices, with care being co-ordinated in a planned way considering people's interests and what was important to them.

A range of successes and areas of good practice were highlighted in the report, including:

- Prevention and Reablement success: Quick assessments and goal-focused care are enabling people to stay at home and thrive.
- Strong provider relationships: Staff build trust and offer tailored care packages, supported by robust quality assessments.
- Leadership that listens: A stable leadership team is driving cultural change and boosting morale.
- Wellbeing at work: Staff feel supported through flexible working, wellbeing initiatives, and caring leadership.

The report also includes several areas for improvement, including:

Brinkley Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish council meeting at 7pm on 15th September 2025
At Brinkley Memorial Hall

- Direct payments: The number of people receiving direct payments is significantly below the national average. This needs to be increased to give people more choice and control over their care.
- Equity and inclusion: The council needs to improve its use of demographic data to understand the needs of underrepresented groups in Cambridgeshire.
- Unpaid carers: The council should build on the work of its All-Age Carers Strategy 2022-2026 to ensure unpaid carers have consistently good experiences.
- Transitions and continuity of care: The council should work to improve transitions from children's services to adults' services for young people, ensuring this is timely and well-coordinated.

www.cqc.org.uk/care-services/local-authority-assessment-reports/cambridgeshire-0825

Integrated Care Boards 'between a rock and a hard place'

NHS Integrated care boards (ICBs) have been left between a rock and a hard place over taking forward redundancy schemes to hit demanding cost reduction targets set by the Government.

In March, the Government announced it was scrapping NHS England over the coming years and set a target for ICBs to reduce running costs by 50 per cent by the end of the third quarter of this year. It later refined this target to keeping running costs within £18.76 per head of population, meaning that ICBs face different cost reduction targets depending on their starting point. Redundancies will be essential to meet this target.

However, it has subsequently become clear that there is an expectation that all redundancy costs should be self-funded, leaving ICBs facing the prospect of launching a redundancy scheme, where the costs have not been included in their financial plan, or putting schemes on hold and missing their target to reduce running costs.

ICBs are now stuck between a rock and a hard place, without the additional funds needed to pay for their own restructuring.

To meet the cost cutting requirements of the Government, most ICBs have agreed 'clustering' arrangements. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough ICB has clustered with Bedfordshire Luton & Milton Keynes and Hertfordshire, with a population of around 3.3 million people.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Improvements in support for care leavers

The County Council has improved the support and stability it provides for care leavers in Cambridgeshire, according to a recent Ofsted report.

Ofsted carried out a focused visit in July, looking at the council's arrangements for care leavers. They concluded that arrangements have strengthened since their last visit in 2024, though there is still work to be done.

Inspectors commented that:

- 'Leaders are ambitious to support care leavers into employment, further education and training opportunities [...] The local authority is trailblazing the use of bursaries for care leavers over 19, supporting care leavers to remain longer in further education or giving

Brinkley Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish council meeting at 7pm on 15th September 2025
At Brinkley Memorial Hall

care leavers who wish to return to employment, education or training, these opportunities.'

- 'Care leavers now have stronger and more purposeful relationships with their personal advisors and investment in additional staffing in the service is helping to reduce staff turnover and workloads.'
- 'Most care leavers live in suitable accommodation that meets their needs and increasing numbers are supported to remain living with their current carers through effective Staying Put arrangements.'
- 'Political and corporate leaders and care leavers have co-produced a convincing and aspirational pledge which sets out their commitment to help care leavers fulfil their full potential.'

The summary also identifies four areas for improvement:

- The quality and impact of front-line manager's supervision to promote and provide reflective practice for personal advisors
- The quality and impact of front-line managers oversight to ensure purposeful and considered case direction
- The quality and consistency of pathway planning
- The range and accessibility of suitable accommodation to meet care leavers needs.

<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50285468>

Could you be a foster carer?

Having now attended numerous events for our children in care, I will share this in the next village magazines and encourage local village Facebook groups to share as a one off.

Cambridgeshire Fostering Service is looking for compassionate individuals and families across Cambridgeshire to become foster carers. By offering a stable, loving home, you can make a life-changing difference for children and young people who are unable to live with their families.

Fostering doesn't have to be a long-term commitment; the council also needs carers for short-term fostering and respite care.

Follow any of these channels to find out more:

- 0800 052 0078
- www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/fostering-and-adoption
- Facebook www.facebook.com/CCCFosteringService/
- Instagram www.instagram.com/cambsfostering/

COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY and INCLUSION (COSMIC)
Cambridgeshire Skills course guide

Brinkley Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish council meeting at 7pm on 15th September 2025
At Brinkley Memorial Hall

Whether you're looking to boost your career, gain essential qualifications, or explore a new passion, there's something for everyone at Cambridgeshire Skills - from functional skills in English and maths, to horticulture and counselling.

Courses are delivered in venues across Cambridgeshire, with flexible learning options and expert tutors, making it easier than ever to learn locally.

Explore the full course guide on the Cambridgeshire Skills website or contact your local centre for more information.

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults/cambridgeshire-skills-adult-learning

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Local Highways Improvement Panel meets to score bids

Cambridgeshire County Council is taking firm action to reduce disruption on the county's roads, issuing fines totalling £483,000 to utility companies and developers for non-compliant and over-running roadworks during 2024–25.

In total, the council processed more than 32,000 street and roadwork permits last year, regulating when and how works can take place on the highway.

- £185,000 was issued through Fixed Penalty Notices for 1,655 offences, including works that lacked a valid permit or breached the conditions of their permit.
- A further £298,000 was recovered from 201 works that overran, resulting in 1,191 extra days of disruption for road users and residents.

51 utility companies are entitled to work on Cambridgeshire's roads; and when that work is deemed an emergency they can legally start work even before notifying the council.

However, as the highway's authority, the council does have powers to challenge how long emergency and urgent works remain in place. In 2024-25:

- Over 1,460 emergency permits were challenged for requesting excessive duration – more than 25% of all emergency permits.
- 254 immediate permit applications were rejected where they did not meet the legal criteria for emergency status.

One option the council is currently exploring is a lane rental scheme, which would allow the council to charge companies for the time that roadworks occupy the highway; with higher charges for works on the busiest streets at the busiest times. The council is currently talking to other authorities about their experiences of lane rental.

Brinkley Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish council meeting at 7pm on 15th September 2025
At Brinkley Memorial Hall

New highways system to go live in September

The County Council's new Asset Management system Aurora goes live on Monday 22 September. The current system will be taken offline on Thursday 18 September, and residents will not be able to log issues or defects online between 18 and 22 September.

Under the new system:

- Customer reports will be automatically directed to the correct officer or team, ensuring they are handled by the right person first time.
- All Highways Maintenance Officers will now be equipped with tablets, allowing them to inspect defects, raise work orders, and update customers directly while on-site.
- New workflows automatically escalate reports that are not progressed within agreed service level timescales, helping to prevent delays and improve response times.
- Performance dashboards will ensure no cases are overlooked.
- Officers can send updates directly from the system, meaning residents receive regular progress updates on their reports.
- Reports can be managed dynamically by officers in the field and loaded into inspection routes so they can be reviewed at the same time.
- The system will task officers with inspecting completed work and identifying any defects. If defects are identified these will be flagged to contractors and corrected.

Road works programme

A reminder that the council's road works programme can be found at

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/road-improvements

Cllr Jonny Edge, 07974 348141, jonny.edge@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Brinkley Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish council meeting at 7pm on 15th September 2025
At Brinkley Memorial Hall