Brinkley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish council meeting at 7pm on 21st September 2026

At Brinkley Memorial Hall, High Street, Brinkley, CB8 0SF

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

Cllr John Trapp

Item	
26-27/34	**Open Forum** None
26-27/35	**Apologies for absence** Cllr Nick Beamish, Clerk Hayley Livermore, Cllr Jonny Edge
26-27/36	**Declarations of interest** None
26-27/37	**Approval minutes of meeting held 20th July 2026** **Resolved**-The minutes of 20th July 2026 were approved by all. To be signed by chair at the next meeting due to absence of the clerk
26-27/38	**District councillor report** Appended to these minutes. Cllr Monks asked Cllr Trapp is there a local plan? Cllr Trapp stated that yes there is – dating 2016 - but the new plan was delayed following the LGR announcement.
26-27/39	**County councillor report** Circulated before the meeting Points of note: • LGR is on hold as some councils have taken legal action against the government. • Bus services: Cllr Edge has written to the mayor about the proposed loss of some local bus services. • Brinkley Rd, Dullingham - resurfacing work is scheduled to start on 14 Oct.
26-27/40	**Planning since the last meeting** 26/00786/FUL|Erection of timber-clad outbuilding for residential use as a garden summerhouse|Beech Cottage 8 High Street Brinkley Cambridgeshire CB8 0SE**-Pending decision.** 26/00944/TRE|T1 Cercidiphyllum japonium - Fell. Appeared to die early this summer and so I want to wait till spring to make sure it is in fact dead T2 Ailanthus altissima - Fell, has been dying over the last

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year and is undisputably dead|Lammas House Hall Lane Brinkley Newmarket Suffolk CB8 0SB**-Pending decision**

26/00945/TRE|T1 Ash tree - Fell to ground level Customer has concerns over falling deadwood and decline of tree|The Old Forge High Street Brinkley Newmarket Suffolk CB8 0SE**-Pending decision**

26/00950/TRE|T1 Mature cherry - Remove deadwood, crown lift to 2.5-3m from ground level to provide adequate clearance from the headstones and a height and lateral spread reduction of up to 2.5m. The primary aim of the proposed works is to reduce the overall crown weight and sail effect, thereby reducing wind resistance and the potential for branch failure or damage. A secondary benefit will be aesthetic. The tree is currently distinctly misshapen and leggy, and the proposed works will help to improve its overall form and balance|St Marys Church High Street Brinkley Suffolk-**Pending decision**

26/00962/TRE|T1 Apple - Reduce crown by 2 metres to stop getting too big|Sypsey Cottage High Street Brinkley Newmarket Suffolk CB8 0SF**-Pending decision**

A member of the public has contacted Cllr Monks to discuss informally the erection of a barn on their land at the paddock at Carlton Road, backing onto Old School Lane, for personal use.
They have sent preliminary drawings with no dimensions on it. The owner initially planned for the barn to be at the back of one of the Sanctuary Houses on Old School Lane but Sanctuary have objected therefore it is now proposed to be in the corner near the gates. Shipping containers were mentioned as a possibility on the site, which the PC would view as unsightly and the need for them was questioned.
PC looked at the plans – no objections in principle provided it is for personal use. As regards design, we would want to see more details on eaves and ridge height and use of materials. This is an important landscape given the adjacent Stour Valley. The PC is not committing to anything as full and final designs have not been seen and will follow normal planning rules, should we be officially notified by ECDC.

26-27/41

To discuss any issues with Beechcroft Play area including follow up on Rospa report

More maintenance needs to be done especially to the Hedges. Cllr Coley raised the issue of the Willow tree which needs to be reduced and allowed to regrow and be reshaped.

It was resolved to allow a £200.00 budget to be spent on this work as well as the work needed for the footpaths (item 26/27 44) Proposed by IM, seconded by MC. Cllr Coley to organise the work to be completed.

26-27/42

To discuss any issues with the allotments

The allotments overall look fantastic; however, there are a few plots that are clearly not being maintained. Measures need to be taken to avoid further dereliction and remedy currently derelict plots.

It was agreed that when sending out the annual invoices the clerk will also write a letter reminding tenants of their obligations in terms of maintenance. They will also be asked not to renew their tenancy

if they cannot manage the plot and given the option of reducing the size of their plot. Clerk to follow up.

Vacant plots to be put to grass until taken over.

Allotment holders have raised the issue of the hedge impeding the access to the allotments from Coles Lane; lorries cannot get down here to deliver the manure needed for the allotments. The maintenance of that hedge is a duty of the PC. Cllrs Coley and Monks will try to find someone who can do this work.

26-27/43

Update on Kingsway Solar Farm

Current update is that Kingsway intends to submit the DCO Application at the end of October.

26-27/44

Footpaths

The condition of the pavements on the High Street was discussed. Complaints have been received that leaves on pavements make them slippery and dangerous, especially for people with mobility issues.

As no solution was found at yet, Cllr Coley suggested employing the same person who maintains the play area to keep the pavements tidy. All agreed; Cllr Coley to organise.

26-27/45

Cambridgeshire Rights of Way Improvement Survey

It was agreed that Cllr Aubert will respond to the survey on behalf of the PC, only answering the questions relevant to the PC including the Stud farm - Change in nature of footpaths: fencing, impedes view and questions relating to riders. Cllr Aubert will circulate the response when submitted.

26/27 46

Closure of external audit

Clerk had sent before the meeting the external auditor certificate. However, this had not been signed. IM to follow up with clerk and to follow up at next meeting.

26-27 47

Clerk national salary award

All clerks have received a national salary award of 3.3%; this will be backdated to April 1st 2026.

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Finance

- **To ratify payments and receipts since the last meeting**

28/07/2026	SO4 26/27	Hayley Livermore	Clerk wages	Confidential
31/07/2026	13 26/27	M Coley	Reimbursement play area	245.00
31/07/2026	14 26/27	McGregor services	Grass cutting	318.00
31/07/2026	15 26/27	HMRC	Clerk tax	1.60
31/07/2026	SC4 26/27	Unity trust bank	Service charge	7.00
17/08/2026	DD4 26/27	Anglian water	Water	28.00
28/08/2026	SO5 26/27	Hayley Livermore	Clerk wages	Confidential
31/08/2026	SC5 26/27	Unity Trust bank	Service charge	7.00
21/09/2026	16 26/27	Playdale	Swing repairs	919.44
21/09/2026	17 26/27	Vision ICT	Emails	96.00
21/09/2026	18 26/27	M Coley	Reimbursement footpath work	136.00
21/09/2026	19 26/27	PKF Littlejohn	External audit	252.00
21/09/2026	20 26/27	HMRC	clerk tax and NI	27.03
21/09/2026	21 26/27	H Livermore	Clerk wages	Confidential
15/09/2026	dd6 26/27	Anglian water	Allotment water	28.00

Receipts

None

- **Bank reconciliation**

  Currently £13194 across both accounts. Awaiting second instalment of precept in September.

- **Budget update**

  Current payments of £6640 of proposed expenditure of £13621.

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Current receipts: £5804.18. Budgeted receipts: £13346.

Spending is in line with budget.

- **Transfer of funds to savings account**

Deferred until the next meeting

The meeting ended at 20:45

District Councillors report

Only the one Council meeting in August

Full Council

- There was a motion on Social and Affordable Housing to ensure that social and affordable housing in the District is safe and of a good standard, and will establish a simple six-monthly performance reporting framework covering key housing management and maintenance measures, identify good practice and understand where improvement may be required, invite representatives of housing associations to attend meetings with the Council to discuss performance, challenges and improvement activity where appropriate.

Commit to continued collaboration with housing providers, with the aim to increase East Cambridgeshire's social housing capacity.

The Lib Dem group thought that it could have been stronger, put forward an amendment to do so, but lost the vote for the amendment.

- Council approved the updated Action Plan for 2026/27, and noted the completed actions and progress made in 2025/2026.

Councillors Charlotte Cane MP and John Trapp

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