

**Minutes of the Meeting of Brewham Parish Council
held at Brewham Village Hall on Tuesday, 8th July 2025**

Present: Robert Jackson (Chair), Nick Mann, Mark Perry & Patricia Stainton.

In attendance: Councillor Lucy Trimnell, Sue Price (Clerk) and four members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Nick Mann attending his first meeting as a Parish Councillor.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence had been received from Richard Hiscock and Councillor Tom Power.

2. **Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest on any subject to be discussed.

3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th May 2025:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2025 were unanimously approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. **Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising that would not be dealt with elsewhere.

5. **Financial Business:**

The Clerk advised that since the last meeting no income had been received and there had been expenditure of £1,002.51.

The financial transactions for the period 13th May-7th July 2025 were as follows:

Bank balances brought forward on 13th May 2025 £16,925.68

Expenditure:

Lloyds Bank – Service charges April (taken from account in May)	4.75
Nigel Payne – First mowing of the Burial Ground	500.00
Gallagher Insurance – Annual insurance premium	439.01
Lloyds Bank – Service charges May (taken from account in June)	4.75

The Fund balances on 7th July 2025 were therefore:

General Fund	£4,425.65
Burial Ground Fund	1,151.52
Burial Ground Wall Repair Fund	8,400.00
Reserve Fund	2,000.00

Represented by Bank a/cs:

National Savings Bank Investment a/c	£859.03
Lloyds Bank Treasurers a/c	15,118.14

Bank balances at 7th July 2025 £15,977.17

Debtor

Brewham Village Hall Committee – meeting room hire 2025/26 meetings 54.00

Bank balances at 7th July 2025 to include debtor £15,923.17

Bank balances carried forward on 7th July 2025 £15,977.17

The Clerk noted that taking away the ring-fenced money the total balance in the Parish Council accounts is £7,577.17. This is a healthier balance than in previous years due to the increase in the precept and the decision not to pay the subscription to the Somerset Association of Local Councils.

Payment of invoices:

The Clerk requested authorisation to pay the following invoice –Nigel Payne - £500.00 for the second mowing of the Burial Ground and **it was unanimously agreed** that these should be paid.

New savings account for the Burial Ground Wall Repair Fund:

At the May meeting it was suggested that the £8,400 held in the Burial Ground Wall Repair Fund could be invested in a 90-day notice account with the Hinckley & Rugby Building Society which has a range of savings accounts specifically for Parish Councils and it was agreed that the Clerk would look into this further to check details and whether any Parish Council could open an account rather than just ones local to the Building Society.

The Clerk confirmed that she had spoken to the Building Society who accept deposits from any Parish Council. It was her recommendation to open a 90-day notice deposit account with the Hinckley and Rugby Building Society, initially depositing £8,400 with withdrawals being subject to 90-days' notice. This recommendation **was unanimously agreed**. Robert Jackson and Patricia Stainton will be the designated signatories.

8. **Planning Applications:**

i. **Decisions on applications already considered by the Parish Council:**

- a. 22/01688/FUL - Land OS 0006, Gladwill Farm, North Brewham, BA10 0JS –Application for change of use of agricultural hard standing to allow for siting of a mobile showman's wagon trailer conversion for holiday let accommodation. Decision awaited.
- b. 3/00864/FUL - Lindum Farm, Bruton Road, Brewham, BA10 0JF - erection of a steel framed agricultural machinery storage shed. Application withdrawn.
- c. 25/00485/FUL - Border Farm, Border Lane, Brewham, Bruton, BA10 0JQ – replace stable building with artist studio and bat roost. Decision awaited.
- d. 25/00503/FUL - Batts Farm, Hutchins Lane, Brewham, Bruton, BA10 0QN - demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement self-build dwelling, associated landscaping and formation of access. Decision awaited.
- e. 25/00658/FUL - Acorn Lodge, South Brewham, Bruton, BA10 0J - erect replacement dwelling (demolish existing dwelling and stables). Councillors had had no objections and were happy to support this application. Application approved.
- f. 25/00181/FUL - Hillcombe Farm, Kingsettle Hill, Brewham, Bruton, BA10 0LB – erection of a Dwelling, as an alternative design and siting for consented and commenced replacement dwelling 20/01836/FUL. Councillors had had no objections and were happy to support this application. Decision awaited.
- g. 25/01034/PAMB - Land At Coach Road Farm, Barrow Water Lane, Brewham, Bruton, BA10 0LP – Prior approval from agricultural to dwellings, notification only. Application approved.
- h. 25/00971/HOU – Goodhaven, Bruton Road, Brewham, Bruton, BA10 0JF – conversion of existing detached bungalow into a 1.5 storey house to include demolition of existing conservatory, erection of a single storey extension to rear and internal refurbishment. Decision awaited.

ii. **Applications received and not yet discussed:**

- a. 25/01445/PAMB at Agricultural Buildings & Land at Kingsettle Hill, Brewham – notification only. There were no objections to this application.
- b. 25/01526/FUL – Land at Picketts Farm, Bedlam Green Farm Lane, Brewham, BA10 0LP – construction of an agricultural building to be used for storing farmyard manure to reduce fouled surface run off. There were no objections to this application.

- c. 25/01527/FUL – Land at Picketts Farm, Bedlam Green Farm Lane, Brewham, BA10 0LP – construction of an extension to an existing building to reduce fouled surface run off. There were no objections to this application.
- d. 25/00644/FUL – Forest Barn, North Brewham, BA10 0JR - demolition of existing storage building and erection of a self-build dwelling to provide a sustainable live/work environment. There were no objections to this application.

iii. **Any new applications received:**

No new applications had been received.

7. **Burial Ground, Churchyard, Common Land and Village Amenities:**

Mr Nye reported that there are eight common spotted orchids, a lot of yellow rattle and numerous other plants flowering in the Churchyard. The grass has grown well and a volunteer regularly cuts a path through this to enable people to walk through looking at the flowers and to sit on the bench. Parish Councillors thanked Mr Nye and his team for their continued work.

The Church recently held a very successful Bric a Brac sale and the regular Coffee & Chat and Brewham Hub meetings continue.

8. **Roads:**

a. **Outstanding matters:**

A number of marked potholes have recently been repaired and most of the blocked drains jetted and further potholes and the remaining drains have just been marked for repair.

b. **New matters:**

There were reports of some new potholes which the Clerk will report.

The Brewham sign on the main road in North Brewham has been hit and needs repairing.

The visibility turning right from Hassocks Lane onto the main Bruton to Frome road is very dangerous because of the hedge on the left-hand side which belongs to the Newt. It is thought that the Newt might be applying for permission to make an entrance on to Hassocks Lane at which point the hedge might be cut down. In the meantime, the Clerk will ask the Newt whether the hedge can be cut back as much as possible.

Although just outside the Somerset border into Wiltshire, the road on Druley Hill has a number of potholes. It might be that a particular section has not been repaired due to uncertainty about the location of the county boundary and it was agreed that Lucy Trimnell and the Clerk will look into this

Michael Gardner had noted the increase in the volume and size of vehicles passing through the village and the number of vehicles being parked on the side of the road in the last eighteen months. The slow signs painted on the road are no longer clearly visible and some finger post signs are broken. Lucy Trimnell thought that Somerset Council might no longer be replacing the finger post signs due to the cutbacks but that they should probably be able to repaint the slow signs. The Clerk will look into reporting both these.

Discussion took place and it was agreed that even if the speed limit through the village was reduced to 20mph it was likely that it would make any difference.

Patricia Stainton asked if the Highways Department could once again be approached about the speed of traffic passing along the main road at Border where the introduction of a speed limit would reduce the danger for vehicles turning onto the road from either of the side roads.

RLJ

The Clerk had received details about a scheme Somerset Council has introduced to allow local councils to carry out some basic routine highway maintenance tasks over and above the statutory level of service provided by the Council. The Council will continue to provide all the same statutory highway maintenance services to ensure the highway network is safe and in an appropriate condition but local parish councils can either buy additional services through the Council's contracts or undertake works themselves through a volunteer network doing low-level, low risk activities which would need to be carried out by people who have been trained by taking an online highway safety awareness course and the Parish Council would have to purchase a licence to do any such work. Lucy Trimnell noted that some parishes are looking into this.

9. **Footpaths & Bridleways:**

Outstanding matters:

The Clerk had nothing to update about outstanding problems on footpaths throughout the parish and will continue to press for work to be done.

10. **Report from County Councillors:**

Tom Power had recently circulated his July report.

Lucy Trimnell urged people to complete the consultation on the local transport plan which closes on 7th September - <https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/active-travel/copy-of-local-transport-plan-2025>

There is also the consultation on the draft recommendations for the division of boundaries in Somerset which runs until the 7th August - [Somerset | LGBCE](#). Lucy Trimnell noted that the Tower Ward will include Bratton Seymour, Lamyatt and Witham Friary but not Upton Noble.

She had attended a briefing about Asian hornets which are now coming to the UK from the continent and which are harmful to wildlife and people. There is an App that can be downloaded to report any sightings.

The Council still has big financial problems and further cutbacks and likely rises in Council Tax will need to be made in the coming years.

11. **Dates of future meetings:** Next meeting on Tuesday, 9th September. Subsequent meetings for the year 2025/2026 will be held on Tuesdays, 11th November 2025 and 6th January and 10th March 2026.

12. **Open Forum:**

There were no further points anyone wished to raise and the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.17pm.

Signed.. *RL Jackson* Date....9th September 2025...