

**Minutes of the Meeting of Brewham Parish Council
held at Brewham Village Hall on Tuesday, 9th September 2025**

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

In attendance: Sue Price (Clerk) and four members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**
Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Lucy Trimnell and Tom Power.
2. **Declarations of Interest:**
Richard Hiscock declared an interest in item 6iii a.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th July 2025:**
The minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 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 £563.00. A 90-day account had been opened with the Hinckley & Rugby Building Society and £8,400 transferred to this account from the Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account.

The financial transactions for the period 8th July-7th September 2025 were as follows:

Bank balances brought forward on 7 th September 2025	£16,925.68
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Expenditure:

Brewham Village Hall Committee – hire of hall for 2025/26 meetings	54.00
Lloyds Bank – Service charges June (taken from account in July)	4.25
Nigel Payne – Second mowing of the Burial Ground	500.00
Lloyds Bank – Service charges July (taken from account in August)	4.75

The Fund balances on 7th September 2025 were therefore:

General Fund	£4,361.65
Burial Ground Fund	651.52
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	6,154.14
Hinckley & Rugby Building Society	8,400.00

Bank balances at 7 th September 2025	£15,413.17
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<u>Bank balances carried forward on 7th September 2025</u>	£15,413.17
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Payment of invoices:

The Clerk requested authorisation to pay the following invoices –Nigel Payne - £500.00 for the third mowing of the Burial Ground; David Dabinett - £300.00 for the mowing of the Common land for the 2025 season and the Information Commissioner's Office – £52.00 data protection annual fee and **it was unanimously agreed** that these should be paid.

The Clerk also advised that she had been approached by the Village Hall Committee to ask if the Parish Council would consider paying for a training session on how to use the defibrillator for all parishioners. The Somerset & Dorset Air Ambulance had agreed that they could do this for a donation of £50.00. **It was unanimously agreed** that this was a good idea and that Parish Councillors were happy to authorise payment when an invoice was received.

The Clerk further advised that she had a note on file that the defibrillator pads and battery should be replaced every two years and she is trying to ascertain whether this should be done in this autumn or next spring. The cost of these will be in the region of £70 and £360 respectively and **it was unanimously agreed** that the Clerk should go ahead and order these up to a cost of £450 if they are due to be replaced this autumn.

Finally, the Brewham website is not working satisfactorily and Stuart Turnbull has been trying to set the Clerk up with a legally compliant email address but has so far not been successful. The Clerk had received an email from a website designer offering to set up a legally compliant website and email addresses. Stuart Turnbull is going to speak to this firm, but it is likely that a decision will need to be made before the November meeting. Nick Mann offered to look into this on behalf of the Parish Council and it was agreed that once a quote is received Councillors will discuss, probably by email, and agree whether they are happy to proceed.

6. 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. Application approved.
- b. 25/00485/FUL - Border Farm, Border Lane, Brewham, Bruton, BA10 0JQ – replace stable building with artist studio and bat roost. Decision awaited.
- c. 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.
- d. 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. Decision awaited.
- e. 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.
- f. 25/01445/PAMB - Agricultural Buildings & Land at Kingsettle Hill, Brewham – notification only. Application approved.
- g. 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. Decision awaited.
- h. 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. Application approved.
- i. 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. Decision awaited.

j. 25/01770/LBC – Hardway House, Hardway, BA10 0LR – internal alterations. No comments or objections. Decision awaited.

ii. **New application to be considered:**

a. 25/01506/FUL – Holland Farm, South Brewham, BA10 0JZ - erection of ancillary accommodation for staff associated with the running of the farm and equestrian businesses. Having declared an interest Richard Hiscock stepped down from the meeting. Councillors discussed this application and it was agreed that they really need more information because, as far as they are aware, there is no permission for an equestrian business on this agricultural property. When the main house was built some years ago the original farmhouse was due to be demolished but due to a planning loophole it never was. As this dwelling is currently still being used, Councillors thought that this was adequate accommodation for a farm manager and if there is no equestrian business then accommodation for an equestrian manager is not necessary. Unless further information can be obtained to explain in more detail why there is need for a third dwelling then Councillors were not happy to approve the application as it stands.

No further applications had been received.

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

As discussed above, the Village Hall Committee had asked whether the Parish Council would be prepared to pay for defibrillator training for all interested parishioners. Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance have said they would be happy to do this for a donation of £50 and it was agreed to ask the Village Hall Committee to go ahead and that the Parish Council are happy to pay the donation.

The Clerk also advised that she had a note on file that the defibrillator battery and pads should be replaced every two years, but she is unsure whether this should be in the autumn of 2025 or the spring of 2026. It was agreed that she should go ahead and purchase these if they were due for replacement this autumn up to a cost of £450.

Nick Mann had asked who is responsible for the grass area on Charcroft Hill and the long acre on the lane opposite the Cricket Field because part of his work is creating wildflower meadows and he wondered if we could be doing more to improve the floral diversity in parts of the village. These are both Common land and discussion took place with opinion being divided on whether such areas should be kept mown or whether there should be a more managed system which would allow wildflowers to grow and flourish. It was agreed that to start with work should be carried out on the common land in front of Jackdaw Cottage, which is very overgrown, and then the matter will be discussed again at a future meeting. Robert Jackson offered to top the area and then the brambles will need cutting back and the roots digging up. Nick Mann may plant some yellow rattle on the Common land opposite the Cricket Field.

8. **Roads:**

a. **Outstanding matters:**

As always potholes continue to appear throughout the parish on a regular basis and the Council have repaired a number of previously marked ones and the remaining drains have been jetted, although Mrs Saxton advised that the one outside her property is still blocked. Some, but not all, of the potholes on Druley Hill have been repaired and the Clerk will follow this up. The Clerk has not heard about any of the other matters raised at the July meeting and will continue to chase for the various work to be done.

b. **New matters:**

There were reports of new potholes, in particular in Steet Lane and Bedlamgreen Lane which the Clerk will report. Mr Turner had again contacted the Clerk about the bridge near his house which has large cracks and trees growing out of its brickwork. He is concerned that the whole wall could collapse and a serious accident occur. The Clerk has reported this.

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9. **Footpaths & Bridleways:**

Outstanding matters:

The Clerk had nothing to update about outstanding problems on footpaths throughout the parish. She will continue to press for work to be done and try to find out what the position is about landowners carrying out repairs. It was also suggested that it might be worth approaching the Ramblers Association to see if they can help in any way.

10. **Report from County Councillors:**

Councillors Trimnell and Power had sent their apologies but Tom Power had recently circulated his September report.

Consultations are taking place about Somerset Council's proposed plans to reduce NHS Community Beds and there is an online survey for anyone wanting to comment.

The Council has set out a new People Strategy aimed at supporting staff through transformation and improving recruitment, retention and morale. The strategy is high level and focuses on three priorities: Reset and Refocus (strengthening the basics), Attract and Retain (building fair, motivated teams) and Improve and Thrive (embracing innovation).

Following six fatalities on the A361 Frome Bypass in five years, Somerset Council and Avon & Somerset Police are trialling AI cameras to detect dangerous driving. They were installed in August for a trial period of six months.

The Council has issued a warning following a near serious fire at a recycling facility caused by gas canisters being placed in blue recycling bags. In the past six months, almost 1,500 canisters have been wrongly disposed of, leading to four fires in one month. Residents are urged to take small canisters, vapes, lithium-ion batteries and devices to recycling sites for safe disposal. Only empty aerosols may go in blue bags.

Somerset Council and Somerset Prepared are inviting all parish, town and city councils to complete the first Preparedness Survey to help assess emergency risks across the county. The survey asks councils to score the significance of local hazards and reflect on their preparedness in terms of planning, people and resources. Responses will inform support for community resilience, establish a baseline for tracking progress and allow councils to request specific help. The survey closes 19 September 2025 -

<https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/climate-and-environment/city-town-parish-preparedness-survey/>

Dates of future meetings: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 11th November 2025 and subsequent meetings on Tuesdays, 6th January and 10th March 2026.

11. **Open Forum:**

Mark Perry noticed the large damp patch in the corner of the Village Hall which needs attention. The Clerk will report this to Liza Greaves.

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

Signed... *R.L. Jackson*

Date..... 11th November 2025.....