

**THE MINUTES OF THE BANHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE BANHAM COMMUNITY
CENTRE, THURSDAY 6th MARCH 2025 AT 7:30PM**

**Present: Mr Brendan Sparks, Mr Keith Drewrey, Mr Jeff Burrell, Dr Jo Dalton,
Mrs Pam Spicer & Mr Rob Plom**

<u>Item:</u>	<u>Details:</u>
1.	<u>Welcome:</u> The Chairman welcomed members of the Parish Council and the public.
2.	<u>Apologies for Absence:</u> There was an apology of absence from Mr Brendan Sparks
3.	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC SESSION

Meeting adjourned to receive comments from the Public

There were 5 villagers in attendance. Villager 1 raised concerns in respect of the safety of 'Lucy's Sweetshop' on Crown Street, Banham. The PC were advised that the fencing has been moved and is allowing people to get into the property, and there was also concerns in respect of the safety of the actual building (inside & out). It was agreed that the Clerk would email Stephen Askew, and he would look into this on our behalf.

Villager 2 raised concerns over rats on the allotment which appear to be coming from the surrounding properties. It was acknowledged by the PC that given the location and purpose of the allotments and the fact that these are located in the countryside, there is little that can be done to deter the rats unfortunately. It was also asked whether a noticeboard could be re-erected on the allotments, and it was confirmed that there would be no issue with this.

MEETING RECONVENED

<u>Item:</u>	<u>Details:</u>	<u>Actions:</u>
4.	<u>Previous Minutes:</u> Previous Minutes of the 6 th February 2025 meeting were approved, and signed by the Chairman.	Chairman Parish Clerk
5.	<u>Allotments:</u> Mr Drewrey advised that the allotments had been inspected, and there was a lot of work going on to get the plots ready for Spring. Unfortunately there are still a couple of plots which have been neglected for almost a year, and it was decided that if work doesn't commence shortly then the PC will have no alternative but to give the tenant notice to vacate. A final review will be done in April, and a decision then made as to whether notice needs to be given.	Parish Clerk

Signed: Dated: 3rd April 2025

6.	<u>Banham Community Hub:</u> As always, there continues to be a good turn out at the Wednesday cafe. Mrs Spicer advised that there will be a visit from the Breckland District Council on the 19th March to discuss household support funds for pension age and above. There is to be a talk from the RSPCA and there will be a visit from Breckland Hub on the 9th April to advise of support that can be provided by them. The Community Police Officer is attending on the 16th April and the Bunny Hunt is to take place again on the 19th April. Finally on the 7th May, there will be a V.E themed morning to celebrate this.	Mrs Spicer
7.	<u>PC Banking:</u> The Clerk advised that she had started completing the application forms with Unity Bank for a new savings and current account but that she had come across requested information that needed to be sought from the RFO. The Clerk confirmed she has this now, but that it may be a slow process as you don't know what information is required up front, and so this can only be requested when known.	Parish Clerk
8.	<u>War Memorial:</u> The Parish Council considered the quote of more than £4000.00 which had been received in respect of the cleaning of the war memorial. Given this is such a large amount, and in order to save additional costs for villagers, the Parish Council are going to look into the cost of a cherry picker and equipment needed to deal with the cleaning themselves. The Clerk will look into obtaining some quotes and further consideration will then be given.	Parish Clerk
9.	<u>Highways/Street Lights/Footpaths & Hedges:</u> It was acknowledged that the cemetery hedge had been cut. The Chairman confirmed that some LEDs are missing from one of the village speed signs, but hopefully this can be repaired rather than there be a need to replace the whole unit. It was reported that the Banham street sign which had been on the Kenninghall Road coming into the village has gone missing. Steve Askew confirmed that he would look to report this and request that the sign is replaced. Finally, the PC had received a query in respect of damage being caused to grass just off a property driveway on Mill Road, with concern that the driveway will also be damaged if this continues. It was acknowledged that the grass is being driven over regularly by large vehicles giving way on a narrow stretch of road which is causing damage. It was noted that there are many areas in Banham which have the same issue, and there is nothing really that can be done, as this is just part of life living in the country with narrow lanes. The Clerk will respond in respect of the query raised and advise that if the individual wishes to contact Highways then he can do this, but that there is very little that can be done.	Parish Clerk
10.	<u>Transport Grant:</u> It was noted that an individual had been in touch in respect of utilising the transport grant for travel to and from the N&N hospital for necessary treatment. The Clerk advised of some concern that the grant is only for a limited amount and so the funds will diminish quickly which could then leave the villager in a difficult position.	Parish Clerk

Signed: Dated: 3rd April 2025

	It was concluded that the Clerk would revert to the villager to confirm that they would be happy to assist if they find themselves in a difficult position, but otherwise, it would likely be much more convenient (particularly in the long term) for them to contact the Travel Norfolk Car Scheme who could make arrangements and provide the assistance required.	
11.	<u>Planning:</u> Ref: PL/2025/0180/VAR – Haugh Farm, Haugh Road, Banham The PC reviewed the application in place and confirmed no objection to this.	Parish Clerk
12/13	<u>Accounts:</u> The Chairman proposed the approval of items for payment. There was unanimous agreement from the Parish Council in favour of the following: £ 48.00 – Street Lighting – K&M Lighting £ 50.00 – Storage of PC Items – Mr R Bensley £ 72.00 – Hall Rental – Banham Community Hub £100.00 – Transport Grant Funding – Harling Taxis	Parish Clerk
14.	<u>Banham Newsletter:</u> The Chairman advised that he would like us to take the opportunity to do a Footpath rules/do's and don'ts piece, as he has recently been speaking with some of Banham's farmers and this is a historic problem, particularly where dogs are involved. The Clerk will look to deal with this.	Parish Clerk
15.	<u>Chairman's Other Business:</u> There was no other business to raise.	Chairman
17.	<u>Next Meeting:</u> Thursday 3rd April 2025 at 7:30pm The Small Hall, Banham Community Centre	Parish Clerk

Signed: Dated: 3rd April 2025