

**THE MINUTES OF THE BANHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE BANHAM COMMUNITY
CENTRE, THURSDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 7:30PM**

Present: Mr Jeff Burrell, Mr Keith Drewrey, Mrs Pam Spicer, and 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 were apologies of absence from Mr Brendan Sparks, and Dr Jo Dalton
3.	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC SESSION

Meeting adjourned to receive comments from the Public

There were no comments from members of the Public.

Mr Askew was in attendance at the meeting, and he advised the Parish Council of a new grant available from Breckland Council called 'Norfolk Warm Homes'. This is an initiative set up to provide assistance in improving energy efficiency for homes. Mr Askew also acknowledged the progress in respect of the demolition of 'Lucy's Sweet Shop' and the further works being undertaken.

MEETING RECONVENED

<u>Item:</u>	<u>Details:</u>	<u>Actions:</u>
4.	<u>Previous Minutes:</u> Previous Minutes of the 7 th August 2025 meeting were approved, and signed by the Chairman.	Chairman Parish Clerk
5.	<u>Allotments:</u> It was noted after inspection that allotment plots 1, 2, 3 & 4, are overgrown and seeing very little maintenance. Emails will be sent to the relevant plot holders reminding of obligations/with a request to vacate. The Parish Council discussed amendments of the current tenancy. As it stands, a 12 month notice period is in place, however, it was decided that in respect of those who are in breach of the rules of the tenancy agreement, a 1 month notice period will now apply. In respect of the annual fees, it was proposed by Mr Plom that this be increased to £20.00 per year. This was seconded by Mr Drewrey and unanimously agreed by all Parish Council members. The Clerk will now update the tenancy agreement, and this will be sent out at the beginning of October in readiness of payment of allotment rent fees.	Parish Clerk

Signed: Dated: 2nd October 2025

6.	<u>Banham Community Hub:</u> The Community Hub continues to see a good attendance at the Wednesday Cafe and the 'Wellness for Movement' programme saw 23 attendees. The Hub were pleased to take part in an interview on the 1st September with Radio Norfolk which helped to promote the Hub and Banham now being a 'Mindful Village'. As part of their ongoing work, the Hub organised a Mental Health Walk on the 14th September, and also a MacMillan Coffee Morning. The members are busy making 'Rag-Rugs' to assist with the acoustics in the Village Hall, and there are many more events due to take place in the future.	Mrs Spicer
7.	<u>Playground Maintenance Update:</u> The Parish Council are awaiting supplies for the necessary 'maintenance works' to be undertaken. These should take place in the near future.	Mr Plom
8.	<u>Grove Road Speed Review:</u> The Clerk confirmed that the required works have been requested and Highways are awaiting a response from the contractors as to when this will take place. The Clerk will continue to chase for further information and will update when there are further developments.	Parish Clerk
9.	<u>War Memorial Cleaning:</u> The Chairman and Mr Plom carried out the required cleaning of the war memorial on the 27th September.	Parish Clerk
10.	<u>Pride of Banham:</u> It was acknowledged that the Clerk had made enquiries into how The Pride Of Banham award would be 'rolled out', and whether the PC Website could accommodate this by way of nomination forms. The PC are keen for an application form to be made available in the Banham Newsletter. The short listing of nominations will be reviewed by the Parish Council with the final winner to be decided by an 'outside party'. The Clerk will continue to look into this, with the award to be launched early 2026.	Parish Clerk
11.	<u>Appleyard ACV:</u> The Parish Clerk will contact the land owner to gather more information on the area proposed to the 'Call for Land' project. This will be reported back to Parish Council at the October meeting for further consideration.	Parish Clerk
12.	<u>Basal Cutting (Trees on the Green):</u> It was acknowledged that the basal growth on the trees is once again causing issues with parking around the green and so a request has been passed to the Land Owner to deal with this.	Parish Clerk

Signed: Dated: 2nd October 2025

12.	<u>Basal Cutting continued....</u> The Parish Council discussed the continued funding of this maintenance, and it was decided that due to ever increasing financial commitments/funding requests that the Parish could not continue with this indefinitely. The Parish Council does cut the grass on the green, and also on the triangular area of land at the bottom of Heath Road and will continue to do this, but whilst they will fund the cutting of the current basal growth as a gesture of good will, this will be the final year that they are able to do so. The Clerk will contact the land owner to advise on this.	Parish Clerk
13.	<u>Replacement Tree at BCCA:</u> The PC acknowledged the email received requesting a replacement tree at the BCCA. The PC are aware the tree has died and acknowledged the previous tree also died. Advice has confirmed the place of planting is far from ideal as the moisture drains away, and as such the PC concluded that the planting of a third tree would also result in a further dead tree. With this in mind it was decided not to plant another. The Clerk will contact BCCA to advise.	Parish Clerk
14.	<u>Funding Guidelines:</u> The funding Guidelines were discussed. This was approved, though a section will be added to advise that even if all criteria is met, funding is not guaranteed. The Clerk will make the necessary amendment, and the form will then be added to the website for future funding and donations to be requested.	Parish Clerk
15.	<u>Cutting of Cemetery Hedge:</u> It was acknowledged that due to a miscommunication, the church hedge has been cut, and as such the Parish Council approved the invoice of £340.00.	Parish Clerk
16:	<u>Parish Council Insurance Renewal:</u> The Parish Council reviewed the insurance documents and asked the Clerk to revert to the Insurers with a couple of enquiries to ensure correct cover. The Clerk will revert as required and report back to the PC for final approval.	Parish Clerk
17/18	<u>Accounts:</u> The Chairman proposed the approval of items for payment. There was unanimous agreement from the Parish Council for the following: £ 48.00 – Street Lighting – K&M Lighting £ 50.00 – Storage of PC items – Mr R Bensley £ 80.00 – Hall Rental – Banham Community Hub £208.00 – Donation for Charitable Organisation Fees – Community Hub £300.00 – Cutting of basal growth (Village green trees 2024) – Peter Ludkin	Parish Clerk
19.	<u>Banham Newsletter:</u> The Parish Council agreed to include the Community Hub, Memorial Clean, Christmas Fair & Warm House Grant	Parish Clerk

Signed: Dated: 2nd October 2025

20.	<u>Chairman's Other Business:</u> There was no other business	
21.	<u>Next Meeting:</u> <u>Thursday 2nd October 2025 at 7:30pm</u> <u>The Small Hall, Banham Community Centre</u>	

Signed: Dated: 2nd October 2025