**BRINDLE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8 September 2025, at 7:30pm, at Brindle Community Hall, Water Street, Brindle, PR6 8NH**

Present: Councillor Darren Cranshaw (Chair)

 Councillor Louise Croasdale (Vice Chair)

 Councillor John Baldwin

 Councillor Jane Greenway

 Councillor Bill Nelson

 Councillor Barbara Robinson

 Councillor Cath Singleton

 Councillor John Swann

In attendance: Dianne Scambler (Clerk)

**62. Apologies and announcements**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Pauline McGovern.

The Chair informed the Council that he had recently attended the Brindle Village Show, where he was invited to present prizes. The event saw a strong turnout, with numerous exhibitors participating, which had been great to see. The organisers and volunteers were thanks for all their hard work. Councillors Greenway and Singleton had both submitted entries.

The Chair also reported that the village had not progressed to the final round of this year’s Best Kept Village Competition, despite having won the title the previous year. As a result of last year’s success, the village was entered into a higher category this time, where the judging criteria were more demanding and the competition significantly tougher. While official feedback is still awaited, there was a consensus that the presence of weeds in the pavements may have contributed to the outcome.

1. **Disclosure of personal or prejudicial interests**

Councillor Cranshaw declared a personal interest in Items 6 and 7.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on Monday 14 July 2025, were agreed as a true and correct record for signing by the Chair.

1. **Adjournment: Public Participation Session**
2. Residents enquired about the status of the reversal of unauthorised works, which had led to enforcement action at Breworth Manor. Councillor McGovern had previously raised the matter with Chorley Council; however, as she was not present at the meeting, no update was available. The Chair confirmed that he would liaise with the relevant officers in the Planning team to obtain further information on the current position.
3. A resident contacted the Council seeking clarification on the current arrangements regarding the footpath near Tullis Farm. Historically, the previous owners had allowed public use of the path as a gesture of goodwill, although it was not a designated public right of way. However, the new homeowners have installed an electric fence along their hedge line and advised dog walkers not to use the path. The Council acknowledged that, from a legal standpoint, there is no enforcement action they can take. Nonetheless, it was agreed that the Council would write to the homeowners to enquire whether they would be willing to continue the previous informal arrangement.
4. **Police Liaison**

The Clerk informed the Council that PCSO Bannister had advised he was unable to attend the current meeting but had requested the dates of upcoming meetings with the intention of attending in future. In the meantime, he encouraged the Council to keep him informed of any ongoing concerns. The key issues currently identified by the Council include persistent speeding within the village, incidents of anti-social behaviour at Denham Quarry, and the removal of stones from a disused property.

1. **Brindle Community Hall**

The Chair informed the Council that the Brindle Community Hall Management Committee had not convened since their last meeting. He also shared details of the Committee’s next project, which involves replacing the patio flags at the Hall.

1. **Lancashire Association of Local Councils Report**

The Clerk circulated the latest LALC newsletter to all members.

The Chair drew the Council’s attention to a significant stakeholder consultation currently underway regarding Local Government Reorganisation. The proposal under consideration would see Chorley and South Ribble Councils merge with West Lancashire Council to form a single authority responsible for delivering all services, including those presently managed by Lancashire County Council. The Chair noted that all three councils are broadly similar in size and demographic profile, making the merger a potentially viable structural change.

Given the far-reaching implications of this proposal, the Chair strongly urged all Councillors to participate in the consultation and submit their responses before the deadline of 29 September 2025.

1. **Chorley Borough Council/Lancashire County Council Update**

There were no updates provide.

1. **Planning Reports**

The meeting discussed recent planning applications with no observations made.

1. **Parish Finance**

The Clerk was still progressing the process of updating account signatories and authorised users with the Co-operative Bank. In the interim, the Council will continue to settle any outstanding payments and future expenditure using cheques until the changes are fully implemented.

The last Bank Statement showed a balance of £28,022.21 as at 2 June 2025.

1. **Accounts for Payment**

The Council approved the following payments:

* Dianne Scambler (Contractual July Salary) £520.00
* HMRC £100.90
* Lancashire County Council (SPID installation) £150.00
* Dianne Scambler (Contractual August Salary) £520.00
* HMRC £164.95
* LALC Annual Subscription £197.61
* Dianne Scambler (Stationery) £16.09
* Brindle Community Hall £20.00
1. **Grant Application**

The Council approved a Grant of £150.00 for the Brindle Over 55’s Club.

1. **Environmental Issues and Concerns**
2. **Stile maintenance**

A resident reported a hazardous stile on footpath FP0903001, located on the right-hand side leading from Marsh Lane, between Marsh Lane Farm and Leigh Farm. The issue has been referred to the Public Rights of Way team at Lancashire County Council, and the Clerk will request an update on any planned action.

The resident suggested that the Council consider using the £500 donation received from the Ramblers Association to address the problem directly. However, it was agreed that it would be appropriate to first establish whether the responsible authority intends to resolve the matter before the Council considers intervening.

1. **Suggestion to locate a bench at Trigg Point, Denham Lane**

The Council considered the proposal and concluded that there may be more suitable locations for the siting of a bench. It was therefore agreed that further research would be undertaken to assess the potential benefits of the proposal and to explore alternative sites that may better serve the community.

1. **Parish Council Projects**
2. **Withnell Fold Circular Walk**

It was agreed that a site walk of the designated route is necessary to assess the types of stiles required and to determine the scope of associated installation work before any quotations can be sought. The Clerk advised that Lancashire County Council may be able to provide certain stiles free of charge, which could help reduce overall costs. It was therefore agreed to circulate the route map and arrange for it to be walked and reviewed.

1. **Closure of Brindle St Joseph’s Church and Parish Hall**

The Chair informed the Council that a review of the proceedings, conducted by the Archbishop of Liverpool, had concluded that the original consultation process had not been properly carried out. As a result, all options and proposals are now being reviewed. In the interim, the priest’s contract has been extended until November.

A proposal has been put forward for St Joseph’s to share a priest with St Chad’s and St Bede’s, which would involve alternating Sunday Masses between the parishes. Meanwhile, the community group continues to await confirmation from Ampleforth regarding the release of the Parish Hall for community use.

Sir Lindsay Hoyle has now become involved in the matter and has engaged with senior members of the clergy at Westminster, which has given the community renewed hope for a positive resolution. Councillor Robinson also reported that she is due to meet imminently with representatives from the Vatican to discuss the situation further.

1. **Cold War Bunker**

The Council conducted a site visit to inspect the restoration work undertaken over recent years to return the facility to its original condition prior to its decommissioning in the early 1990s. Once subject to significant vandalism, the site has since been revitalised through a combination of grant funding and the dedicated efforts of local volunteers.

The bunker and its surrounding field are currently owned by Mr. William de Hamel, who is in the process of transferring ownership to a Community Interest Company (CIC). The CIC has been established with the aim of preserving and showcasing the site for the benefit of the wider community.

Mr. de Hamel had approached Brindle Parish Council with a request to consider assuming ownership of the site in the event that the CIC becomes unsustainable. This would help safeguard the long-term preservation of this important historical asset.

Following a detailed discussion, the Council agreed in principle to undertake this responsibility and to offer whatever support it could. The Chair will inform Mr. de Hamel of the Council’s position and seek clarification on the next steps to be taken.

1. **Alms Houses**

The Chair informed the Council that criteria were being established for the allocation of the three Alms Houses, with a focus on ensuring they benefit individuals with a strong and longstanding connection to Brindle. The landowner has expressed a clear intention to prioritise those from the local community, recognising the particular challenges they face in securing affordable housing within the village.

The buildings at High Cop are currently undergoing development, with planning permission granted for the construction of three dwellings.

1. **Thank you and best wishes**

The Council wished to formally record its sincere thanks and best wishes to Mr William de Hamel, who will shortly be returning to New Zealand. Mr de Hamel has been a valued member of the Brindle community for the past 16 years, during which time he has made significant contributions to the upkeep and preservation of the village, and has shown consistent support and generosity toward his tenants.

In recognition of his service and dedication, the Council agreed to present Mr de Hamel with a token of appreciation as a gesture of gratitude and goodwill. Members extended their warmest wishes for his future endeavours and a happy and fulfilling new chapter abroad

1. **Christmas Tree**

The Council agreed to proceed with the purchase of a Christmas tree to be installed at the Brindle Pound for the 2025 festive season. Councillor Singleton kindly volunteered to make the necessary arrangements to ensure the tree is sourced and installed in good time..

1. **Date of next meeting**

Monday 13, October 2025, at Brindle Community Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm