

BRINDLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13 October 2025, at 7:30pm, at Trinity Methodist Church, Gregson Lane, Houghton PR5 0ED

Present: Councillor Darren Cranshaw (Chair)
Councillor Louise Croasdale (Vice Chair)
Councillor Jane Greenway
Councillor Pauline McGovern
Councillor Cath Singleton

In attendance: Dianne Scambler (Clerk)

82. Apologies and announcements

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bill Nelson and John Swann. Councillors John Balwin and Barbara Robinson were also absent from the meeting.

The Chair informed the Council of his intention on behalf of the Parish Council to present Katherine Milnes, the former Clerk, with a watercolour print of Brindle, in recognition of her dedicated service.

83. Disclosure of personal or prejudicial interests

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

84. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8 September 2025, were agreed as a true and correct record for signing by the Chair.

85. Adjournment: Public Participation Session

There were no members of the public present.

86. Police Liaison

No updates had been received. The dates of future meetings had been shared.

87. Brindle Community Hall

The Chair informed the Council that the Brindle Community Hall Management Committee were seeking volunteers to assist with its general upkeep, including a maintenance day scheduled for 25 October 2024. The Committee also required new Trustees, with meetings held quarterly, and members were encouraged to participate or nominate others.

The Community Hall's Annual General Meeting would take place on Thursday, 13 November 2025 at 7.30pm at the Hall. All welcome to attend.

The Committee had resolved not to approach United Utilities regarding a proposed Community Orchard, having determined that the land was contaminated and therefore unsuitable for such use.

88. Lancashire Association of Local Councils Report

The Chair drew the Council's attention to the Chorley Area Committee meeting that was taking place at the Town Hall, Chorley, on 3 November 2025. The Chair and Clerk of the Council were attending and would report back. An email had been circulated by the Clerk asking for suggested agenda items. The Chief Executive of Chorley & South Ribble Councils was attending to give an update on the Local Government Reorganisation process currently underway.

The 81st Annual General Meeting of the Lancashire Association of Local Councils was also taking place at County Hall in Preston, on 1 November, and any member wishing to attend would need to register by the given deadline.

Morecambe Parish Council has established its own payroll service for a nominal fee, and councils across Lancashire are being encouraged to consider the service to ensure value for money. The Clerk will investigate this further.

89. Chorley Borough Council/Lancashire County Council Update

Councillor Pauline McGovern provided a brief overview of the process to date on the Local Government Devolution plans. It was expected that the anticipated Local Elections would still take place in May 2026, but that in line with the local government re-organisation proposals, there was likely to be fewer councillors from 2027 onwards. Chorley Council were proposing to join with South Ribble and West Lancashire Councils to form a unitary council along with services currently delivered by the County Council.

90. Planning Reports

The meeting discussed recent planning applications and asked for the following comments to be submitted to Chorley Council's Planning Services:

Erection of 1 no. detached dwelling.

Ref no: 25/00891/FUL | Received: 24 September 2025 | Validated: 24 September 2025 | Status: Awaiting Decision

Land West of and Adjacent to Bowfell Cottage, Sandy Lane, Brindle

The Parish Council objects to the proposed development on the following grounds:

- **Highway Safety:** The development is considered to pose a risk to road safety due to increased traffic movements and potential access issues, which may adversely affect the safe operation of the local highway network.
- **Residential Amenity:** The scale and proximity of the proposed development to existing dwellings is deemed to have an unacceptable impact on the residential amenity of neighbouring properties, particularly in terms of overlooking, loss of privacy, and overbearing effect.
- **Impact on the Conservation Area:** The development is considered to be unsympathetic to the character and appearance of the designated conservation area, potentially resulting in harm to its historic and visual significance.

91. Parish Finance

Due to the intrinsic difficulties encountered with the existing bank administrative processes, the Chair and Clerk recommended that the Council consider transferring the bank account to Unify Bank, a financial institution specialising in services tailored for Parish Councils and familiar with the specific requirements of organisations such as ours. While the bank charges a modest fee, it offers enhanced financial safeguards and provides a dedicated Customer Relations Manager to ensure prompt and efficient assistance with any queries. Following thorough discussion, the Council resolved to proceed with the new banking arrangements.

92. Accounts for Payment

The Council approved the following payments:

- Whitehead & Aldridge (payroll services) £108.00
- Information Commissioners Office (annual data protection fees) £52.00
- Dianne Scambler (October Salary) £520.00
- HMRC (October deductions) £164.95
- Lancashire County Council (SPID installation) £150.00
- Trinity Methodist Church (Room Hire) £30.00
- HMRC £164.95
- Dianne Scambler (Reimbursement of Laptop and assoc. software) £548.99

93. Environmental Issues and Concerns

(a) Traffic concerns following recent road closures

The recent road closure on Sandy Lane for United Utilities' installation of a new main pipe led some drivers to use alternative routes outside the designated diversion by Lancashire County Council (LCC). This was likely influenced by local knowledge and social media posts encouraging others. The resulting traffic on surrounding narrow single-lane country roads caused safety concerns due to speeding. To prevent recurrence and allow completion of the works, the Council has posted regular LCC updates on diversion routes via community social media and its website and has liaised with highways officers to address the issues.

(b) Daffodil bulbs donated by Chorley Council

The Council has received a generous donation of daffodil bulbs and it was agreed to distribute them to local schools and community groups to support community planting initiatives and seasonal displays.

94. Parish Council Projects

Councillor Pauline McGovern informed the Council that funding through the Big Impact Community Scheme was now available from Chorley Council for use by Parish Councils on local projects. It was noted that any applications would require the proposed project to be fully worked up and costed by the 27 October deadline.

The Council discussed potential priorities and agreed to proceed with applications for two projects considered to offer the greatest benefit to the local community:

- Repairing the perimeter fencing at Denham Quarry
- Purchasing replacement stiles for the Withnell Fold Circular Walk

The Council noted that a portion of funding from the scheme had already been allocated in support of the ongoing campaign in Brindle to transfer ownership of St Joseph's Parish Hall to the community.

95. Remembrance Services

The Vice Chair, Councillor Louise Croasdale, would represent the Council by laying a wreath at the Remembrance Service held at St James's Church of England, Brindle

The Council were informed of correspondence received from the Mayor's Secretary at Chorley Council, extending a welcome to Parish Council representatives to attend the annual service and parade at the cenotaph in Astley Park.

The Chair, Councillor Cranshaw, would be attending Remembrance proceedings in South Ribble in a professional capacity.

96. Closure of Brindle St Joseph's Church and Parish Hall

The Chair recently circulated an update to the Council confirming that Father Raphael's tenure would conclude at the end of October. As the Archdiocese of Liverpool continues its full review of proceedings, a parochial administrator has been appointed to serve the Parish until the end of January 2026.

The Council formally records its sincere appreciation to Father Raphael for his dedicated and faithful service to the Parish and the Chair write on the Parish Council's behalf.

97. St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

The Chair informed the Council that the school would soon be celebrating its 50th birthday on its current Bournes Row site and had been invited to the thanksgiving Mass and celebration event.

98. Date of next meeting

Monday 8 December 2025, at Brindle Community Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 8.50pm