

BASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Baston Parish Council held on Thursday 20th November 2025 in Baston Village Hall (Barn).

Present: Chairman

Cllr A Clarke
Cllr B Easy
Cllr L Eassom
Cllr G Griffiths
Cllr M Mahabadi
Cllr P Redmore
Cllr G Vaughan
Cllr R Whitehead

County Council
District Council

Cllr A Baxter
Cllr V Smith
Cllr R Trollope-Bellew APOLOGIES

Apologies:

Cllr J Groutage
Cllr S Minn
Cllr M Nicholson

Members of public present : 6

Public forum:

Remembered two previous parish councillors – Linda Colbourn and Jim Kelly (whose funeral was attended by councillors on 20 November).

There is a Macmillan Fund Raising activity at the Baston Church on 3rd December from 9am to 3:30pm.

One resident had a ‘near miss’ on the A15 traffic lights en-route to the PC meeting when despite the lights being on red a car went straight through whilst resident in the road. This also happened last month. Can we ask highways to get additional lighting?

Action: Cllr Clarke to send request via email outlining reason

Re the Cemex/Thetford Farm quarry planning application is there an opportunity to get traffic lights on North Meadow Drive exit? Local resident has raised this with LCC highways – reference 4209471 at 2:10pm on 20 November.

Confirmed that previous conversations was that Freeman has not been approached in selling land (nor is interested in selling land).

117/25 Chairman's remarks:

Welcomed members of the public and confirmed that Jim Kelly’s funeral held on 20 November was attended by some local councillors.

118/25 Apologies for absence received:

District Council Cllr R Trollope-Bellew, Cllr Groutage, Cllr Minn and Cllr Nicholson.

119/25 To receive any declarations of interest in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and to consider any requests for dispensations.

120/25 Minutes of last meeting:

Held on 16th October 2025 – proposed approval by Cllr Vaughan/seconded by Cllr Easy/approved by all Councillors present.

121/25 Matters arising from minutes

The Tommy Lamp Post signs have been removed

Action: Cllr Clarke to contact community cleaner – did he do this and where are they

The Tommy figure has been placed into storage.

Thetford Avenue trees have been pruned as requested.

We are not registered with ICO – but need the Lloyds Bank registered address to be changed first.

Action: Cllr Clarke working on getting this amended/registered.

122/25 Clerks report on matters outstanding:

Nothing to report

123/25 To receive reports from representations on outside bodies:

County Councillor A Baxter

See appendix A

District Councillor V Smith

See appendix B

District Councillor R Trollope-Bellew

Apologies given

124/25 Financial matters:

(a) Financial Update

Second payment of Precept has been received.

Bank Reconciliation General Account		Bank Reconciliation Savings Account	
Opening balance	£29,024.24	Opening balance	£10,551.94
Less expenditure	-£3,040.04	Less expenditure	0
Plus income	£13,398.32	Balance 31 Oct 2025	£10,551.94
Statement 31 Oct 2025	£39,382.52		

(b) Authorisation of payments made: October (resolved)

Date on Bank Statement	Payee	Gross	VAT	Net	Category / Description
1.10.25	E Clarke	-£432.00	£0.00	-£432.00	Salary (back pay)
1.10.25	E Clarke	-£481.50	£0.00	-£481.50	Salary (September)
1.10.25	E Clarke	-£44.35	£0.00	-£44.35	Travel expenses
6.10.25	Witczak (Plot 4B0)	£5.00	£0.00	£5.00	Allotment rental
6.10.25	South Kesteven	£12,870.00	£0.00	£12,870.00	2nd Precept Payment
6.10.25	PK Littlejohn	-£252.00	-£42.00	-£210.00	External Audit fees
6.10.25	LALC	-£42.00	-£7.00	-£35.00	Training course fee
6.10.25	Groutage (Plot 4A)	£5.00	£0.00	£5.00	Allotment rental
6.10.25	Tilley (Plot 10)	£10.00	£0.00	£10.00	Allotment rental
13.10.25	Ellingford (Plot 6)	£10.00	£0.00	£10.00	Allotment rental

14.10.25	Whitehead (Plot 12)	£10.00	£0.00	£10.00	Allotment rental
15.10.25	BPFMC	-£20.00	£0.00	-£20.00	Hall rental (September)
16.10.25	Amazon	-£23.98	-£4.00	-£19.98	Stationery (printer cartridge)
		-£6.98	-£1.16	-£5.82	Stationery (A4 paper)
17.10.25	March (Plot 5)	£10.00	£0.00	£10.00	Allotment rental
20.10.25	Roullier (Plot 8A)	£5.00	£0.00	£5.00	Allotment rental
20.10.25	BPFMC	-£1,500.00	£0.00	-£1,500.00	2nd Grant Payment
20.10.25	Deeping Explorer	-£50.00	£0.00	-£50.00	Donation
20.10.25	Lloyds Bank	-£4.25	£0.00	-£4.25	Monthly service fee
21.10.25	Clayton (Plot 11)	£10.00	£0.00	£10.00	Allotment rental
21.10.25	Royal British Legion	-£122.98	-£20.49	-£102.49	Rememberance Lamp Post Signs
27.10.25	V Smith	-£60.00	-£10.00	-£50.00	Graytones (leaflet printing)
30.10.25	South Kesteven	£463.32	£0.00	£463.32	Community Cleaner grant

(c) Reconciled accounts for September 2025

Accounts agreed – signed by Cllr Clarke and counter-signed by Cllr Griffiths.

(d) Authorisation of upcoming payments:

CAMEO payment for 2026/27 request for £150

(this is a Baston run group which has been running for 20 years and has 18 members)
Proposed Cllr Redmore/Seconded Cllr Easy – all Cllrs approved

LIVES donation for 2025 Big Christmas Big Give Challenge

(this is a group of first-responders operating in Lincolnshire and one of the councillors has first-hand experience of this in Baston)

Donation of £250 proposed by Cllr Vaughan/Seconded Cllr Mahabadi – all Cllrs agreed

125/25 Budget Planning

The budget proposal had been sent to all councillors prior to the meeting and clerk advised re the recommended 12 month contingency we should hold - which when looking at the forecast budget to end of 2025/26 the PC will have this.

Each line of the budget was discussed:

- Salary for community cleaner, clerk and dog-bin collector will be in line with legislation
- The S137 was discussed based on 1268 electorates which enables us to spend on local infrastructure and community projects
- Grass-cutting contract costs have been confirmed will remain the same as 2025/26
- Insurance cost estimated increase as not all assets (speed signs) are currently covered
- BPFMC hall hire increase (remove current subsidy).
- May need to replace the defib at The Barn so additional cost plus maintenance
- Website £400 annual maintenance / £400 additional design costs
- Subscription/training/mileage increase due to potential training course attendees for councillors/clerks
- Allotments – should they remain at the same cost £5 for half / £10 full – councillors to decide

Forecast budget spend is £23,707.93 and if precept is £25,740 (as 2025/26) this gives us £2,032.07 for any unexpected additional spend.

126/25 Operational matters:

BPFMC was discussed in detail and their request for £3,000 from the 2026/27 precept. It was felt that there is a lack of transparency of fees especially in relation to cricket (not available on their website) although football and hall hire is available.

Nobody from BPFMC attends the Parish Council meeting and Cllr Groutage advised at last Parish Council meeting she would be happy to attend BPFMC monthly meetings and was waiting approval from their Chairman.

The issue of Christmas tree at the Barn was discussed and despite the Parish Council confirming they would fund this it was rejected by BPFMC; this would have been a central focal point for the village for the festive season.

Some villagers have spoken to councillors expressing their disappointment in BPFMC. It was confirmed this facility was brought by the Baston villagers and there are two contracts in existence that one of the parishioners has copies to share. It is managed by BPFMC on behalf of the villagers.

BPFMC hold considerable reserves which prevents them from obtaining certain grants which could be used to enhance the facilities.

It was agreed this is a great facility but the Parish Council have put 'on hold' the £3,000 request from BPFMC for 2026/26 as it needs to establish a better working relationship with BPFMC and a meeting between both parties would be beneficial.

Proposed by Cllr Vaughan/Seconded Cllr Griffiths – when put to a vote all agreed except Cllr Eassom who rejected and Cllr Clarke who abstained.

Action: Cllr Clarke to advise BPFMC of their decision and invite BPFMC to a meeting with three Cllr delegates on how to work better together

Decision was also made that the Parish Council will pay BPFMC the current hire rate (currently this is subsidised).

Action: Clerk to email BPFMC after each monthly meeting to advise time of meeting so they can invoice correctly

127/25 Standing Orders

Standing Orders and Policies need updating – as identified in the AGAR Report – and this is work in progress between Chair and Clerk.

Documents presented to councillors for approval to date:

- Standing Orders (v2 November 2025)
Proposed approval Cllr Mahabadi/Seconded Cllr Griffiths – all approved
- Publication Policy (November 2025)
Proposed approval Cllr Griffiths/Seconded Cllr Whitehead – all approved
- Expenses Policy for Staff and Payment to Employees
Proposed approval Cllr Whitehead/Seconded Mahabadi – all approved

Clerk will send these documents to agency to load onto website.

128/25 Planning Matters

Cemex/Thetford Farm Quarry Update

When Cllr Clarke attended their display on 19 November at 6pm they confirmed 35 attendees. Since followed up with email advising 48 attendees in total during the event.

Confirmed that the access road is closer to the village than some people thought – it is not Thetford Farm entrance.

Need to consider what S107 can be put in place to the benefit of the village if planning is approved. There should be a proper bus stop at Waterside (there isn't one currently although the Delaine buses have this designated a stop on the 101 service).

Cemex advised their vehicles would only use the A15 – but they weren't aware of the 7.5T weight limit for Main Street or Greatford Road.

In discussions Cemex advised they have made suggestion to reduce speed limit on the A15 but it is highways who say it is not necessary.

Martin Wynn is liaising with Highways and Cllr Clarke shared copy of the communication with all councillors.

128/25 Highways

Weight limit signs are approved – but need to be illuminated (which has to be mains supplied not solar, as this is considered unreliable). So installation for Baston will be 2026.

129/25 Village concerns

Despite chasing we have still not received the PO from LALC for the 2025/26 grass-cutting contribution. Cllr Clarke has emailed Cllr Baxter to investigate and advise.

Alternatively we hand all the grass-cutting back to LALC but this will result in less cutting and therefore will impact the village appearance.

Memorial bench for Cllr Jim Kelly was approved.

Action: Cllr Clarke to ask highways for a licence

Cllr Redmore/Cllr Easy to review site proposal

Clerk to contact Garys Gardens to quote to put in place.

130/25 Correspondence

None receive.

131/25 Agenda items for next meeting:

- 2026/27 agree budget forecast
- 2026/27 agree precept request

The meeting was closed at 9:30 pm

Signed: Cllr A Clarke – Chairperson

Date: 20/11/2025

Future meeting dates for Baston Parish Council:

Thursday 11th December 2025

Thursday 15th January 2026

Thursday 12th February 2026

Thursday 12th March 2026

Thursday 9th April 2026

Thursday 14th May 2026

Thursday 11th June 2026

Thursday 9th July 2026

Thursday 10th September 2026

Thursday 8th October 2026

Thursday 12th November 2026

Thursday 10th December 2026

APPENDIX A

Cllr Baxter, County Councillor Report – November 2025

Also accompanied by Cllr P Dilks as had both been in attendance at an extraordinary meetings including one re Local Government Reorganisation.

- Discussion has been held with the Highway Manager regarding ongoing issue with fly-tipping which is a regular occurrence. Next year they will have a budget for mobile CCTV and more covert operations to record this activity.
Recently somebody was awarded 80 hours community service for driving from Bourne to fly-type in Grantham so offenders are punished if caught.
- Regarding question raised on why the layby was resurfaced ahead of many of roads – this is a specific budget for laybys (not highways) although unsure as why we received it.
- Carriageway scheme selection process - there are nine different hierarchies (with different criteria) and to fix all the county issues would cost £100 million but only have £3 million.
- Attending a County meeting on 21st November – there is a case for local government to remain local but potentially two councillors per ward and no district councillors which would increase workload.
- The issue with manholes was discussed – this is down to Anglia Water to fix but they are not responding.
- The recent issue with Anglia Water outage in Bourne plus Braceborough and Wisthorpe effected local areas. The new reservoir application will not be submitted until 2028 so not operational until 2035. The new CEO is tasked with sorting issues out – this is a service people are paying for.
- On another note if they do not put in new infrastructure this will affect planning applications as Regulation 19 confirms the infrastructure delivery plan.

End

Cllr Ashley Baxter
Market and West Deeping
South Kesteven District Council

APPENDIX B

Cllr Smith, District Councillor Report – November 2025

Local Government Reorganisation Debate at SKDC full council on 20th November. This is to agree on SKDC's preferred approach/model for Lincolnshire. It is likely that SKDC will submit a model which does not include Rutland. It is proposed by SKDC that the Lincolnshire County Council area will be divided in two new authorities. SKDC, NKDC and SHDC would form one local authority, leaving Boston, City of Lincoln, E Lindsey and W Lindsey to form the other. The two unitary authorities at the top of Lincolnshire (North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire) would be left as is or free to join with others as they saw fit. Rutland was dropped due to issues with cross border services and lack of firm commitment. Other authorities have other plans... and all will be submitted to national government by 28th November. National Government will then undertake a formal consultation in March 2026 with a final decision on which model to go with and the new boundaries of the authorities being known in July 2026. It is hoped that elections to the new authority will take place in May 2027.

Food waste collection: From 2026 as part of a national directive. Households will be given two bins (5l kitchen and 23l outdoor), likely distributed January 2026. Collections due to start March/April 2026. Further details <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/types-waste/food-waste/5>

Baston Specific:

- Smell from plastic factory has been reported to the Environmental Health Agency.
- Fly-tipping in the layby - SKDC inform me that they are doing all that they can to prevent fly-tipping at this site. I have gone back to SKDC asking for more to be done. I have also asked our County Councillor to explain why this layby was prioritised for resurfacing ahead of many of the other roads within our district.
- Speeding roundels
- Action to reduce speeding and highways impact of new developments along A15: I have called on local County Councillors to collectively take this forward
- Quarry: I will be attending the Cemex meeting on Wednesday
- Housing development in Langtoft: to be aware of as will also add pressure to the A15 and local services.

End

Cllr Vanessa Smith
Casewick Ward
South Kesteven District Council