

BASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Baston Parish Council held on Thursday 15th January 2026 in Baston Village Hall (Barn).

Present:	Chairman	Cllr A Clarke Cllr G Griffiths
	Vice-Chair	Cllr J Groutage Cllr M Mahabadi Cllr S Minn Cllr M Nicholson Cllr P Redmore Cllr R Whitehead
	County Council	Cllr A Baxter
	District Council	Cllr V Smith Cllr R Trollope-Bellew - APOLOGIES

Apologies:

Cllr L Eassom
Cllr B Easy
Cllr G Vaughan

Members of public present : 3

Public forum:

Advised a previous Councillor/Chair Alan Hutchins has sadly passed away.

Comment made re no financial budget available on the website as previously agreed. Clerk confirmed this had been sent to the agency, but they needed confirmation on site location. Agency have been advised and this will be completed ASAP.

Comment made re December meeting where correspondence had been sent to the clerk regarding the November minutes – but this had not been included.

Action: Clerk to ensure any correspondence is reported at future meetings

Resident had completed a traffic count on the A15 Baston crossroads on 14/01/26 between 8:15-8:30am with southbound at 195 vehicles / northbound at 190 vehicles – total of 385+ (no record of east/west). This equates to 1,540 movements per hour (approximately 1 vehicle every 2 seconds).

A previous count in August recorded 317 vehicles (during school holiday). January count represents a 21% increase.

As an indication, a January 1995 survey by Allot and Lomax Consulting Engineers logged 158 movements per hour on Greatford Road between 8:00-9:00am.

Question was asked if the traffic indicator signs can pick up number of vehicles – but this is reliant on the speed they are doing, ie the A15 sign will only count vehicles in excess of 35mph so the count would not be accurate.

Action: Cllr Nicholson to download data from all speed indicator signs

Resident advised still waiting for a response submitted in November as to who owns North Meadow Drive as this could be a possible exit route for quarry vehicles if planning application is successful. Believe this to be a public byway and Cemex did not include this in their original plan. It is currently used by residents walking and would need widening but comments made that this currently is a nice feature for the village.

001/26 Chairman's remarks:

Welcomed members of the public.

002/26 Apologies for absence received:

District Council Cllr R Trollope-Bellew, Cllr Easy, Cllr Eassom and Cllr Vaughan.

003/26 To receive any declarations of interest in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and to consider any requests for dispensations.

None

004/26 Minutes of last meeting:

Held on 11th December 2025 – proposed approval by Cllr Nicholson/seconded by Cllr Minn (all in agreement) as a true record of meeting.

005/26 Matters arising from minutes

Chair has sent email to Highways re better lighting on the A15 pedestrian crossing after near misses reported to the council, with support received from District Cllr Smith.

Cllr Groutage has chased village pavement repairs – awaiting a response.

Proposed location for memorial bench for Cllr Kelly has been agreed at Baston village sign.

Action: Chair to take pics/What3Words location and send to highways for approval

Action: Cllr Redmore liaising with Garys Gardens for quotation

006/27 Clerks report on matters outstanding:

None outstanding

007/26 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

008/26 Financial matters:

(a) Financial Update

Bank Reconciliation General Account		Bank Reconciliation Savings Account	
Opening balance	£37,413.16	Opening balance	£10,551.94
Less expenditure	-£1,207.75	Less expenditure	0
Plus income	£2,186.14	Balance 31 Dec 2025	£10,551.94
Statement 31 Dec 2025	£38,391.54		

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

Date on Bank Statement	Payee	Gross	VAT	Net	Category / Description
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2.12.25	E Clarke - Parish Clerk	-£441.00	£0.00	-£441.00	Salary (November)
4.12.25	LIVES (Lincs Integrated	-£252.50	£0.00	-£252.50	Donation (approved at PC meeting)
10.12.25	D Knibbs	-£170.00	£0.00	-£170.00	Don Bins (November)
10.12.25	BPFMC	-£20.00	£0.00	-£20.00	Hall Hire (November)
11.12.25	LCC	£2,186.13	£0.00	£2,186.13	Grass-cutting reimbursement
19.12.25	Lloyds Bank	-£4.25	£0.00	-£4.25	Monthly service fee
31.12.25	D Knibbs	-£170.00	£0.00	-£170.00	Dog Bins (December)
31.12.25	G Griffiths	-£150.00	-£25.00	-£125.00	Replacement Defib Batteries

(c) Reconciled accounts for December 2025

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

(d) Authorisation of upcoming payments:

Request from Deeping Football 3G Pitch for £1,500 to be discussed in closed session.
Confirmed that Baston Events have pledged £2,500.

009/26 Operational matters:

BPFMC and PC meeting was held on 7th January 2026.
BPFMC submitted report – see Appendix C.

010/26 Planning Matters

a Wates Development

Cllr Smith and Cllr Trollope-Bellows have been invited to a meeting to discuss plans. Query raised re whether the recent burst water pipe in the field would have any implications. Anglia Water worked for 6 nights to fix this.

b Cemex/Thetford Farm Quarry Update

Scheduled to go to committee 9th February 2026 and Cllr Clarke will attend plus request to speak on behalf of the Parish Council. Residents are welcome to attend, and it would be good for planning team to see number of opposition – residents can also request to speak (although preference normally given to councillors). Cllr Smith has spoken previously at planning meetings (via Zoom).

Meetings normally have highways first on the agenda and minerals would follow (typical meeting length is 3-4 hours).

It was considered it beneficial to request a 'site visit' rather than planners just looking at drawings; this will then enable to fully understand the location plus concerns regarding road network and ensure true representation of traffic incidents (deaths). Would it be beneficial to speak to the village logistics expert – who has put in a detailed opposition re traffic – could he speak at the meeting?

Action: Chair to make contact

The week before the meeting the members of the planning committee will be provided – can we get residents to email them with their concerns?

Action: Parish Council to issue social media posts

Cllr Smith has contacted MP Alicia Kearns (Chair had sent previous communication re the quarry and received a neutral response).

011/26 Policies

a Complaints Procedure

Approval proposer Cllr Groutage/Cllr Redmore – all agreed

- b Data Breach Policy
Approval proposer Cllr Whithead/Cllr Nicholson – all agreed
- c Data Protection Policy for HR Related Issues
Approval proposer Cllr Minn/Cllr Redmore – all agreed
- d Grant Award Policy
The maximum amount was increased to £500
Approval proposer Cllr Groutage/Cllr Redmore – all agreed

Action: Clerk will update Grant Award and send policies to agency to load onto website

012/26 Highways

The sunken drain on Deeping Road has still not been resolved – it is Anglia Water’s responsibility to repair this.

Resident appreciated all the activity to try and resolve this and has now written to MP Alicia Kearns to make representative to Anglia Water.

013/26 Village concerns

How do we increase village engagement? More social media posts / previously there was a PC newsletter. Do people read the Baston Voice – we could be spending time/money for something that is not read. Continue to write article for Baston Voice.

Cllr Mahabadi suggested a village WhatsApp group (there is one in Greatford but it’s a smaller village). We could turn off commenting so it’s just a ‘push’ communication.

Action: Cllr Mahabadi to send info to councillors

The recent leaflet re quarry update – some residents reported not receiving it; but survey result was 30% engagement.

014/26 Correspondence

Reported on correspondence received from BPFMC regarding the November meeting minutes and specific information re the Cricket Club, Christmas Tree and Financial reporting was shared at the meeting.

Baston precept has remained the same as last year so increase to the village and the PC will not comment to County Council re their proposed 4.99% increase after hearing from County Cllr Baxter.

Cllr Mahabadi advised he is stepping down due to his personal commitments and the PC thank him for all his support and activity.

Action: Vacancy for new Councillor to be advertised

015/26 Agenda items for next meeting:

Feedback from 9th February planning meeting.

Agreed that ‘village concerns’ on the agenda will be amended to ‘village business’ and BPFMC report will be included within this.

Meeting went into closed session:

Report provided to all councillors re joint meeting with BPFMC. 2026/27 precept for BPFMC was approved

Proposer Cllr Groutage / Seconded Cllr Whithead – all approved

Agreed to pledge £1,000 to Deeping Football for their 3G Pitch.
Proposer Cllr Griffin / Seconded Cllr Groutage – 2 councillors abstained – remaining approved.

The meeting was closed at 10:30 pm / Signed: Cllr Clarke (Chair)

Date: 15/01/2026

Future meeting dates for Baston Parish Council:

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 – January 2026

- Recently attended the Mayorial authority meeting (in Grimsby). The Elected Mayor has placed job adverts but this is all positive and going in the right direction.
- County council budget looking at 4.99% increase (2.99% increase for general services / 1.99% increase for adult social care).
- Cemex/Thetford Farm planning is scheduled to be heard on 9th February and Cllr Baxter will endeavour to attend (Lincoln County Hall) – papers will be published approximately one week prior to meeting.
- The local Minerals and Waste planning rules change end of this calendar year.
- Did investigate why the layby was resurfaced when roads are suffering. Previously there was a separate layby list but the system has now changed and will be competing with highways budget for improvement. Not good news on roads where there is extensive sinkage – due to budgets.
- Cllr Baxter also contacted highways re the near miss on the A15 and request for better lighting. These incidents should be recorded as a crime (via website or phone call) even if no vehicle identification available.
- If the quarry goes ahead how will that impact the Waterside bus stop (at the moment the bus stops there but there is no physical bus stop).
- Will get an update on when the 7.5T weight limit will be enforced – believe this to be the spring (but there has been no activity yet).

End

Cllr Ashley Baxter
Market and West Deeping
South Kesteven District Council

APPENDIX B

Cllr Smith, District Councillor Report – January 2026

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.

Highways

Advised that a resident in Stamford was hit by a car in an unlit street and the police won't press charges. This is concerning as most of the A15 is unlit and cannot get speed limit changed and Cllr Smith continues to push for cycle-path from Baston to Langtoft.

SKDC have a £100k budget for 100th anniversary of the birth of Queen Elizabeth and do Baston have a beacon (and these will be lit of 21/4/26). Confirmed no beacon and probably not enough time to action this now.

MP Alicia Kearne is completing a flooding survey

End

Cllr Vanessa Smith

Casewick Ward

South Kesteven District Council

APPENDIX C

BPFMC - January 2026

Subject	Requirement	Update
Cricket Club Water Meter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify water usage by BCC in order to reclaim sewerage costs for water used on the Cricket Pitch that does not drain into the mains sewers (approx 50% of the water bill charge) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plumber has investigated installing water meter with cricket pitch tap. Awaiting response and quotation
Lightspeed Broadband	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide Broadband for Hirers To allow BPFMC to control remotely the heating within the Halls and CCTV cameras 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broadband Installed and active User code will be made available to Hirers. Code will be changed regularly
Football Officials Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires to be secured with steel sections and the legs placed on slabs. Is insecure and poses a risk to Users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missing rear leg plates are being sought. Slabs have been positioned. Awaiting better weather to erect shelter and make secure
Swing Set – Wooden Leg Repairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recent statutory annual play equipment inspection revealed the onset of rot within the wooden legs of the large, 2-bay swing frame assembly Currently, it is not safety-critical, but needs to be rectified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quotes for the repair of all 6 x wooden legs on the Swing Set frame obtained. To replace the lower wooden sections with steel frames, set into concrete. Alternative option to replace the entire frame obtained; BPFMC is currently assessing the quotation options
Inclusive Roundabout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a piece of play equipment for use for by wheelchair users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £15,775 donation secured from SKDC UK Shared Prosperity Fund 3 x Suppliers identified and preferred Supplier selected. Full Planning Permission had to be applied for (SKDC advised decision expected 22 Jan 26) Installation and completion expected by end Feb 26.