Minutes of the Brampford Speke Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd November 2026

Present – Cllr Luxton (Chair), Cllr A Ferns (Vice Chair), Cllr Bannister, Cllr Hollingsworth, Cllr Tillett, Cllr Wright and Cllr Dawe.

In attendance – Cllr F King (EDDC), three members of the public and the Clerk.

77/26 Apologies - To receive any apologies for absence. Cllr H Gent (DCC) gave his apologies. These were accepted.

78/26 Declarations of Interest Under the Code of Conduct

Councillors are reminded of the requirement to declare any interest, including the type of interest, and reason for that interest, either at this stage of the meeting or as soon as they become aware of that interest.

None were declared.

79/26 Minutes

The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting on 1st September 2026 to be adopted and signed as a true record.

PROPOSED: Cllr G Wright **SECONDED:** Cllr I Bannister **RESOLVED.**

The Chair signed the minutes as a true record.

80/26 Public Question Time

Up to 5 minutes **Public Question Time** for members of the public to bring forward any issues not on the agenda (where a matter is already on the agenda members of the public will be given an opportunity to speak when that item is considered, within the framework of the Council's standing orders). Where a decision is required, the issue will be placed on the following agenda.

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- MOP (Member of the Public) advised that the bus service has been reduced to once a week on a Wednesday. Cllr Tillett will look into this and request information from County Councillors.
- MOP – The Footpath Warden has asked if a bin can be put in at the far end of the village. Cllr King (EDDC) will look into this.
- MOP – asking about the BT Phone box and if any decision has been made. Cllr Tillett advised that, about a year ago, BT went through a consultation when they were requesting to remove the phone. At the time the Parish Council objected to that decision. We have heard nothing since but will let people know if it is raised again.
- MOP – a lot of people are complaining about the amount of dog poo bags that are discarded around the area. Clerk will speak to Stoke Canon PC as they have just completed a project around this problem. Recently some volunteers went around the village and picked up more than 70 bags that have been discarded. This is a national problem but the Parish Council will look into what realistically they can do to encourage people to be more responsible.

81/26 Affordable Housing

To receive any updates on potential housing initiatives within the Parish.

Cllr Luxton declared an interest. He reported that he is still negotiating with the Community Land Trust and legal teams.

82/26 Planning

The following planning consultations have been received since the last meeting: Councillors have the option to discuss any applications received after the agenda has been published.

None received.

83/26 Lead Councillor Updates

To receive an update from the Lead Councillors on the following:

- Verges – Cllr Luxton – A member of the public pointed out that there is Japanese Knotweed on the main road. This has been here a long time and the council are aware of it.
- Trees & Natural Environment – Cllr Hollingsworth – Some railings have been damaged in the village.
- Highways and Traffic Management – Cllr Tillett – Parish Council protested to SWW when doing some repairs recently. A very unhelpful reply from SWW so did not pursue it.
- Communications – Cllr Ferns – slow trickle of feedback for the email group
- Footpaths – Update from the Footpath Warden and Cllr Bannister - Couple of broken signs which will be replaced. Step over Lakes Bridge footpath has moved so will be put back.
- Road Warden Scheme– Cllr Dawe – has signed on with DCC Highways and has

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reported a large pothole already and some others that fit the criteria for Highways to be reported.

84/26 Village Hall

To receive an update from Councillor Tillett.

- New doors – some of them are fire doors and some are not. Some changes to allow to meet regulations will be looked into.
- Handrail to go in.
- Electrics need to be checked.
- The Chair has stepped down. Gary Plaistow and Claire Harper have stepped in.

85/26 Financial Items

To receive the accounts summary to 31st October 2026 (previously approved by Cllrs Luxton, Tillett and Hillson).

To **NOTE** the following payments were approved remotely in accordance with Financial Regulations :

2 x Payments to HMRC (PAYE Qtrly payment) 2 x Payments to Tracy Watkins (September and October salary and expenses)
1 x payment to Zurich of £264.00 on 07.09.2026 for insurance premium
2 x payment of £4.99 to Santander for bank charges (20.09.2026 and 20.10.2026)
1 x payment to Sowdens for verges of £480.00 on 09.09.2026

Council to **NOTE** that the following payments have been received:
Payment of £4375.00 Precept received from EDDC on 01.09.2026

The bank balance as at 31st October 2026 is £ 12247.67

86/26 Budget & Precept

To approve the budget for 2027-28 and agree Precept claim for January 2027. Budget spending has already been circulated to Councillors.

Cllrs to look at the figures sent by the Clerk and to be ready to discuss this and make a decision in January's meeting.

87/26 EDDC Update

Cllr Kings latest report has already been distributed to councillors. On 29 October 2026, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government confirmed that earlier plans for four unitary authorities have been withdrawn and reconsidered, with decisions for remaining areas promised by early 2027. The UK Government has confirmed plans to create a Mayoral Strategic Authority covering Devon, Plymouth, and Torbay. The EDDC Local plan has had to be revised. Should be finished by end of the year.

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88/26 DCC Update

To receive an update from Cllr Nat Vanstone and Cllr Henry Gent, Devon County Council. Cllr Gent's latest report has already been circulated to councillors.

89/26 Policies for re-adoption

The following policies are due to be re-adopted. The policy documents have already been sent to Councillors by the Clerk for perusal;

- Financial Regulations
- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
- Health & Safety

PROPOSED: Cllr A Ferns **SECONDED:** Cllr R Tillett **RESOLVED.**

90/26 Other information/correspondence received for possible action/discussion

- Speke Up Submissions – Potholes have been reported. Cut backs in bus services
- Fallen tree on EVW – Tree has been cleared.
- Community Payback Scheme – update from Cllr Hollingsworth – Still waiting to recruit supervisors. Cllr Hollingsworth will get another tin of paint to complete the bus shelter.

91/26 The Chair closed the meeting to the public at this stage to discuss matters pertaining to the Clerk.

- NALC have recently published the new pay scales for Local Government Employees which is backdated to April 2026. The clerk is requesting that the pay rise is honored and increase her pay scale in line with National Payscales. The request is also, due to rising domestic energy costs, to approve an increase to the working from home allowance to HMRC agreed rates.

  PROPOSED: Cllr S Luxton **SECONDED:** Cllr I Bannister. All Cllrs are in favour. **Changes approved.**

92/26 Date of the next meeting(s)

- Next Meeting on Tuesday 5th January 2027 @ 7.30pm in the Village Hall

  The Meeting closed 20:30pm

Signed:
Dated:

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