Sarah Keys

Clerk to the Council

PAPER 1

Thornfield Cottage
Windmill Road
Bradfield
CO11 2QW
01206 645111
clerk@branthamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Paper submitted by the Clerk to the Council at the Parish Council meeting on 03 September 2025

Parish Clerk's Report - July 2025

a) To review actions from the previous meeting

MINUTE NO.	ACTION	Completed/
		Dismissed
PC 07.25.07 (a)	Send details of the plans for the A137 crossing to Cllr Harley	Ongoing
	To be completed	
PC 07.25.07 ©	Liaise with Pc Jarrett about ASB	Completed
	Meeting date set	
PC 07.25.07 (d)	Establish the cost and location for advertising boards in the village	Ongoing
	Ongoing	
PC 07.25.07 (d)	Liaise with SCC about the kissing gates at Sycamore Way	Dismissed
	Completed – on agenda for discussion	
PC 07.25.09 (b)	Establish if there is any funding for Bus shelters	Ongoing
	To be completed	
PC 07.25.11 ©	Explore the option of having some walking groups in the village	Ongoing
PC 07.25.14 (b)	Follow the same procedure for Firework display as last year	Clerk
	Completed	
PC 07.25.15	Arrange installation of 2 bollards at Cattawade Street	Dismissed
	Completed	
PC 07.25.16	Purchase pigeon deterrent and arrange installation	Dismissed
	Completed	

b) To receive the reports of items actioned under delegated powers

- Meeting held with affordable housing provider
- Attended briefing re: A Greater Ipswich Proposals
- Tree watering calendar set up

c) To receive items of correspondence for noting only

ITEM ONE

From:

Sent: 16 August 2025 19:07

To: clerk@branthamparishcouncil.gov.uk; assistantclerk@branthamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Subject: Enquiry Regarding Brantham Regeneration and Bypass Plans

Dear Parish Council,

I hope this message finds you well.

My family and I are currently considering a move to Brantham, and I am hoping you may be able to provide some further information regarding two key developments in the area: the regeneration of the industrial site on Factory Lane and the proposed Brantham bypass.

With regard to the regeneration project, I've come across information from around 2015–2017 outlining plans to transform the industrial site into a mixed-use development, including community facilities, sports pitches, and retail spaces. However, I haven't been able to find any recent updates. Could you please advise whether the regeneration is still going ahead as planned, and if so, what the current timeline for completion looks like?

Additionally, I would appreciate any information you can share about the Brantham bypass. Specifically, I'm interested in understanding whether it is intended to divert A137 traffic away from the village, and any relevant details or timelines related to its development.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Kind regards,

CLERK'S UPDATE – Response sent

ITEM TWO

From:

Sent: 29 July 2025 08:18

To: clerk@branthamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Subject: Village car parking f

https://hos.lg-cms.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Brantham-brochure.pdf

Hi Sarah

There has been a great deal of discussion on face book relative to the requirement for a carpark in the village. I made a few suggestions re SFG helping out as they own the land either side of Factory lane and they made promise to give land to the village in return for planning permission which they appear to have forgotten

Please look at the link above as it shows very clearly land behind Temple Pattern which once was a Factory carpark. The land is now unused and neglected Perhaps the Council could suggest to SFG that they provide a restored or new carpark on their land for the village

Regards

d) To receive items of correspondence for consideration of next steps

None.

PAPER 2

Thornfield Cottage,
Windmill Road
Bradfield
CO11 2QW
01206 645111
Clerk@branthamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Paper submitted by the Clerk to the Finance Committee at a meeting on 27 August 2025

A briefing paper for Finance Committee on the AGAR 2025-26 Assertion 10

INTRODUCTION

Clerk to the Council

Sarah Keys

JPAG is now called Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel.

The new guide for 2025 is now updated and available (sent via email). The 2025 guide relates to the financial year 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026.

The newly released 2025 edition of the Practitioners' Guide introduces a new Assertion 10, focused on digital and data compliance. It is a completely new standalone assertion introduced for smaller authorities. Councils must now demonstrate real compliance to digital matters such as GDPR, not just good intentions.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR BRANTHAM PC?

Section 1, 2 and 3 of the SAPPP Practitioners' Guide represents the proper accounting and governance practices ('proper practices') referred to in statute. They set out, for responsible financial officers, the appropriate standard of financial and governance reporting for smaller authorities and are mandatory.

Assertion 10 falls into Section 1 and is therefore mandatory. To warrant a positive response to this assertion at next year's audit, the authority needs to have taken the following actions:

SECTI ON	ACTION	IN PROG	COMP LIANT
.7	Every authority must have a generic email account hosted on an authority owned domain, for example clerk@abcparishcouncil.gov.uk rather than abcparishclerk@gmail.com Note - The Council already has an authority owned domain with dedicated councilor and staff emails		√
1.48	All smaller authorities (excluding parish meetings) must meet legal requirements for all existing websites regardless of what domain is being used.		See below
1.49	All websites must meet the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2 AA and the Public Sector Bodies (websites and Mobile applications) (No.2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 (where applicable)		✓
1.50	All websites must include published documentation as specified in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Transparency code for smaller authorities (where applicable).		✓
1.51	All smaller authorities, including parish meetings, must follow both the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016 and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018.		✓
1.52	All smaller authorities, including parish meetings, must process personal data with care and in line with the principles of data protection. Note - The Council is registered with the Information Commissioners' Office (ICO). The principles are all covered within the various GDPR policies.		✓
1.53	The <u>DPA 2018</u> supplements the <u>GDPR</u> and classifies an authority as both a Data Controller and a Data Processor. Note - The Council fills both these roles and is registered with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO).		✓

	1.54	All smaller authorities (excluding parish meetings) must also have an IT		
		policy. This explains how everyone - clerks, members and other staff - should		
		conduct authority business in a secure and legal way when using IT		
		equipment and software. This relates to the use of authority-owned and		
		personal equipment.		
		Note - New policy to be reviewed by the Finance Committee and then		
L		approved by the Council		

Paper 3 – Payments and Receipts Agenda Item PC 09.25.09

The integrity of the Council's finances is to be protected by two of the three signatories checking and reviewing the invoices for payment for which they will have seen an original copy.

Within the Council's Financial Regulations (5.15) – expenditure on revenue items may be authorised up to the amounts included for that class of expenditure in the approved budget or where prior approval has been given for such expenditure to be incurred (i.e. under contractual agreements)

The authority is to be determined by; * the council for all items over £5000; * a duly delegated committee for all items over £1000 * the Clerk, in conjunction with Chairman of Council or Chairman of the appropriate committee, for any items below £1000. Such authority is to be evidenced by a minute or by an authorisation slip duly signed by the Clerk, and where necessary also by the appropriate Chairman.

Invoices will only be processed for payment by the Parish Clerk once she is satisfied that the payment sums match the invoices produced.

Accounts submitted for payment – Current Account (SUBJECT TO ADDITIONS)

Payee	Detail	Method	NETT	VAT	TOTAL
Dave Childs	Grounds Maintenance (inv. TBC)	BACS	TBC		TBC
Babergh District Council	Dog and Litter bin emptying	BACS	3403.00	680.60	4083.60
Brantham Village Hall	Hall Haire (inv. TBC)	BACS	TBC		TBC

Accounts Paid since 02 July 2025

Payee	Detail	Method	NETT	VAT	TOTAL
Parish Council staff	Salaries, Clerk & Assistant Clerk Office Allowance	BACS	3321.76		3321.76
BMCIC	Grounds Maintenance Payment – July & August 2025	BACS	80.00		80.00
Microsoft	Monthly Subscription Charges – July & August 2025	DD	41.20	8.24	49.44
Virtual Landline	Phone number for Parish Council – July & August 2025	Direct Debit	14.58	2.92	17.50
Smarty.co.uk	CCTV SIM Cards – July & August 2025	Direct Debit	54.00		54.00
Dave Childs	Grounds Maintenance (inv. 2295)	BACS	240.00		240.00
Business Services at CAS	Desktop Rebuild assessments for Village Hall and BLC	BACS	315.50		315.50
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit	BACS	420.00	84.00	504.00
Stour Wanderers	Donation (as per FC meeting July 2025)	BACS	500.00		500.00
Birketts	Legal Costs	BACS	1371.00	274.20	1645.20
Eric Osben	Village Fete purchases	BACS	117.46		117.46
Charlotte Leach	Skate Park branded T-Shirts	BACS	207.52		207.52
Gadd Brothers	Cherry Tree (inv. 3080)	BACS	465.00	93.00	558.00
VCS Websites Ltd	Design and Build of new Website (inv. 1446)	BACS	465.00		465.00
Babergh District Council	Trade bins for Village Fete	DC	125.00		125.00

Abigail Edevane	Skate Park items	BACS	8.61	8.61
Abigail Edevane	Skate Park items		28.96	28.96
Keeble Farm Ltd	GPL Annual Hire Charge	DD	10.00	10.00
Lloyds Bank Ltd	Service Charges – Salaries Account (July and August 2025)	BACS	8.50	8.50
Lloyds Bank Ltd	Service Charges – Current Account (July and August 2025)	BACS	8.50	8.50

Items paid following authorisation at meeting of 02 July 2025

Payee	Detail	Method	NETT	VAT	TOTAL
Dave Childs	Grounds Maintenance (inv. 2266)	BACS	395.00		395.00
Brantham Village Hall	Hall Hire (inv. TBC)	BACS	TBC		TBC
Parish Council staffing costs	Salaries, Clerk & Assistant Clerk Office Allowance, Pensions	BACS	3952.86		3952.86
HMRC	P30 Q1	BACS	2530.48		2530.48
Brantham Bowls Club	Donation as per FC 06.25.06	BACS	763.02		763.02

Receipts allocated since 02 July 2025

Who	Detail	Method	Amount
Lloyds Bank	Bank Interest	BACS	133.71
Holland Park School	Purchase of Colour Run Paint	BACS	46.50
Chamberlain Phillips	Skate Park Sponsorship	BACS	200.00
Stripe Payments	Skate Park T-Shirt purchases	BACS	60.09
Sumup Payments	Skate Park T-Shirts purchases	BACS	159.26
Braiswick Photographic	Private Road rent	BACS	150.00
Stour Wanderers	Deposit for hire of Lower Playing Field	BACS	50.00
Brantham Garage Sale	Donation for Brantham Skate Park	BACS	1010.00

Presented by:	Sarah Keys, Responsible Finance Officer
Countersigned by:	Chair to the Parish Council

All payments authorised under The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012

Note: Council resolved at the 2023 Annual Meeting that it met the eligibility conditions, and this continues right through until the next relevant annual meeting which will be May 2027. This is regardless of whether the Council continues to meet those conditions for the duration, (para 7.12 of the Explanatory Memorandum to The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 refers.



Brantham Parish Council BY EMAIL

DDI:

+44 (0)20 7516 2200

Email:

sba@pkf-l.com

Date:

23 July 2025

Our Ref: SF0059

SAAA Ref:

SB01202

Brantham Parish Council Completion of the limited assurance review for the year ended 31 March 2025

Dear Mrs Keys

We have completed our review of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for Brantham Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2025. Please find our external auditor report and certificate (Section 3 of the AGAR Form 3) included for your attention as an attachment to the email containing this letter along with a copy of Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR, on which our report is based.

The external auditor report and certificate details any matters arising from the review. The smaller authority must publish these documents immediately and at the next meeting consider the final external auditor report and decide what, if any, action is required.

Action you are required to take at the conclusion of the review

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234) set out what you must do at the conclusion of the review. In summary, you are required to:

- Prepare a "Notice of conclusion of audit" which details the rights of inspection, in line with the statutory requirements. We attach a pro forma notice you may use for this purpose (a Word version is available on request).
- Publish the "Notice" along with the certified AGAR (Sections 1, 2 & 3) before 30 September 2025, which must include publication on the smaller authority's website. (Please note that when the statute and regulations were amended in 2014 and 2015, they did not include a requirement for the length of time for which that the "Notice" must be published. The previous statute required 14 days; but it is now up to the authority to make this decision).
- Keep copies of the AGAR available for purchase by any person on payment of a reasonable sum.
- Ensure that Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the published AGAR remain available for public access for a period of not less than 5 years from the date of publication.

Fee

We enclose our fee note, on page 4 of this attachment, for the limited assurance review, which is in accordance with the fee scales set by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd which can be found at https://www.saaa.co.uk/audit-fees/. This fee is statutory, must be paid and is due immediately on receipt of invoice, please arrange for this to be paid at the earliest opportunity.

Additional charges are itemised on the fee note, where applicable. These arise where either:

- we have had to issue chaser letters and/or exercise our statutory powers due to a failure to provide an AGAR by the submission deadline; or
- it was necessary for us to undertake additional work.

Please return the remittance advice with your payment, which should be sent to: PKF Littlejohn LLP, Ref: Credit control (SBA), 5th Floor, 15 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London, E14 4HD. Please include the reference SF0059 or Brantham Parish Council as a reference when paying by BACS.

Timetable for 2025/26

Next year we plan to set a submission deadline for the return of the completed AGAR Form 3 and associated documents (or Certificate of Exemption) in the usual way and this is expected to be Wednesday 1 July 2026. It is anticipated that the instructions will be sent out during March 2026, subject to arrangements for the 2025/26 AGARs and Certificates of Exemption being finalised by Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Limited (SAAA). Our instructions will cover any changes about which smaller authorities need to be aware.

- The smaller authority must inform the electorate of a single period of 30 working days during which
 public rights may be exercised. The period must be <u>exactly</u> 30 working days, please do not set public
 rights dates that cover a longer period. This information <u>must be published at least the day before</u>
 the inspection period commences;
- The inspection period <u>must</u> include the first 10 working days of July 2026, i.e. 1 to 14 July inclusive. In practice this means that public rights may be exercised:
 - o at the earliest, between Wednesday 3 June and Tuesday 14 July 2026; and
 - o at the latest, between Wednesday 1 July and Tuesday 11 August 2026.

As in previous years, in order to assist you in this process we plan to include a pro forma template notice with a suggested inspection period on our website. On submitting your AGAR and associated documentation, as was the case for this year, we will need you to either confirm that the suggested dates have been adopted or inform us of the alternative dates selected.

We would like to draw your attention to a change within the Practitioners' Guide 2025 which is mandatory for the 2025/26 period. Paragraphs 1.47 to 1.54 relate to an additional assertion to be included in the 2025-26 AGAR, Assertion 10, regarding email management, websites, compliance with both the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016 and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 and the requirement to have an IT policy. The requirements in relation to Assertion 10 are listed in Paragraphs 1.47 to 1.54 and the local authority should review these requirements and take appropriate steps to ensure compliance.

Feedback on 2024/25

We would welcome feedback on your experiences with PKF Littlejohn LLP during the review for the year ended 31 March 2025. Such feedback is important to us to help us drive improvements in client service. If you wish to provide feedback, our satisfaction survey template can be used, which is available on our website on this page: https://www.pkf-l.com/services/limited-assurance-regime/useful-information-and-links/

Yours sincerely

PKF Littlejohn LLP

PKF Littlyon LV

PAPER 6

From:

Sent: 20 August 2025 22:03

To: clerk@branthamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Subject: Formal request for the parish council to consider

Dear Brantham Parish Council,

I'm writing to express my interest in the potential development of allotments in Brantham.

I understand that the village lost its allotments some time ago due to housing developments and that no replacement provision was made. As a resident of Brantham, I believe allotment space would bring significant benefit to the community, especially for families like mine. I'm particularly keen to introduce my young children to the joys of growing vegetables and plants, and having an allotment within walking distance would support this in a sustainable and accessible way.

I understand that the council has a duty, under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908, to consider providing allotment space if there is sufficient demand. While I appreciate the challenges of land availability, I'd be grateful to understand if the parish currently owns any land that might be suitable for this purpose.

To get a sense of interest in the village, I conducted a poll on the **Brantham Villagers Facebook page** on **August 10 2025** (https://www.facebook.com/share/p/14EeSXqHy8d/). Although the poll ran for just two days and wasn't comprehensive, 75 people took part, and the results were encouraging:

- Yes 42 votes (56%)
- No 0 votes (0%)
- Would like to see allotments but don't want/need one 32 votes (42%)

These results suggest strong local interest in bringing allotments back to Brantham. I believe a formal village-wide consultation would reveal even greater demand.

In addition to individual plots, there's potential for a **community allotment**, which could involve the local school or nursery. This would be a valuable outdoor learning opportunity for children and promote community engagement.

I also wanted to briefly raise a second point regarding play space in the village. As a parent of two young children living at the Cattawade end of Brantham, I find the current provision at Temple Pattle Park quite limited. The journey to the under-5s park is often too far for little ones to walk and Temple Pattle would really benefit from additional play structures for all ages—such as a zip line or climbing frames similar to those in Holywells, Bourne Park and Tendering Park - the structures could be of a sustainable option similar to Tendering. Expanding this area would make a meaningful difference to families across the whole village.

I've read the **Brantham 2034 plan** and appreciate that long-term development is considered. However, I hope that improvements like these—both the reintroduction of allotments and enhancements to park facilities—can be added to the Parish Council's nearer-term agenda.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

With best wishes,

Dear Mal, Sarah and the Parish Council,

We're thrilled to announce a prospective new section to add to our sporting sections @ BLC and would be a huge asset to Brantham. Padel Club @ BLC — bringing one of the world's fastest-growing and most exciting sports to our community! Whether a total beginner or a seasoned racquet player, padel is easy to learn, fast-paced, and incredibly fun. Played in doubles on an enclosed court, it's the perfect blend of tennis and squash — ideal for all ages and fitness levels.

We have secured the funding to site on our existing astro, that really would utilise a space that is in need of attention.

I have emailed Babergh enquiring whether we need to get planning permission for low level lights. As the court would available to hire from 9am-9pm, so need to be lit for the latter part during winter months. I suspect we will need this.

Can the above be raised at the next Parish Council meeting for discussion and the PC assist in the planning request with us.

We will both be in attendance the meeting in September.

Kind Regards

L&L

From: Brantham Leisure Centre <info@branthamlc.co.uk>

Sent: 11 August 2025 20:08

To: Sarah Keys <clerk@branthamparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Cc: Mal Bridgeman <mal.bridgeman@branthamparishcouncil.gov.uk>; assistantclerk@branthamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Subject: Re: Padel Club @ BLC

Hi All,

Please see the updated information below to help provide more context ahead of the meeting:

Changes to the existing astro area

We are proposing to repurpose the current astro-turf area, which is currently in disrepair and has the old tennis and netball courts marked on it, into two padel courts.

This will involve:

The fencing will be replaced as currently old, damaged and worn.

The removal of the existing carpet surface (also damaged and worn) and replace surface with new surface.

The erection of specialised glass, nets and an electronic gate within the fencing boundary. concrete ring beam as the base to ensure safety, stability, and long-term durability.

We are planning to create two further disabled hard standing car parking spaces too alongside the area to allow full accessibility. Also 4 designated car parking spaces.

To enable play for after school and work during winter months until 9pm, we plan to install $8 \times 200W$ IP65 LED lights per court, mounted across 4×6 m poles for each court. These LEDs are energy-efficient and designed with focused beam angles to minimise light spill and reduce any potential disturbance to nearby residents.

Operational model

We plan to create another section 'Padel @ BLC' with club membership. Also pay to play so operational costs, ongoing maintenance and core costs are covered. The idea is to encourage an area which builds on our Youth Club @ BLC events with structured Junior and Teen Padel opportunities. Padel & Coffee sessions, Walking Padel....

Local business, The Padel Shack from Brantham Mill have already offered sponsorship if the new club goes ahead. They have implied a branding in keeping with BLC ON THE RUN logo.

We think this is an ideal opportunity to create an additional sporting section to the Leisure Centre.

We hope you agree.

Kind Regards L&L

PAPER 8

From:

Sent: 11 August 2025 14:39

To: Sarah Keys <clerk@branthamparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Subject: Car parking issues

Sarah

Here is the list which I would like to discuss at the next parish council meeting Thanks

CAR PARKING ISSUES - LOWER BRANTHAM

- 1. Car Park for village hall opposite Braiswick photographic Green space where lay by is.
- 2. Permit parking for middle row for residents only due to Buses and emergency vehicles not having access.
- 3. Double yellow lines on corners near village hall and corner into lower road
- 4. Resurface of Leisure centre car park to generate more car park spaces Funding??
- 5. Overflow parking sign at roundabout and at village hall to direct traffic to factory lane
- 6. Sign at factory lane with directions to leisure centre
- 7. Use of lower playing field for all large events
- 8. Obtaining parking on factory lane unused areas who owns them
- 9. Containers at leisure centre at end of bowls car park to be removed and larger car park generated
- 10. Bottle banks at leisure centre to be relocated to give more space for parking at leisure centre near the bins and a new bottle bank for village use at village hall or the layby by the green space?
- 11. Leisure centre car park attendants for all big events
- 12. Use of tennis courts for parking?
- 13. Promote public transport and the train station is only a 10minute walk away
- 14. Park and ride?
- 15. Promote cycle schemes?
- 16. Cones for all residents to put out along road
- 17. Charging for car parking for football tournaments payment once parked to stop queuing in the road which creates gridlocking
- 18. Larger signs in the road of the leisure centre to state Private road no parking either side of this road you will be clamped?
- 19. Skate park new location down near decoy as that will create parking issues
- 20. Any other suggestions

From: Councillor Highways Support < Councillor Highways Support@suffolkhighways.org>

Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 9:09:41 AM

To: Simon Harley (SCC Councillor) < Simon.Harley@suffolk.gov.uk>; Brantham Parish Council

<clerk@branthamparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Kissing Gates - Sycamore Way CR 531451 - linked to 526243

Dear Simon and Sarah

Apologies that the original report has not been responded to. I went to site yesterday and measured the barriers at each end and have looked at the Highways Agency DDA Compliance Programme guidelines which recommend a distance of 1200 mm between the gates and 1200 mm beside the gates. The width of the alley is quite narrow at 2000 mm. The gates are not flush with the boundary walls / fences either side due to the space required for the post foundations.

Please see my comments on both below:

Sycamore Way End: The distance between the gates is approx. 1400 mm – width of the outer gate is 900 mm (positioned 200 mm from boundary) and the inner gate 600 mm wide (positioned 350 mm from boundary).

Install a smaller outer gate so there is more clearance. However, cycles would be able to get through more easily so it may make the purpose of the gates redundant.

Kettles Way : The distance between the gates is 1000 mm – both barriers are 480 mm and there is no overlap

Move inner barrier back to to 1400 mm, cycles will be able to ride through even more easily as there is no overlap so we would potentially need to install/replace with a larger gate to make them effective.

Some of the mobility scooters can be quite large now, so can't guarantee due to the narrow width of the alley that all models would be accommodated.

With all this considered if you would like to go ahead, please can you let me know if an external source of funding can potentially be identified to undertake this work and if there is I will ask the Contractor if they can prepare a cost estimate. Unfortunately, all the central highways budgets are allocated so there is no available funding to make the changes.

Best Regards

Melanie Hall Community Liaison Engineer Customer Experience and Community Works – Community Liaison 0345 606 6171

Suffolk Highways I 3 Goddard Road, Ipswich, IP1 5NP

BRANTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Councillor Reports Wednesday 03 September 2025

Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr Cherry
Footpaths and Services Report for PC meeting – Cllr Cherry
Skate Park Working Group – Cllr Edevane
BLC Update – Cllr Donaldson
Recreation Sub-Committee – Cllr Heywood