



**Minutes of the Boston Town Board Meeting
held on Tuesday 9 December at 2pm
at the Mayflower Building, Boston College Campus & via Teams**

Board Members: Claire Foster, Chair - Boston College, Richard Tice, MP, Cllr Mike Gilbert - BBC, Abdul Hamid Qureshi - UKIM Mosque & Community Centre, David Fannin - LVET, Jacqui Bunce - NHS, Neil Kempster - Chestnut Homes, Alison Fairman, BEM - Community Representative, Tracy Stringfellow - Heritage Lincolnshire, Michael Morris - Tonic Health, Andy Lawrence - Port of Boston, Councillor Sam French - LCC, Marc Jones - Lincs PCC, Inspector Ian Cotton - Lincs Police and Jurate Matulioniene - Boston Lithuanian Community

Observer: Councillor Ingrid Sheard - Deputy Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire

Support Team: Pranali Parikh, Maria Cotton, Jon Burgess, Michael Dow, Tom Mukherjee-Neale, Ivan Annibal, Michelle Gant, George Gustard and Luisa Stanney

1 Welcome

CF opened the meeting and welcomed members and guests and noted the significance of holding the meeting at the newly opened Mayflower Building, a flagship Town Deal project. CF thanked members for their continued support and acknowledged the presence of the Deputy Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire as an observer.

CF also welcomed Maria Cotton to the meeting - the newly appointed Assistant Director of Culture and Regeneration at the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Emma Tatlow.

3 Declarations of Interest

No new declarations of interest were made.

4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 30 October 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2025 were reviewed and approved as a true record. Proposed by JB and seconded by NK. Matters arising were noted as being addressed within the agenda items.

5 Boston Town Deal - Project Updates

A report was presented providing a narrative update on all Town Deal projects. With the extension of the Towns Fund deadline to March 2028, the programme was considered low risk. Several projects had achieved practical completion and the remainder were progressing to contract or delivery stages. Work was underway to improve on-site signage and public information for projects such as Boston Leisure and Rosegarth Square, with updates expected early in the New Year.

Specific issues raised included St Botolph's library lighting, where members expressed concern over delays to enhanced lighting installation. It was agreed that TMN would investigate the delay and report back at the next Board meeting.

Members requested a copy of the evaluation report for the Centre for Food & Fresh Produce, a completed revenue project, to understand outcomes and impacts. They also requested a more detailed update of the Healing the High Street project, illustrating a more accurate reflection of the status of the Grant Funding Agreements.

In relation to the Boston Connected project, a Boston Partnership Levelling Up funded initiative, MHCLG had confirmed that Boston Borough Council could deliver the project given that Destination Lincolnshire had ceased trading. The project would include funding for Boston 2030 initiatives.

[REDACTED]

7 Pride in Place Programme Mobilisation Plan

IA presented the mobilisation plan following on from the submission of the Pride in Place Vision and Investment Plan. The next steps between January and March 2026 included structured engagement and thematic workshops focusing on heritage, youth, skills and wellbeing.

An open call for projects would run alongside targeted commissioning discussions. A sub-group of three to five members would be formed to review project proposals.

Board composition would be reviewed through a skills audit and one-to-one discussions with members to inform future structure, with proposals to be brought in March.

Boston 2030 and the Town of Culture bid were discussed. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

8 Pride in Place Programme Management

The Board considered a paper on programme management costs. The Board approved the extension of MD's contract to May 2026 [REDACTED] to maintain continuity during the mobilisation phase [REDACTED]. It was noted that a further paper would be brought in January outlining longer-term resource requirements for the delivery phase.

9 Any Other Business

The Deputy Mayor thanked the Board for their work and for inviting her to join the meeting. She expressed interest in continued engagement with the Board. Members discussed meeting dates for 2026, with a preference for Monday mornings or Thursday afternoons, avoiding Fridays and Tuesdays. The Chair thanked members for their contributions and wished all a Merry Christmas.