



**Minutes of the Boston Town Board Meeting
held on Thursday 26 February 2026 at 2pm
Committee Room, Boston Borough Council Offices & via Teams**

Board Members: Claire Foster, Chair - Boston College, Cllr Mike Gilbert - BBC, Alison Fairman BEM - Community Representative, Emma Tatlow - Active Lincolnshire, Councillor Sam French - LCC, Neil Kempster - Chestnut Homes, Andy Lawrence - Port of Boston, Inspector Ian Cotton - Lincs Police, Tracy Stringfellow - Heritage Lincs and Marc Jones - Lincs PCC

Support Team: Maria Cotton, Jon Burgess, Michael Dow, Ivan Annibal and Michelle Gant

1 Welcome

CF opened the meeting and welcomed attendees in person and online.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from David Fannin, Jaqui Bunce, Michael Morris and Luisa Stanney.

3 Declarations of Interest

No new declarations of interest were made.

4 (a) Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 29 January 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2025 were reviewed and approved as a true and accurate record. The minutes were proposed by MG and seconded by AF.

(b) Action Tracker

MJ confirmed the PCC annual survey data would be shared before the March meeting. No update was available on Community Safety Officers; this would return in March. Skills Audit and Workshops papers were scheduled later on the agenda. LCVS were confirmed for the March agenda.

5 Pride in Place Programme

Member Skills Audit - The Board considered the report at Item 5a. IA presented the revised Skills Audit - now amended with clearer language. Members supported merging questions 4 and 5, adding whether members lived or worked in Boston and included an open contribution question. The audit would be issued the following week and reported back in March.

Workshops & Engagement - The Board considered the report at Item 5b. IA outlined the four-stage process, beginning with three workshops on 3-5 March. Further sub-group meetings were expected on 12 or 19 March and 8 May. The open call would run from 23 March to 1 May. Members discussed cross-theme links, youth engagement and transparent scoring.

Volunteers for the proposed Programme Development Sub-Group included Emma Tatlow, Councillor French, Tracy Stringfellow, Michael Dow and Neil Kempster, with Councillor Gilbert subject to availability. IA would contact absent members and confirm meeting dates.

6 Towns Fund Projects Update

The Board considered the report at Item 6 and JB reported receipt of the new Memorandum of Understanding simplifying Towns Deal and Levelling Up into the Local Regeneration Fund. All projects were assessed as green.

Updates included:

- Healing the High Streets: Shodfriars nearing completion; shop fronts progressing.
- St Botolph's Lighting: installation under way, final claim received.
- Railway Station: progressing towards a summer 2026 completion.
- Boston Leisure: foundation works complete, steel frame due in March.
- Rosegarth Square: completion expected August 2026, hoarding limitations noted.
- Partnership Fund projects were progressing well.

JB would clarify the Five Lamps position and report back. A future paper on underspend allocations would be brought to a future Board meeting for consideration.

7 Communications Update

The Board considered the report at Item 7. MG reported extensive promotion of Pride in Place workshops, strong engagement with heritage-related posts and increasing LinkedIn activity. Upcoming work included support for the Mayflower celebration event and communications for the open call.

8 Any Other Business

Youth Council progress would be confirmed at the next meeting. MC updated on the Town of Culture Expression of Interest due on 31 March. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Sport England bid development work was shared by ET. MG updated on the new Boston Traders Association.

9 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 30 March 2026 at 2.00pm - Mayflower Building, Boston College Campus, Boston.