



**Minutes of the Boston Town Board Meeting
held on Thursday 29 January 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, David Fannin - LVET, Jacqui Bunce - NHS, Alison Fairman, BEM - Community Representative, Emma Tatlow - Active Lincolnshire

Observer: Councillor Ingrid Sheard - Deputy Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire

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

1 Welcome

CF opened the meeting, welcomed attendees joining both in person and online and also the Deputy Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire who was attending as an observer.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Inspector Richard Nethercott, Inspector Ian Cotton, Councillor Sam French, Maria Cotton, Mark Jones, Michael Morris, Andy Lawrence, Neil Kempster and Abdul Hamid Qureshi.

3 Declarations of Interest

No new declarations of interest were made.

4 (a) Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 9 December 2025

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 RT and seconded by DF. Matters arising were addressed within the agenda.

(b) Action Tracker

An update was provided on St Botolph's lighting. The remaining claim had been submitted and the final elements of the lighting project commissioned, confirming completion of the project.

Promotional communications to highlight the completion of the St Botolph's lighting scheme to be progressed by MG.

5 Communications Update

MG presented a verbal update highlighting increased interest and engagement around recent programme announcements, including shopfront improvements and Pride in Place engagement. Planned communications activity would include further updates on project milestones, Pride in Place engagement and visual content such as short films to maintain public awareness.

Members discussed the importance of clear on-site information and timelines for major projects, particularly Rosegarth Square, to support local businesses affected by works.

It was agreed that further communications would be developed for Shodfriars by MG, including linkage with a forthcoming visit.

JB reported that options for interpretation boards and hoardings linked to activity at Rosegarth Square were being progressed. JB would obtain an updated timeline for Rosegarth Square which would be shared with Board members to support business engagement.

6 Pride in Place Programme

(a) Skills Audit

IA presented the proposed Board skills audit to support the transition from plan development to implementation of the Pride in Place programme. The audit aimed to understand the breadth of skills, experience and capacity across the Board and identify any gaps or development needs.

Members welcomed the principle of the audit but raised several points, including the need for accessible and inclusive language, clearer context on the evolving role of the Board, consideration of lived experience and EDI and opportunities for training and support where gaps were identified.

It was agreed that the paper would be refined to reflect these comments and recirculated.

The revised paper would be discussed at the February Board meeting, with proposed actions to be agreed in readiness for programme implementation from April.

(b) Programme Development

IA presented a paper outlining the proposed approach to developing the initial four-year investment programme. Key principles included alignment with existing activity, geographical balance, organisational capacity and use of pre-approved interventions.

The Board supported the proposed programme principles, the use of themed engagement workshops (youth, heritage and culture, skills and enterprise and community wellbeing), an open call for ideas alongside targeted commissioning and the establishment of a small Board sub-group to support programme development.

Members emphasised the importance of managing expectations, using existing evidence and consultation, engaging young people in accessible settings and setting clear measures to assess workshop outcomes.

A clear timetable for the themed workshops, including clarification of intended outputs and how the outcomes would inform programme development, would be developed and shared by IA/MG with the Board to support effective communication and encourage good attendance.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(d) Update - Policy Guidance

MD provided an update on recently issued government guidance, noting a stronger emphasis on community engagement, empowerment and community-led delivery by year three of the programme, alongside an expanded focus on safety and security.

The Board discussed the implications for governance, assurance and delivery, noting the need for further clarity from government.

LCVS to be invited to present the Community Masterplan to the Board at the March meeting to support understanding of community-led delivery.

10 Any Other Business

Members highlighted examples of successful community-led arts and heritage projects from other areas and the importance of culture and heritage to Boston's identity, particularly in the context of Boston 2030 and potential Town of Culture ambitions. Members reiterated the importance of taking engagement to communities rather than expecting communities to attend formal meetings.

11 Date of Next Meeting

26 February 2026 at 2pm - venue to be confirmed.