

Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Full Council Meeting of Tuxford Town Council to be held The Beeches Community Centre, Birch Court Tuxford at 7.00 pm on Thursday 15 January 2026

PRESENT: Cllrs N Birkett, G Copley, I Nicholls, M Richards (Chair), and P Wyman

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk and 20 members of the public

FC123 Appoint Chair for this meeting

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr IN, seconded by Cllr PW, all in favour of Cllr Richards to chair the meeting.

Members and the Public were advised that the meeting is being recorded.

FC124 Apologies for Absence: Cllrs J Moorhouse and G Frost (holiday), C Cook (family commitments) and L Page (work commitments).

FC125 Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest declared.

FC126 To approve and sign Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2025 (folio ref 2025/095-099)

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr GC, seconded by Cllr PW, all in favour that the minutes of the above meeting are an accurate record and were signed by the chair of the meeting.

FC127 Review Decision to Purchase the Beeches Community Centre

Cllr PW went through his proposal (abbreviation below):

Proposal: Update the community on progress and clarify next steps regarding the proposed purchase of the Beeches Community Centre.

Background:

- March: Council approved purchase of the Beeches for £1, subject to six conditions.
- Significant public concern raised in April; Council committed to community consultation.
- No community meeting has yet taken place.
- Bassetlaw District Council (BDC) owns the building and has indicated it requires refurbishment; no operational information has been provided despite repeated requests.

- Levelling Up funding (up to £1m) may be a potential refurbishment source, but no confirmation received.
- Neighbourhood Plan identified Beeches refurbishment as a project (£300k estimate); no response from BDC.

Progress 2025:

- No substantive action or new information received.
- No further council discussion on the proposal since March approval.

Public Engagement:

- Public participation limited to 3 minutes per speaker (15 minutes total, extendable at Chair's discretion).
- Meeting to be treated as start of ongoing consultation.

Motions Proposed:

1. Establish a Beeches Committee (replacing the Working Group).
2. Request BDC place a covenant with clawback provision on the title deeds relating to Levelling Up funding.

Next Steps (2026):

- Formal committee-led consultation and clarification of funding, refurbishment, and council position.

The discussion opened with councillors and members of the public highlighting the need to confirm that the building meets current standards and to consider reducing costs by 25% to reflect potential impacts on residents and the precept. Energy efficiency, sustainability, and low running costs were emphasized, along with concerns about the Council's ability to manage operations effectively.

It was noted that past engagement had been limited. Residents and some councillors alike expressed frustration that the Town Council had not followed through on previous motions or community consultations. There were references to resignations from the original working group, which had slowed progress.

Financial implications were widely discussed. Councillors debated aligning expenditures with the precept and reviewing the financial viability of the purchase and ongoing operation, with an estimated running cost of around £55,000 per year. Members highlighted the importance of transparency in spending and questioned reliance on external parties, particularly Bassetlaw District Council, for decision-making.

The proposed timeline for refurbishment was also considered. A project manager had been identified, and work was expected to start in February, taking approximately six months. The latest information given on 14 January 2026 was that it would now likely be early Summer. Some councillors stated that the Council should

not commit to purchase until the refurbishment was completed, energy efficiency and operational considerations were verified, outcomes were clear and public consultation had been undertaken.

Much of the discussion centred on forming a committee to oversee the project. Councillors and residents debated whether this should be a formal committee rather than a working group. It was suggested that the committee include five core councillors, public representatives, and members of the Neighbourhood Plan group, ensuring consultation and community input. Committee members would provide monthly reports to the Council and maintain transparency through public updates.

Several points were raised regarding community involvement. Members of the public emphasized that local awareness was important and that members of the public on the committee could participate in discussions without voting rights. Councillors discussed balancing thorough consultation with timely decision-making, ensuring that the process did not stall unnecessarily.

Concern was raised regarding the devolution of the District Council, that the council may no longer wish to sell the Beeches Community Centre and suggested confirming whether the sale is still intended. There was discussion on the need for improved communication with residents, suggesting channels beyond social media, such as flyers, posters in local shops, and/or a questionnaire, acknowledging the potential cost to the Council. A further contributor noted that, in evaluating the purchase of the centre, the Council should consider not only the financial implications but also the needs of the community.

Note: This summary is not verbatim. It captures the flow of discussion, points raised by councillors and members of the public, differing opinions, and the key motion proposed.

- Form a formal committee (not a working group) with 5 council members and members of the public (non-voting) to oversee the project.
- Committee to meet monthly, record minutes, and report to council.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr PW seconded by Cllr MR, all in favour to form a committee. Amend the published agenda for 22 January 2026 to include the following item: [The Beeches Community Centre – to form a committee and decide Committee Terms of Reference](#)

FC128 Date of next meeting 22 January 2026

With there being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:50pm

CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE..... DATE