

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3rd June 2025 in the Village Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr. S. Fardon (Chair), J. Abbott, P. Jones, P. Olney, J. Walker, P. White, R. Worker, the Clerk, Mrs. Paice, a representative from Bedford BC Highways (part) and 0 members of the public.

1. **Public Open Session:** none
2. **Apologies:** C. Bays (business), R. Saunders (personal), T. Saunders (business), C. Worker (personal)
3. **Declarations of Interest:** none
4. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th May 2025:**
Resolved: to adopt the minutes.
5. **Clerk's Report:**
Highways – Cracks in the new bollards in The Furlong had been reported to Bedford BC. The collapsed wall in Lincroft had been rebuilt and Highways had confirmed that the Brockwell street light would be reprogrammed to remain on later. The walkway under Lovell Road bridge had been removed now a pump had been fitted to clear the flooding.
Grass cutting – Bedford BC had apologised for cutting rubbish sacks on the verges for collection and grass cutter/trimmer operatives had been instructed to ensure it would not recur
Trees and Hedges – A resident was concerned about a dead branch in a tree on the Green and Clerk had asked the tree surgeon to check. Council had received a grant of £144 from CPRE towards maintenance of the new hedge in Riverside Meadow.
Speed Watch – 1 vehicle was speeding at the event 01.05.25. in Pavenham Road, 1 at the event 08.05.25. in Highfield Road and none in Highfield Road 15.05.25. Reported to police. Planned Speed Watch events on 22.05.25. in Church Lane and 03.06.25. in the High Street were cancelled due to illness and lack of volunteers respectively. Team had passed on their condolences to the family of former Speed Watch member Jan Kuszlewicz, who had recently passed away.
Fly tipping – following concerns raised at the May meeting, the litter picker would check the pull in by Stafford Bridge.
Litter bins – all bins had been emptied but the one by the bridges would not close because of rubbish in the bottom. Cllr. Jones had moved the rubbish & fitted the container but could not lock the door. Reported to Bedford BC. Council thanked Cllr. Jones.

Quiz – profit for May was £211.13

Defibrillators – Council had been asked to register the Village Hall defibrillator on the Circuit system and had done so.

Volunteers – Council thanked the residents who looked after the War Memorial, flew the flag for national events and picked up rubbish throughout the village. Council also thanked the volunteers who had looked after the garden at the crossroads and by the entrance sign in Highfield Road for many years and Chair had asked in the Newsletter if anyone would be interested in taking over care of these gardens.

6. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th May 2025:**
none

Action

7. **Reports:**

a) **ORA meeting 20.05.25.**

Cllr. Abbott had attended and reported that Classic Car meetings had been very successful and it was hoped to grow the meeting numbers over 2025. Motorcycle Club had 441 members and was planning an event on 02.08.25. with live music. Pool and poker teams were seeking new members. Hosting a litter pick would be discussed by the OSSC committee and the Chair would respond direct to Council. There was no report from AFC Oakley. ORA shared the plans for their proposed extension and explained they were looking to improve ‘traffic flow’ within the club house and not expand numbers attending. ORA reiterated that work was planned at the entrance to the field to aid classic car events and thanked Cllr. R. Worker for attending ORA meetings on behalf of Council.

Cllr. Abbott raised the complaint about noise from the event on 17.05.25. and ORA was looking at improving signage and stewarding of events in future. He also asked about the future of the tennis courts. ORA considered that parking on the courts benefitted the village as it reduced vehicles parked on the road but if plans to increase all weather parking on the field went ahead they might revisit us of the tennis courts. It was suggested Council contact Meridian Trust about public access to Lincroft courts outside school hours. Cllr. Walker to pursue.

JW

8. **East West Rail (EWR):**

An update on the non-statutory consultation had been published 16.05.25. on the EWR website eastwestrail.co.uk/news/latest-stories/publication-of-of-2024-non-statutory-consultation-update-report

Clapham PC had advised that there was nothing new to report from the Enhanced LRG meeting 06.05.25. Next parishes meeting was 16.06.25.

Action

9. **Police Report:**

Crime statistics were not yet available for May. The next Coffee with a Cop at Milton Ernest Garden Centre would be held on 08.06.25.

Action

10. <u>Maintenance Contracts:</u>	<u>Action</u>
<p>New contracts were needed for Brockwell Meadow, Linch Furlong/Community Orchard and Riverside Meadow from 2026. Current contractor was content to manage the three sites for another three years at the same cost of £2,300 p.a. Proposed by Cllr. Jones, seconded by Cllr. Abbott that quotation for £2,300 p.a. be accepted</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>Council thanked the contractor for his excellent work on the sites.</p>	Clerk
11. <u>Community Litter Pick:</u>	<u>Action</u>
<p>Clerk had asked local organisations if they were interested in a community litter pick in September/October. OSSC had offered to host again on a Saturday morning and provide a free roll and hot drink to participants. Brownies were interested in taking part and awaiting information from other organisations. Council preferred Saturday 20.09.25. and Clerk to advise OSSC and local organisations.</p>	Clerk
12. <u>Highway Matters:</u>	<u>Action</u>
<p>School parking</p> <p>Residents were concerned about School parents/carers' vehicles parking inconsiderately and blocking driveways and junctions, particularly in the afternoons. They had expressed concerns about safety to Council especially as the expansion of Lincroft would only exacerbate the situation. Council had held a meeting with residents and the School and understood that there was no easy resolution but asked for Highways views.</p> <p>Bedford BC Highways representative commented that he understood the problem as he used to live in Oakley but there were the same issues around all schools. Bedford BC had limited resources but, because of the expansion of Lincroft, they were considering further parking restrictions and widening the footway in Station Road. Chair noted that a resident had asked about yellow lines in Lincroft and Highways Representative advised that they would only consider yellow lines at junctions as they could not be enforced with cameras and they would only move the problem elsewhere. Opening Lincroft to Station Road had been considered previously but there was a problem of land ownership and concerns that it would encourage parking in Lincroft. Chair asked about a one-way system around the village but Highways Representative noted that it would encourage speeding, as parked cars slowed traffic. Highways would prepare a proposal and forward to Council for comment by the end of July.</p> <p>Highways Representative acknowledged that the bollards in The Furlong were of poor quality and advised that the contractor would be returning to site. He noted that all the speed cameras in the village would be upgraded by September. Councillors suggested that cameras were not needed in Church Lane or should only cover the stretch from the Village Hall to the Church but the Highways Representative advised that the distance would be too short.</p>	

New machines were being purchased to fill potholes which used liquid plastic rather than tarmac. The holes did not need to be dug out and cracks could be filled too so the process was quicker and the repair more durable.
Chair thanked the Highways Representative for attending.

Cllr. White noted that bins were being left for collection on the road in the High Street and were causing a hazard. Clerk to ask Bedford BC to pursue.

Clerk

Councillors were concerned about hedges overhanging the footway in Grenidge Way and Dewlands and Clerk to ask householders to cut back.

Clerk

Residents had reported that the litter bin at Reynes Drive/Station Road had been missed and was overflowing and the drain in Lovell Road near the bridge was blocked. Clerk to ask Bedford BC to empty the bin and clear the drain.

Clerk

13. **Borough Council Report:**

Action

Cllr. Walker reported that the Kite & Motoring Festival 21/22.06.25. would be a more family orientated event and a Family Day would be held in Kempston on 02.08.25. The Summer of SEND would provide activities for families during the school holidays and a new What's On Hub had been opened in the former Debenhams building, which included the Corn Exchange Box Office, a gift shop and toilet.

Railings could not be installed under Lovell Road bridge as they would need to be set back from the road edge and would narrow the footway further. There was no indication when the Clapham developers would be upgrading the path.

Cllr. Abbott added that there would be few buses serving Station Road after July, with the withdrawal of the 51. Grant Palmer services would be operating in the village from September and had been asked to run the 3.00pm service around the village. Cllr. Abbott had used Ward Fund monies for new poles and markings in the High Street and bus boxes would be marked on both sides of the road by the Bedford Arms. The bus stop by Lincroft new field would be upgraded and a new flag put on the stop opposite The Drive.

The Great Big Green Week ran 07-15.06.25. and Midland Road would reopen to two way traffic on 11.06.25.

Cllr. Atkins was the new Speaker and Cllr. Caswell Deputy Speaker and the Borough was trying to convene a Town Centre Board.

14. **Planning Applications and Decisions and other planning matters:**

Decisions notified since Council meeting – 6th May 2025

Application **25/00599/LBC** - refurbishment works following a flood at Reynes

No. Cottage, The Drive

Parish No objection

Comments:

Decision/Date: Permission 09.05.25.

Applications received since Council meeting – 6th May 2025:

Application a) 25/00904/FUL - proposed extension to the front of the clubhouse at
 No. OSSC, Church Lane
 Parish No objection
 Comments:

15. Planning Policy:Action**Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Review Workshop 22.05.25.**

Cllrs. Olney & R. Worker and a member of the NDP Group attended. Councils needed to review their NDPs after 5 years against new planning guidelines and the Local Plan 2040. Professional support would be needed and Locality funding was available to assist. The Local Plan 2040 would be discussed by the Executive on 18.06.25. but no new housing would be needed in Oakley before 2040. Clerk to ask NDP members if they were willing to undertake a review.

Clerk

16. Correspondence: noneAction**17. Finance Matters:**Action**a) accounts to pay****Income and balances:**

NatWest Bank – Current account balance at 31.05.25.	£31,901.41
NatWest Bank – Business Reserve account balance at 31.05.25.	£2,422.13
Nationwide – Savings Bond	£63,147.25
Hampshire Trust – Savings Bond	£85,013.20

Received since last meeting:

CPRE	Riverside hedge maintenance grant	£144.00
Worker	May quiz	£260.13
Almond	Newsletter advertising	£108.00
NatWest	Interest	£2.19
	Total	£514.32

Payments Already Made:**Chq. No.**

Old School	Rent for upper rooms May	153.83	s/o
Salaries	May payment	1,500.62	s/o
Paice	Expenses January - March 2025	44.70	2029
Pension Fund	May payment	563.48	2030

Payments Made:

TDP Ltd	New seat for Green	549.50	2031
	Additional playing field rent		
Oakley Properties	following rent review	32.46	2032
	Hire of Hall 16.05.25. and		
Village Hall	Committee Room 06.05.25.	64.000	2033
Total		£2,908.59	

b) installation of play equipment

Two quotations to install the seat had been received and awaiting quotations for installation of the play equipment.

18. Date of Next Meeting: 1st July 2025