

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4th November 2025 in the Village Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr. R. Saunders (Chair), J. Abbott, C. Bays, P. Jones, T. Saunders, J. Walker, P. White, R. Worker, the Clerk, Mrs. Paice and 0 members of the public.

1. **Public Open Session:** none
2. **Apologies:** Cllr. S. Fardon (business) P. Olney (illness)
3. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr. Bays for item 11 as a relative of the website manager
4. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th October 2025:**
Resolved: to adopt the minutes.
5. **Clerk's Report:**
Highways – Clerk had asked Bedford BC to remove the soil and weeds from the Dewlands alleyway and the work had been carried out. Screws scattered on Station Road had been reported to police. The crossroads would be closed for the Remembrance Service as usual. Borough Cllr. Walker had asked Bedford BC to go back to the household in the High Street as they were leaving bins on the road again and a resident had damaged her car on them.
Speed Watch – event scheduled for 09.10.25. was cancelled due to the lack of available volunteers. 8 vehicles were speeding at the event 15.10.25. in Pavenham Road. Reported to police.
Litter bins – all bins were emptied w/c 13.10.25. The bin at the twin bridges was not locked w/c 27.10.25. Also, the lining in the bin beside the crossroads was covering part of the aperture in the outer bin making it hard to put rubbish in. Reported to Bedford BC
Trees – works to trees on Grange Green had been carried out 09.10.25.
New play equipment – equipment had been delivered and Clerk had asked contractor to install it and the seat as soon as possible.
Quiz – profit from the October quiz was £258.20.
Village Hall Defibrillator – pads were due to expire 28.11.25. so Clerk had ordered replacements at a cost of £64.95 + VAT
Village Hall 30th Anniversary Celebration – event had been cancelled due to lack of interest from the village community
6. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th October 2025:** none

Action

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| <p>7. <u>Reports:</u>
 Network Meeting 16.10.25.
 Cllr. Jones attended the meeting, which comprised presentations on the role of the Monitoring Officer, Community Governance Reviews and schools infrastructure in rural areas. Cllr. Jones would circulate a report.</p> | <p>PJ</p> |
| <p>8. <u>East West Rail (EWR):</u>
 No new information yet.</p> | <p><u>Action</u></p> |
| <p>9. <u>Police Report:</u>
 There were 2 reported crimes in the second half of September, an attempted business burglary in Station Road and criminal damage to a car in Church Lane and none in the first half of October. Police community priorities would remain unchanged i.e. vehicle related crime and ASB until 31.01.26. Next Coffee with a Cop would be at Milton Ernest Garden Centre 15.11.25.</p> | <p><u>Action</u></p> |
| <p>10. <u>Repairs to Linch Furlong Sculpture:</u>
 The sculpture by Pavenham Road entrance to Linch Furlong had collapsed. Cllr. White had examined and advised that new struts could possibly be welded on to it at a cost of £150 + VAT but further investigation would be needed. He had not yet been able to investigate further so deferred to December meeting.</p> | <p><u>Action</u></p> <p>Clerk</p> |
| <p>11. <u>2025-26 Website/Email Requirements:</u>
 Website manager had confirmed that Council would need to create the new mailbox and then manually migrate the existing email to it. Website manager had obtained a quotation from EasySpace for £35.00 + VAT per year, for a .gov.uk with terms available from 1 to 10 years. In addition, a DNSSEC (Domain Name System Security Extensions) would be required at £16.00 + VAT per year, also available for 1 to 10 years.
 Proposed by Cllr. Walker, seconded by Cllr. Abbott that quotations for £35 + VAT and £16 + VAT be accepted
 Resolved</p> | <p><u>Action</u></p> <p>Clerk</p> |
| <p>12. <u>Lease for Land at the Weir:</u>
 Solicitors had advised that it would be clearer to enter into a brand new lease rather than enter into a lease by reference and had confirmed that there would be no additional charge. Council was content to sign a new lease.</p> | <p><u>Action</u></p> <p>Clerk</p> |
| <p>13. <u>Annual Play Equipment Inspection Reports:</u>
 At The Furlong, the seat and the wood on the multiplay needed restaining/repainting, there were loose fixings on the swing and the multiplay and the tree was overhanging the equipment.</p> | <p><u>Action</u></p> |

On the Green, the path needed repairing and trip hazards removing, the pedestrian gate and part of the fencing needed repainting, weeds and litter needed removing from the dog grid, the spring cover on the seesaw needed replacing, there were loose fixings, missing bolt caps and rough edges on the log climber, shackles on the swings needed replacing, bolt caps on the silver multiplay needed replacing and moss removing from the surfacing, weeds/moss needed removing from under the table tennis table, the wooden multiplay needed restaining, the sound proofing panel replacing, some of the metal repainting and fixings replacing and missing bolt caps on the basket swing needed replacing. Wetpour around the seesaw and surfacing around the climbing frame, wooden multiplay, zip wire and on the MUGA needed repairing Contractor had quoted £910.00 + VAT to carry out repairs although painting would need to wait until Spring

Proposed by Cllr. Abbott, seconded by Cllr. Bays that quotation for £910.00 + VAT be accepted

Resolved

Clerk

14. Good Neighbour Scheme

Twelve residents had volunteered to help but three were needed to form an organising committee and BRCC was still pursuing. They would like to hold a meeting in the Village Hall Committee Room for volunteers and had asked Council to pay the cost (£7.50 per hour) as they had no funds.

Proposed by Cllr. Walker, seconded by Cllr. Abbott that up to £15 be allocated for a meeting

Resolved

Clerk

15. Highways:

Chair noted that 15 cars had skidded off the bend Bromham side of the twin bridges in the last six months. He had tried to contact Highways to discuss but had yet to receive a response. He suggested anti-skid tarmac might be helpful and Cllr. Walker to chase.

Cllr. Abbott commented that a lower speed limit and chevron sign might help.

Action

JW

16. Borough Council Report:

Borough Cllr. Walker reported that budget discussions were ongoing and important consultations on the budget proposals for 2026/27, the Council Tax Support Scheme and the Waste Strategy including charging for green waste bins were ongoing. The Borough was also consulting on bus usage to ascertain where and when residents wanted buses to operate. Glass bottles could be recycled in orange bins from 1st December and green bin collections would continue until the end of November. The new Family Hub had opened and offered a place for young people to meet and targeted youth services provided by One YMCA.

Action

The problem of screws on the roads was ongoing and spreading from Clapham into Oakley and Bromham. The police were treating it as a serious crime and Mr. Fuller MP would be holding a meeting at 12.00 noon on 06.11.25. in Clapham Village Hall to ask residents for any intelligence. There was no update yet on the Universal project.

Borough Cllr. Abbott added that real time travel information for buses and trains was available. He had met with Stagecoach and the timing of the 50 service in the holidays had been altered so travellers did not miss connections. He would also be meeting with Grant Palmer to discuss the 25 service on 06.11.25.

The Guinness Partnership was buying the development land in Station Road and would be building forty shared ownership/affordable homes on the site. They had agreed to discuss layout plans with the Parish Council and residents.

17. Planning Applications and Decisions and other planning matters:

Decisions notified since Council meeting – 7th October 2025

Application No. **25/01044/LBC** - alterations to windows & doors in existing outbuilding, render to existing rear extension and replacement windowsills at 27 Station Road

Parish No objection

Comments:

Decision/Date: Refusal 27.10.25. on the grounds that replacement of the timber sills with cast/reconstituted stone has and would result in harm to the significance of 27-33 Station Road, which are grade II listed.

Applications received since Council meeting – 7th October 2025:

Application No. **a) 25/02031/LDE** - confirm the lawful implementation of planning permission 23/01149/FUL at Milford House, Westfield Road

Parish No objection

Comments:

Application No. **b) 25/02057/S73** - variation of condition application for erection of prefabricated building for Oakley Pre-School in paddock to the rear of Oakley Methodist Church, including variation of conditions 12 and 13 attached to 21/03047/S73 (which replaced 18/02691/FUL) to adjust the hours of operation and to substitute the 2022 Noise Management Plan

Parish No objection

Comments:

Cllr. Abbott noted that the Kindergarten was looking to zone areas for different uses to reduce the effect of noise on neighbours.

Application No. **c) 25/02111/FUL** - single storey side extension to replace existing garage at 57 Reynes Drive

Parish No objection

Comments:

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Percival	Allotment rent	£48.06
Weston	Allotment rent	£24.03
Cox	Allotment rent	£48.06
Jackson J	Allotment rent	£24.03
Jackson K	Allotment rent	£72.09
Hull	Allotment rent	£48.06
Wright	Allotment rent	£24.03
Seager	Allotment rent	£48.06
Holyoak	Allotment rent	£48.06
Elliott	Allotment rent	£48.06
Hamshire	Allotment rent	£24.03
Rooney	Allotment rent	£24.03
Hutson C	Allotment rent	£24.03
Chalker	Allotment rent	£24.03
Hutson P	Allotment rent	£48.06
Whatley	Allotment rent	£28.06
Miles	Allotment rent	£48.06
Walker	Allotment rent	£48.06
Worker	October quiz	£307.20
NatWest	Interest	£2.09
Total		£1,044.22

**Payments Already
Made:**

			Chq. No.
Old School	Rent for upper rooms October	153.83	s/o
Salaries	October payment	1,527.31	s/o
Paice	Expenses July- September	69.33	2062
Pension Fund	October payment	576.35	2063

Payments Made:

Bedford BC	Quarterly grass cutting payment	2,956.69	2064
Community Heartbeat Trust	Replacement pads for Village Hall defibrillator	77.94	2065
	Hire of Committee Room 07.10.25.		
Oakley Village Hall	Hire of Hall 17.10.25. for quiz	64.00	2066
Total		£5,425.45	

b) distribution on quiz funds

Council had agreed to contribute to the Christmas dinners for the Day Centre and the home for disabled residents in the High Street from quiz profits. Cllr. Worker noted that quiz profits were £400 more than at the same time last year. Proposed by Cllr. Worker, seconded by Cllr. Jones that £200.00 be donated to each organisation

Resolved

Council thanked Cllr. Worker for his work on the quiz.

Action

Clerk

c) Nationwide review of business savings accounts

Nationwide had requested additional information to keep Council's Business Savings account open. Clerk had completed the form and Proposed by Cllr. Jones, seconded by Cllr. White that it be approved

ResolvedAction

Clerk

22. Date of Next Meeting: 2nd December 2025