MINUTES

1: Apologies
Apologies were received from Cllr Burnage.

2: Declarations on Interest in items on the Agenda
None

3: To consider any applications for dispensation
None

4: Public Participation
None

5: Minutes of the previous meeting
The Council RESOLVED that Cllr Melville should sign the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on the 21st November 2024 as a true and accurate record.

6: Matters arising from previous minutes
The Clerk advised that the VAT claim for the 2023-24 financial year was ready to be submitted to HMRC. The VAT claims for the first three quarters of the 2024-25 financial year will be submitted in January 2025.

The Clerk also advised that the Court had agreed that belongings, including the Parish Council's files, could be retrieved from her former home in the New Year. The outstanding VAT claims can then be prepared and submitted.

E-On has advised that they have no record of the solar panel application/registration. They have advised that this should be redone and screenshots off the on-line form taken.

The Clerk advised that a Ward Fund application has been submitted for two large refuse bins as discussed. Cllr Melville advised that further Ward Funding had been approved to replace the rusty signs in the village. He thanked the Ward Councillors for their positive contribution and this will be noted in the next newsletter.

7: Chairman's Report
Cllr Melville advised that the Community Police Team have visited 6 Broadmead and matters seemed to have been resolved.

The Chair advised that he had attended a Bedford Healthwatch lunch and had invited them to speak at the meeting in January 2025.

The Parish Council has received an enquiry from someone who is interested in opening a nursery facility in the village for 51 weeks of the year. Further conversations will take place in the new year and, if appropriate, a proposal put to the Parish Council.

Cllr Melville had had an initial meeting with the new owners of the former Brickworks site. They have advised that they are likely to replicate the previous planning application however they are at the very early stages. They will attend the Parish Council meeting in February 2025. Cllr Melville stipulated that the Parish Council would expect the chimney and heritage centre to be built and have an input into the design of the houses. No developer has been identified as yet.

Cllr Melville will arrange for the previous plans to be circulated to Councillors.

The Chair advised that there was no update with regard to Universal Studios as the matter was still awaiting a decision by the government.

Cllr Melville advised that as part of the Precept considerations, the Council would need to consider caretaker capacity (additional time cold be recharged to the Village Hall), increase in National Insurance contributions and replacement Christmas lights for the Village Hall (quote awaited from Andy Muskett).

8: Report from Bedford Borough Council

The next meeting will Cllr Spice advised the Ward Fund applications had now closed and urged the Council to make applications early next year. Ward Funding could be requested for the replacement Christmas lights.

On the 21st and 22nd December, the Council has organised a Festive Family Fun weekend in Bedford town.

Cllr Spice advised that Debenhams is likely to be occupied by half-term in February 20225.

Bedford Borough Council's purchase of the Lloyds Bank building is currently under scrutiny. The bank would remain however this building is key to any future development of the Bedford Corn Exchange and May's Yard.

Cllr Spice advised the Council about the continued free parking to encourage people into the town centre over the festive period.

Cllr Spice also advised the cleaning is taking place at the A6/A421 crossroads and that she will chase the outstanding issue with the signs are the Interchange Retail Park.

Cllr Spice thanked the Council for the invite to the Christmas party. The Council thanked Cllr Spice for her support and help this year.
be held on [Date] at [Time] in [Venue].

9: Clerk's Financial Report

9.1 Authorise payments for BACS Transfer
The Council RESOLVED to authorise the BACS Reports for the Parish Council and the Sports Pavilion.

9.2 Balances of Accounts
Members were advised that as at the 30 th November 2024, the balances of the Parish Council and Sports Fields accounts were as follows:

£28,663.10
£37,279.41
£37,392.68
£384,910.89

9.3 Budget Monitoring
The Clerk advised that the Budget Monitoring Report would be considered at the Precept Meeting in January 2025.

9.4 Bank Reconciliation Review
The Clerk raised concerns that the monthly reviews of the bank reconciliation were not being carried out in accordance with the procedures that that Council had agreed. It should be completed within 7 days of the Clerk completing the bank reconciliation.

Cllr Law advised that she was experiencing further issues with the her Parish Council email account however this should not be an issue as the Clerk is also sending them to an alternative email address.

10: Quotations for authorisation

10.1 Works at Village Hall
The Council REOLVED to accept the quote from Rushton Plumbing and Heating to service the hot water tanks at the Village Hall.

10.2 Legionella Risk Assessment & Sample Testing
The Council RESOLVED to accept the quote from Urisk

11: Planning Applications & Decisions

Ref: 24/02197/MOF Major Outline and Full application Application: proposal for Hybrid planning application comprising full planning application for Plot 2 (Class E(g)iii light industrial/B2 general industrial/B8 storage and distribution), access, parking, drainage, landscaping and associated works; and outline planning application with all matters reserved for Plots 1A-C (Class E(b) food and drink/sui generis public house/C1 hotel/E(g)i office/E(g)ii research and development) and Plot 3 (Class E(g)i office/E(g)ii research and development/E(g)iii light industrial and ancillary B8 storage and distribution), access, parking, drainage, landscaping and associated works @ Plots 1A-C, 2 And 3 Bedford Commercial Park Swallow Way Wootton MK43 9ST

The Council RESOLVED that Cllr Melville would advise the Clerk of any objections to be made before the deadline on the 27th December 2024.

11.4 Planning Application received after the despatch of the Agenda
Ref: 24/02368/FUL proposed erection of 1no. bat house @ former Stewartby Brickworks, Broadmead Road, Stewartby, Bedford

The Council RESOLVED that there were no objections to this application.

12: Amenities:

12.1 Highways/Lighting
Cllrs Law and Banks have reported all the streetlights that are not working to either Bedford Borough or Central Bedfordshire Council.

Cllr Fraser raised concerns about some of the pathways. Cllr Melville asked Cllr Fraser to provide him with further details and a map.

12.2 Recreation Area
Cllr Haley has submitted two grant applications for the replacement roundabout. He advised that you can place a crowdfunding request on the Aviva website however the Council did not wish to pursue this option.

It was RESOLVED to apply to the Coop, Tesco and Waitrose. Grantscape could also be an option.

Cllrs Law and Burnage are still seeking funding for the pay area at The Green.

12.3 Newsletter
Cllrs Fraser and Banks to do the next newsletter in January 2025. It should include photos from the Christmas Fair and the design for the new play area.

12.4 Sports Field/Pavilion
Football has been cancelled for the next two weeks due to the condition of the pitches.

The Clerk highlighted issues with the Sports Pavilion being booked direct online. This will be amended.

Cllr Melville advised that he and the Caretaker had met with Countrywide who

are due to start in the new year. There is likely to be some teething problems.

12.5 Village Hall
The issue with condensation at the Village Hall has been resolved as the heating has been turned up.

Cllr Serino raised concerns about the cracks at the Village Hall and it was RESOLVED that the tree at the back needs to be reviewed in January 2025.

12.6 Policing
Cllr Melville advised that the crime statistics mainly relate to domestic incidents however there had been a domestic burglary in Manor Road.

Coffee with a Cooper has been arranged for the 8th January 2025 however the Parish Council has not received any information about this.

12.7 Encyclis
None

13: Community Events 2025

It was RESOLVED that the Council should revert to separate meetings to consider and plan future events. The first meting will be held on the 23rd

January 2025 at 6.30 pm. Subsequent meetings will be held in line with Village Hall meetings starting on the 13th March.
Christmas Fair was slow to start however was another good event.
The Council will look to organise a Food Fest in the Summer.
Cllr Melville has invited Cllr Law and Banks to a meeting with Bedford Borough Council in January 2025 regarding the 100 year event in 2026.

14: Grants

Cllrs Law and Burnage advised that one part had been submitted to Bedford Borough Council. The grant application to Veolia has yet to be submitted. A further application will be submitted to Roral Affairs.

A decision is expected in March 2025.

All grant applications to be sent to the Clerk to save for future reference.

15: Council Surgery / Community Engagement

A date for the next Council Surgery will be set in the Spring 2025.

16: Data Protection Register/Information Commissioner

It was RESOLVED that both the Parish Council and the Village Hall need to be registered separately due to the data that they hold.

17: Safeguarding

The Council needs a Safeguarding Policy in place.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Fraser would review information from the Health & Safety Consultant as she believes he previously sent one through.

18: Street Trading Consent Application – Old A421 Lay by, Bedford

The Council RESOLVED that it had no objections to this application

19: Public Spaces Protection Order – Dog Control new locations

The Council RESOLVED that the existing arrangements should remain in place.

20: Items of an urgent nature or for inclusion on the next agenda

None

21: Close of Meeting and items for the next Agenda.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

22: Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 16th January 2025 @ 6.30 pm.
Budget Setting meeting on Thursday 9
the January 2025 @ 6.30 pm.