Parish Council
Thursday 17-Jul-2025 @ 18:30
Dave Law Sports Pavilion, Park Crescent, Stewartby

MINUTES

1: Apologies
Apologies were received from Cllr Serino and Borough Councillor Spice.

2: Declarations on Interest in items on the Agenda
None

3: To consider any applications for dispensation
None

4: Public Participation
Residents from Manor Road attended the meeting as they are waiting for a response from officers at Bedford Borough Council. They were advised that the officer has been on annual leave and Cllr Melville advised that he had been chasing for a response also.

The residents may contact the Chief Executive of Bedford Borough Council if they do not receive a response soon.

Councillors were asked by a resident to confirm whether they had signed a non-disclosure agreement and all advised that they had not.

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 19th June 2025 as a true and accurate record.

6: Matters arising from previous minutes
The Clerk advised that the planning application for the Village Hall and would be completed next week.

Cllr Melville advised that the Village Hall flat had been decorated to a good standard.

He also advised that Bedford Borough Council were dealing with the planning issue at 181 Wavell Close.

The meeting was advised that the new play equipment on The Green will be installed in September (dates to be confirmed by Cllr Burnage). It will be fully completed by October half-term.

Cllr Melville advised that a grant of £6,667 has approved by Bedford Borough Council for a replacement roundabout. New quotes will be obtained and the matter considered at the September meeting.

7: Chairman’s Report
The Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council to consider the planning application for Universal Studios will be held on Thursday 24th July 2025 in the Village Hall commencing at 6.30 pm. This has been published in the usual way. The Council will hold a closed meeting on the 21st August 2025 to write
the submission.

Cllr Melville advised that the planning application for Quest Pit still exists however there are no interested parties. Any new usage would be subject to a new planning application.

He advised that the Planning Application is now out for consultation regarding Montgomery. This has been shared with residents and Parish Council are in support.

The meeting was advised that The Kiln had installed a new window without planning permission or applied for change of use. The Council RESOLVED that it would need to advise Bedford Borough Council of the infringement.

8: Report from Bedford Borough Council
None.

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 30th June 2025, the balances of the Parish Council and Sports

Fields accounts were as follows:

£31,549.31
£82,805.36 (includes part of the grant for the play area)
£6,454.87
£389,121.02

10: Quotations for authorisation

10.1 Replacement laptop for the Village Hall Clerk

The Council RESOLVED to accept the quote from Laptops Direct.

10.2 Upgrade of the Village Hall Sound System

The Council RESOLVED to accept the quote for £937.01 from Bubbles Lighting.

10.3 Goal Sockets

The Council RESOLVED that, if the quote was for both pitches, then it would be accepted however further clarification was required.

10.4 Hedge Cutting

The Council RESOLVED that if the quote also included the hedges at The Pastures it would be accepted however further clarification was required.

11: Planning Applications & Decisions

11.1 Planning Applications & Decisions received before the despatch of the Agenda

None

11.2 Planning Applications & Planning Decisions received after the despatch of the Agenda

Ref: 25/01363/FUL Full Planning Application for proposed replacement of an existing full height window with a new double doors @ Marston Vale Middle School, The Crescent, Stewartby, Bedford, Bedfordshire MK43 9NH

The Council RESOLVED that it had no objections to this planning application.

11.3 Update on Universal Studios

There will be a closed meeting on Zoom for Councillors on Wednesday 23rd July 2025 @ 7.00 pm to go through the planning application in advance of the public meeting on the 24th July 2025. Any feedback from Councillors should be sent to Cllr Melville by the 21st July 2025.

11.4 Brickworks Masterplan/Design Brief

The Parish Council raised some concerns about the Brickworks Masterplan/Design Brief, for example to the rear of the site, three and four storey houses are proposed. The relevance of a Heritage Centre has been mentioned and that this building maybe used for something else. The house designs should follow the design plan of the Village as per Hansons Reach.

Cllr Melville will invite Harworth to the September meeting and arrange a meeting with Bedford Borough Council.

12: Amenities

12.1 Highways/Lighting

Cllr Law will report the issues with the manhole cover on Green Lane. Cllr Law will also raise the issue with various trees with O & H.

12.2 Recreation Area

Cllr Burnage advised that works will commence on the new play area on the 29th September 2025 (it could be sooner). It is estimated that it will take between 2 – 3 weeks.

Cllrs Melville and Banks to be invited to the site meeting early September.

12.3 Social Engagement

It was RESOLVED that the next Parish Council Surgery with Cllr Spice will be held on Saturday 13th September 2025 between 10.00 am and 12.00 pm.

Cllr Banks was asked by Cllr Melville to get a newsletter out before the Extraordinary Meeting on the 24th July 2025.

12.4 Sports Field/Pavilion

Cllr Banks gave an update on the teams that would be playing at the start of the new season. She advised the Clerk that some August bookings needed to be cancelled and refunded.

12.5 Village Hall

Cllr Melville advised that Trustees were not attending the Village Hall Committee meetings regularly and that this needed to improve going forward.

The meeting was also advised that there had been two viewings of the flat to date. This will be reviewed in September.

12.6 Policing

Cllr Melville advised that a new Community Inspector had been appointed. Concerns were also raised about the Travellers site.

12.7 Encyclis

None

13: Community Events 2025/2026

The next meeting to discuss events will be held on the 11th September 2025 after the Village Hall meeting.

The Council RESOLVED to contribute £5,000 to the survey of the fountain.

The remainder will be funded by Harworth.

The next Eat Feast will be held on the 13th September 2025.

14: Grants

This Agenda item will be considered at the next meeting.

15: Council Surgery / Community Engagement

It was RESOLVED that the next Council Surgery will be held on the 13th September 2025.

16: Policies

It was RESOLVED that these should be reviewed with the Caretaker prior to being adopted.

The Clerk will add this to the next Agenda.

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

None

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

? DBS

? Safeguarding Children Policy

? Co-opt potential new councillor

Meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

19: Date and Time of Next Meeting

There will be an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on the 24th July 2025 at the Village Hall commencing at 6.30 pm to discuss the planning application in respect of Universal Studios.

The next meeting will be held on the 18th September 2025 @ 6.30 pm