MINUTES

1: Apologies
Apologies were received from Cllr Haley, who is currently working away.

Cllr Melville reminded Councillor's about professional conduct and that if they wish to speak then they should raise their hand and speak through the Chair.

2: Declarations on Interest in items on the Agenda
None.

3: To consider any applications for dispensation
None.

4: Public Participation
The Chair welcomed Matthew Birch to the meeting. He is interested in returning as a Parish Councillor.

5: Representative from 4YP about Youth Provision
Cllr Melville welcomed Rosie and Charlotte who gave a short presentation about who they are and what they could offer in terms of youth provision for the village.

There are three tiers of support they can offer:
£3,500 – for work during the summer to engage with young people and determine what they would like to see;
£16,500 per annum – to run a youth group once a week; and
£21,000 per annum – to run a youth group twice a week.

The Council RESOLVED to look at the £3,500 option with a view to being able to run a group once a week in the longer term.

6: 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 16th April 2026 as a true and accurate record.

7: Matters arising from previous minutes
None.

8: Chairman's Report
Cllr Melville advised that it had been a very busy month.

He advised that the Premises Licence had been granted. The only condition is that alcohol must be served in plastic glasses.

A solicitor's letter was sent to NMF Surfacing. They have responded and will coming back at the end of June 2026 to repair the paths at the Sports field.

Cllr Melville advised that a meeting had been held regarding the Traveller's Site. Monthly meeting will now be held with Bedford Borough Council to resolve the ongoing issues.

The Chair referred to the road traffic accident that had happened following the closure of Broadmead Road. There has been concern that the Green Lane junction does not have traffic lights. This accident was due to driver error however the Council RESOLVED to seek a speed restriction to 30 mph this
stretch of road until Broadmead is reopened.

Cllr Melville advised that he has attended the EWR Consultation in the Village Hall along with other Cllrs. The Parish Council has a number of concerns about the proposals. Cllr Melville will attend a meeting with Bedford Borough Council and the Director of Engagement from EWR. Blake Stephenson MP will also be invited to meet with Cllrs.

The Council RESOLVED to setup a petition.

Cllr Spice offered to assist with wording for the Parish Council's response to the consultation.

The Chair also advised that he had received a significant number of emails from a resident of the village. Some of which had been abusive. A report has been made to the Police and they are present this evening. Five Freedom of Information requests were also received as part of this.

9: Report from Bedford Borough Council

Cllr Spice advised that there were ongoing concerns about road closure information getting in the public domain before it was on the website. It is hoped that this will be resolved when the Communications Manager joins soon.

Cllr Spice is working with Andy Prigmoe about the lorries going through the village. The Police have the power to monitor and enforce. Asked for photos of the hauliers.

Cllr Spice was advised that the manhole cover in Green Lane still needs repairing.

Cllr Spice advised that Hansons Reach was a mess again as Encore and Persimmon Homes were not fulfilling their obligations. Cllr Spice will work with the Environmental Team to try and resolve.

She asked, on behalf of Stewartby Club, about a grass area outside the Club.
The Council advised that they had already offered to sell this to the Club for £1 but they had declined.

Cllr Spice advised that the ramp at the bus shelter in Montgomery has not been installed yet. She is trying to resolve this issue.

10: Clerk's Financial Report

10.1 Authorise payments for BACS Transfer

The Council RESOLVED to authorise the BACS Reports.

10.2 Balances of Accounts

Members were advised that as at the 30th April 2026, the balances of the Parish Council and Sports Fields accounts were as follows:

£66,413.45
£39,801.79
£30,403.41
£307,411.70

10.3 Review of Pitch & Sports Pavilion Hire Rates

It was RESOLVED to defer this to the next meeting once Cllr Banks had been able to review suggested rates.

11: Quotations for authorisation

11.1 Hire of Crockery and Cutlery for the Gala Dinner

The Council RESOLVED to accept the quote from The Kiln.

11.2 Replacement Dog Signs

The Council RESOLVED to accept the quote from Bedford Borough Council.

11.3 Parts for Outdoor Gym

The Council RESOLVED to accept the quote from Fesh Fitness for the replacement parts.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk to obtain a quote for a new large bin for the next meeting.

12: Planning Applications & Decisions

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

Ref: 26/00654/M73 Major S73 Variation of Condition Application proposed 0utline application with all matters reserved except access for a housing led mixed use redevelopment comprising up to 1,000 new homes, 1.31 hectares of

employment land, a new primary school and pre-school, heritage centre,
community facilities (including retail), open space, green infrastructure and associated works. including variation of approved plans condition 1, and variation of the wording of conditions 5 and 6 attached to 18/03022/EIA, to allow for establishment of the bridge over the railway line as a pedestrian and cycle only bridge, removal of the serviced school site and to allow a
revised heritage strategy @ Former Stewartby Brickworks, Broadmead Road, Stewartby, Bedfordshire

The Council has requested an extension to the deadline to respond to this application. The response must be received by Bedford Borough Council by Tuesday 26th May 2026 @ 9.00 am.

Cllr Melville provided a brief summary of the application and advised that the school has been moved to the Marston Vale site and that this land will now be used as additional green space. The application confirms that the chimney will only be a replica at 15ft.

The application includes a new entrance to the site off Broadmead Road where there will be a roundabout with a zebra crossing very close to this. The T Junction off Green Lane will be a roundabout. The railway line within the site will now have a footbridge over it (not a road bridge) in effect splitting the site in two.

The future of the Heritage Centre is very unclear and the kilns were damaged when the chimneys were demolished so these will not be fully intact.

The Design Brief for the houses has yet to be decided.

Cllr Melville to prepare response and submit to Bedford Borough Council.

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

None

12.3 Update on Universal Studios

None

13: Amenities

13.1 Highways/Lighting

Cllr Law and Banks will carry out a street lighting inspection

13.2 Recreation Area

Cllr Melville advised that the zip wire was still out of action. Creative Play are experiencing difficulties with their contractor.

13.3 Social Engagement

Cllr Melville will do a post about the recent RTA and the Green Lane junction.

13.4 Sports Field/Pavilion

Cllr Banks advised that the football season had now ended.

13.5 Village Hall

Cllr Melville provided an update on the issue with what was believed to be the toilet in the Village Hall flat. The smell is actually coming from birds that have got in under the shower.

13.6 Policing

None

14: Proposal for Foodbank

Cllr Sartain will provide an update for the next meeting.

15: Community Events 2026

Cllr Melville advised that the licence had been granted as discussed earlier.

He advised that he had attended a meeting of the Events Committee and they had raised the following:

Noise pollution – after considering quotes for an external provider to monitor throughout the day, the Council RESOLVED to purchase a sound reader at a cost of £50 (Cllr Melville to check with Health & Safety Consultant).

Additional toilets are required.

There needs to be a Disaster Plan in place for the potential for a car to be used as a weapon.

Cllr Melville advised that the insurance for the two golf buggies that the Council has agreed to hire will be covered on the Parish Council's existing insurance.

The fireworks will now be set off from the Brickworks site.

Cllr Banks advised that another card reader needs to be sourced.

Letters will be distributed to all Park Crescent residents to notify them of the road closure.

The Council RESOLVED to purchase banners and frames to publicise the event at a cost of £1,600.

Cllr Melville will arrange a meeting with all stakeholders in June 2025 and put a final post out on social media to attract more stallholders.

16: Grants

Cllrs Law and Burnage will provide an update at the next meeting.

17: Council Surgery / Community Engagement

None

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

None

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

Meeting closed at 9.09 pm.

20: Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 18th June 2026 @ 6.30 pm.