

BEDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

(draft) Minutes of a Bedfield Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 3rd September 2025 at the Bedfield Community HUB. The meeting commenced at 19:30

09/25 - 01 *Present*

- Alison Manning (Chair - AM), John Dickson (Vice Chair – JD), Martin Abley (MA), Marion Harvey (MH), Jenny Barnham (JB) and Lisa Crane (LC). .
- Geoff Robinson (GR) as Parish Clerk.
- Andrew Manning (ANM) as the Community Club representative.
- Matthew Hicks (MH - SCC and MSDC Ward Councillor) – for Item 09/25 – 08
- Seven members of the public.

09/25 - 02 *Apologies for Absence*

- Two members of the public.

09/25 - 03 *Public Open Session*

- One member of the public expressed the view that the ongoing construction and monitoring at Home Farm had not been conducted as well as it could have been.
- Another villager expressed concern that the Home Farm development may lead to flooding of surrounding ditches.

09/25 - 04 *Register of Members Interests*

- All the councillors were reminded that they must notify GR of any changes affecting their Register of Members Interests.
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09/25 - 05 *Minutes of the Last Meeting (AGM 21st May 2025)*

- These were subsequently agreed as accurate and signed by AM.

09/25 - 06 *Matters Arising from the Minutes*

- It was agreed that the provision of artificial turf to cover the play area tunnel is the only lasting solution to comply with the 2025 inspection report.

09/25 - 07 *Minutes of the Last Meeting (AVM 21st May 2025)*

- There were no action points to be considered.

09/25 - 08 *Report from Matthew Hicks, County Council and District Ward Councillor*

- MH's most recent monthly report for May 2025 had been circulated and he ran through the salient points appertaining to the plan to impose pylons, the new fire control room, and the dangers of fire in thatched cottages.

09/25 -09 *Police Report*

- The police national crime map shows five offences of "Criminal Damage & Arson", plus two of "Violence & Sexual Offences" in the Cemetery Road area during April 2025, no recorded crime during May 2025 and two "Violence & Sexual Offences" during June 2025 in Bedfield Little Green.

09/25 – 10 Planning Updates

- DC/25/0707 (Playview – Demolition of Garage & Replacement Etc.) – Approved by MSDC
- DC/24/05160 (Willow Croft – Demolition of current single-story building and replacement with two others). Approved by MSDC.
- Limited work had recommenced at the Home Farm development but seemed to have stopped again. A letter expressing ongoing concerns had been received from a relation of a near resident, but unfortunately little could be done from a Parish Council perspective.

09/25 - 11 Tennis Court Refurbishment, HUB Lease etc.

- The Tennis Club had held a successful opening event at which MH had performed the opening ceremony. It had been attended on behalf of the PC by MH and MA. A new management committee had been formed and it was agreed the tennis court was a very positive village asset.
- The lease renewal was still being pursued by Rebecca Waterman. GR expressed sadness that Rebecca was intending to resign as the Secretary of the BTE and stated that much had been achieved with her cooperation over the years. Rebecca was warmly thanked for her contribution to PC business.

09/25 - 12 Financial Update

- Expenditure since the last meeting (May 2025) have been £478.85 to B&MSCC (their share of VAT refund), £50.00 to Paul Burrows (internal audit fee), £496.60 to Premier Sports Surfaces (final payment for tennis court refurbishment), £200.00 to Tom Kerry (Long Green ditch clearance), £24.00 to CAS (gov.uk domain renewal) and £372.00 to Boundary Solutions (New HUB entrance fence).
- Payments in the pipeline of £799.68, £187.92 & £106.54 for the Clerk's first-half year salary, PAYE & Expenses respectively were authorized, plus a payment of £1,837.43 to Gallaghers for the annual insurance renewal.
- Income since the date of the last meeting has been £0.33 interest from Barclays Bank and a VAT refund of £2,884.93 (HMRC).
- The 2024/25 annual accounts and governance statement had been audited by PKF Littlejohn as the external auditors and after resolving a couple of queries, had been approved.
- At the request of residents, the provision of a second VAD and two posts for Little Green was debated and agreed. The total cost will be £3,899.99 (excluding VAT) , but grants of £3,300 have been generously offered by Matthew Hicks. Which left the sum of £599.99 due. GR to liaise with the supplier, Elan City, SCC Highways and Vince Prank
- GR explained the further CIL payments were anticipated in respect of Willow Croft and that others may be paid in respect of the Lodge Cottages plot and Bedfield House Barn, although these were unlikely having been declared as self-builds. He also mentioned that CIL payments cannot be used for day-to-day running expenses.
- GR had produced an estimate for the 2025/26 financial year but made it clear that it was without prejudice to any unforeseen circumstances that could occur in the next six months. This shows a projected surplus of £14,800 on the 31st March 2026. However, he also emphasized that this included a ring-fenced CIL amount of £9,678.00

0925 - 13 Community Club Update

ANM gave updates on several salient points. viz:

- The project regarding the refurbishment of the pavilion had yet to progress, mainly due to domestic problems appertaining to the architect. The pre-planning consultation with MSDC had still to take place.
- The annual fete had been a success and taken place in perfect weather, other than the dog show which although wasn't cancelled, very few owners entered their dogs because of the heat. It had raised a profit in excess of £3k. He expressed thanks to everyone who had been involved and attended.
- A quiz night was planned for the 10th October, followed by a Chilli Night in November.
- It had proved impossible to obtain a grant for the replacement of the pavilion roof due to the absence of a lease at the moment.

09/25 - 14 Any Other Business and Correspondence Etc.

- GR said that once again our insurance brokers had highlighted the need for tree management and there was a brief discussion on who was responsible for the trees at the HUB. GR will obtain estimates for an inspection of the trees on Long Green Meadow and the HUB field. A decision will then be made to either proceed accordingly or form a working group to review the areas.
- GR had continued to report potholes, footpaths and other ongoing matters.
- GR and AM had attended a meeting with representatives from SCC and MSDC on Community Emergency Planning. However, the template that had been promised seemed to need a tremendous amount of work and a large number of volunteers, both now and ongoing. It was therefore agreed to shelve the idea and GR will advise MSDC accordingly.
- AM had written to JMR at The Squirrels expressing a couple of concerns of villagers. A reply had been received, which noted the problem and a dialogue has been re-established after the departure of the original manager. However, the need for confidentiality of the current resident will limit much future information
- GR stated that the Health and Safety Policy needed to be updated and incorporate that of the HUB. This was agreed and he will circulate the update for approval in the very near future.

09/25 - 15 Date of Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th November, commencing at 19:00 at the Bedfield Community HUB

The meeting ended at 20:29

Chair.....