BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCIL

2025-26-2

Minutes of the Meeting of Brickhill Parish Council held in St Marks Church and Community Centre on Thursday 5th June 2025 commencing at 7.30pm.

Present:
Cllrs Fitzpatrick, Grant, Green, Holloway, Ward, Blakeman, the Clerk (Mrs S Bottoms), Melanie Bright, Senior Flood Risk Officer, Bedford Borough Council, 2 PCSO's, 4 members of the Public and Borough Cllrs Rider and Sawyer.

Absent: Cllrs Lamswood, Rani, Testa and Borough Cllrs Vann, and Royden.

Summary of the meeting: -

Table 1 – The Minutes

Item	Description	Action
1.	**Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Lamswood, Rani, Testa and Borough Cllrs Vann, and Royden.	
2.	**Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** i) To receive written requests for a dispensation: None received. ii) To consider any requests for a dispensation: None received.	
3.	**To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 1st May 2025** The Minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.	

Item	Description	Action
4.	**Flood Risk in Brickhill:** Melanie Bright, Senior Flood Risk Officer from Bedford Borough Council attending the meeting and did a presentation on flood risk focussing on Brickhill. She said that surface flooding is the main issue in Brickhill which is difficult to predict and to manage. She showed slides produced from the Met Office. With regards surface water there are various partners involved in managing this including homeowners, Bedford Borough Council (gullies and drains) and Anglia Water (surface water mains) and the Environment Agency who receive water from the surface water mains. 2024 was a very wet year and there was significant flooding. Bedford Borough Council is currently undergoing thorough investigations leading on from this which will lead to formal recommendations. Bedford Borough Council is looking at building resilience into the people and places to help cope with future events. What can residents do to reduce pressure on the system? Are residents aware of their flood risks? If there was flooding, would they know what to do? Community Flood Groups have been set up and she is happy to circulate information. She answered questions from the Parish Council and residents in attendance. A request was made to ensure that the gullies and drains in the areas which are particularly prone to flooding are kept clear on a regular basis. The Parish Council agreed to put any information forwarded from Melanie on the website and would again ask residents to let the Parish Council know if they have any specific issues or concerns. Melanie Bright was thanked for attending the meeting and left.	

Item	Description	Action
5.	**Public Open Session**: Police Attendance: Unfortunately, the new Community Support Officer for Brickhill, Charlie Jarvis-Banks had been unable to attend but in attendance were Jen (who covers Queens Park) and Laurance (who covers Kempston) to provide an update on behalf of Charlie. There has been an increase in anti-social behaviour at the Avon Drive shops. Whilst on patrols, the shops have been very good at providing information and have identified the youths involved. The majority have been banned from the shops and behaviour contracts have been set up with these youths/parents. The parents involved noted a lack of youth provision in the area and the Community Support Officers asked what was available and any support which the Parish Council might be able to supply. The Parish Council will investigate commissioning, via Bedford Borough Council, resources to set up some youth provision. The Parish Council highlighted some current concerns within Brickhill. The two Community Support Officers were thanked for attending and left the meeting.	**Cllr Ward** **Clerk**
6.	**Financial Matters:** i) To agree the bank reconciliations and any accounts for payment: **It was resolved** to accept these (see below). ii) To receive the report from the internal auditor on the accounts for 2024-25: This was received. It was noted that no issues had been raised.	**Clerk** **Clerk**

Item	Description	Action
	iii) To agree and sign the Annual Governance Statement for 2024-25: **It was agreed** to sign the Annual Governance Statement for 2024-25. iv) To agree and sign the Accounting Statements for 2024-25: **It was agreed** to sign the Accounting Statements for 2024-25.	**Clerk** **Clerk**
7.	**To consider and agree action re: a Parish Council work plan:** Cllr Fitzpatrick will circulate some information to his fellow parish councillors. Cllr Fitzpatrick has applied to Bedford Borough Council for some tulip bulbs to plant alongside the daffodils around the parish road signs.	**Cllr Fitzpatrick**
8.	**To receive any updates re: Brickhill Community Centre:** Robinson and Hall attended the Centre last Wednesday to undertake the survey. The Parish Council is awaiting his report. Once that is received and reviewed, the Parish Council can consider what works it wishes to undertake. Otis (the lift servicing company) have agreed to refund £773.42 including VAT for the quarter January 2025-March 2025 and will make contact with the Centre Manager in advance to arrange servicing visits.	
9.	**To receive reports from the Borough Councillors:** A copy of the reports from both sets of Borough Councillors have been received and the Clerk had arranged for copies to be put on the website. Borough Cllrs Rider and Sawyer spoke to their reports.	

Item	Description	Action
	Borough Cllr Sawyer agreed to check with officers regarding the Rooksmead Fountain which may need some maintenance.	
10.	**To receive any update re: NDP:** Cllr Fitzpatrick reported that the Regulation 16 Consultation started on the 6th May and ends on the 20th June. One email has been received but to date no official feedback.	
11.	**To receive any update re: North Bedford Pinetum:** Discussion continues between Cllrs Fitzpatrick, Grant and the officer involved. Negotiations continue with regards to the number of trees considered acceptable on Waveney Green. There is also concern that trees have started to be planted at the top of Robin Hill and within Mallard. It appears that the comments made by the Parish Council have been ignored. **It was resolved** that Cllr Fitzpatrick responds to the officer again stressing that the Parish Council would accept 19 trees for Waveney Green and get this resolved and report back at the July meeting. A decision then can be taken about whether to take the matter further.	**Cllr Fitzpatrick**
12.	**To receive an update re: piece of land between Curlew Crescent and the allotments:** The Clerk reported that the officer who had been dealing with this has left the Borough Council. She is currently trying to establish who has acquired his casework.	**Clerk**

Item	Description	Action
13.	**To receive any update on outstanding matters from previous meetings:** RTI accuracy and QR codes: No response back. The Clerk has chased the officer again.	
14.	**Correspondence**: Licensing – Gino Softwhip and AK Ice Creams. Noted. UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund information. Reopened. Coffee with a Cop – Brickhill Café Friday 20th June. Noted. Email asking about progress with replacing VAS sign in Waveney Avenue. Clerk has responded.	
15.	**Employment matter.** Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), press and public are excluded from this item of the agenda.	
16.	**Date of the Next Meeting:** Thursday 3rd July 2025 at 7.30pm in St Marks Church and Community Centre, Calder Rise.	

Approved by .....

Chairman
3rd July 2025

Table 2 Payments for Approval

Payee	Reference	Amount Paid	Transaction Details
Bedford Borough Council	BACS 23	£ 257.95	Waste bins WG 11/11/24 - 8/12/25
Associated Telecom Solutions	DD	£ 21.29	Telephone Charges
Bedfordshire Pension Fund	BACS 24	£ 384.14	Pensions
C Tyrrell	BACS 25	£ 887.79	Salaries
S Bottoms	BACS 27	£ 1,153.67	Salaries
HMRC	BACS 26	£ 1,095.17	PAYE
S Bottoms	BACS 28	£ 34.61	Expenses
Techlink UK Ltd	BACS 29	£ 102.00	Tech Support
J Caves	BACS 30	£ 140.00	Internal Audit
St Marks Church Community Centre	BACS 31	£ 188.33	Office Rent
St Marks Church Community Centre	BACS 32	£ 9.88	Hall Hire
St Marks Church Community Centre	BACS 33	£ 19.76	Hall Hire
	Total Payments	**£ 4,294.59**	