Minutes of the Oakley Parish Council meeting held on 6th October 2026 in the Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs S. Fardon (Chair), C. Bays, P. Jones, R. Saunders, J. Walker, P. White, R. Worker

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk: Mrs Judith Crosier

1. Chair's remarks:
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies: Cllrs T Saunders, Hine, Olney and Abbott sent their apologies prior to the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest: Cllr Fardon declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11; Cllr Walker declared an interest in item 21.5.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st September 2026:
The minutes were unanimously **Approved** and were duly signed by the Chair.

5. Public Participation
A member of the public was invited to speak about trees on Parish Council-owned land potentially causing issues in the future due to the proximity of the trees to his property under item 11 of the agenda.

6. Clerk's Report:
Correspondence list supplied.

7. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st September 2026:
Item 11 was moved forward to this part of the meeting and the resident invited to speak – please see minute 11. .

8. East West Rail (EWR):
No update or action.

9. Police Crime Report: Action
There was one crime reported in the first half of September: malicious communication on 7th September in Westfield Road. Cllr Jones reported a suspicious person to 101.

10. Replacement bins Action
10.1 It was unanimously **Resolved** to obtain a quote for a new bin by the river towards the weir.
10.2 It was unanimously **Resolved** to obtain a quote to repair the concrete base outside the Old School by the bus stop. Clerk
10.3 The replacement liner in the bin by the river was noted and Councillors thanked Cllr White.

11. Tree survey reports on The Green and Pavenham Road Action
There are trees very close to a property in The Furlong; it was unanimously **Resolved** to obtain three quotes from tree surgeons for cutting T2 [on the report] right down to ground level and H1 [on the report] trees to be trimmed extensively. Clerk
It was further unanimously **Resolved** to speak to the resident of Grenidge Way to advise her to contact her own insurance company with regard to obtaining a structural engineer's report for possible subsidence.
Cllr Jones reported a dead silver birch on Ruffs Furze Green behind no. 35.

12. Highways Matters

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Two posts on The Green have been replaced by a contractor, who recommended that a further ten posts are rotting and need to be replaced. It was unanimously **Resolved** to carry out an audit of bollards around The Green and decide which ones need to be replaced. It was also **Resolved** to find out the cost of bollards and installation by the contractor in Clapham from the Parish Clerk. Oakley Parish Clerk will check what work has been carried out in the past year with regard to bollards.

Action: Cllr Bays; Cllr Walker; Clerk

There is an issue with parking in Lovell Road/Station Road where a car is consistently being parked on the pavement; it was unanimously **Resolved** to write to BPHA regarding their tenant's parking. It was also **Resolved** to write to Lincroft Academy and the Safer Neighbourhood Team to let them know about dangerous parking on Lovell Road at school pick-up time.

The bus shelter on Church Lane opposite the village hall has green moss/algae that needs cleaning off; it was **Resolved** to ask S Lewis to have a look and let the Clerk know if a particular type of cleaning product is required.

It was further **Resolved** to establish the owner of the land at The Furlong before investigating whether part of a hedge can be removed to make more parking space.

13. Highway condition at Willow Vale

Action: Clerk; Cllr Walker

Cllr Walker has been contacted by a resident requesting repairs to the road surface. Check lease and previous repairs. It was unanimously **Resolved** to look into the action taken in 2013/2014. Cllr Walker will send details of the resident to the Clerk to follow up.

14. E-scooters around Oakley

Action: Clerk

A resident has reported to Cllr Walker that e-scooters are driving dangerously around Oakley and narrowly missed her child; Cllr Walker reported a similar encounter with an e-bike. Cllrs Bays and Jones have also reported children driving on an e-scooter. It was unanimously **Resolved** to write to the local police to report the issue and ask them to patrol more often, and to write to Lincroft Academy to alert them to the potential dangers to pedestrians and e-scooter riders alike.

15. Borough Council Report:

Cllr Walker reported the following:

A Borough Council meeting was held to consider replacing the Mayor with a Council Leader; the motion was defeated. Planning changes will be voted on at the Borough Council meeting tomorrow. SEND reforms are being considered at central government level and Bedford Borough's overdraft with respect to SEND will be covered by the government. The library consultation is ongoing; the Call for Sites consultation is running until the end of the month and extensive development in Bedfordshire is ongoing. The leisure contract is up for renewal.

16. Planning Applications and Decisions and other planning matters:

16.1 Applications received since the Council meeting on 1st September 2026

Application no.	**26/01666/TPO** – T1, T2 and T3 sycamores, reduce by 30% by a maximum of 4 metres. Hadlow Church Lane, Oakley MK43 7RU
Parish Council comments:	No objection

16.2 Decisions notified since the Council meeting on 1st September 2026:

Application No.	26/01390/FUL Oakley Pre School, Chapel Pound, Oakley MK43 7RQ Erection of a single storey rear pergola
Parish Council comments:	No objection
Decision/Date:	Decided on 4th September - Permitted

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Application no.	23/02645/FUL Demolition of existing concrete panel garage and erection of a new green oak frame barn and widening of front path/driveway wall. , Installation of roof light to rear extension, removal of non-original stone & window in dining room and reinstate crittal-style door. 27 Station Road Oakley Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7RB
Parish Council comments:	Support (in 2023)
Decision/Date:	Application withdrawn 29th September 2026

16.3 Planning enforcement notices
None received

16.4 Planning applications received for parishes adjacent to Oakley

Application no.	26/01597/FUL at Land Adjacent 151 (Oakley Plantation), Oakley Road, Bromham, Bedfordshire. Change of Use of land to a Travellers' Caravan Site consisting of 2 pitches each containing one mobile home, one touring caravan, car parking, landscaping and associated development.
Parish Council comments:	Objection letter was submitted after the September meeting with a number of objections. It was **Resolved** at this meeting to send a further objection letter stating that the trees on the site are protected and covered by TPOs. Action: Clerk

17. Planning Policy: Action

NDP Review

The Neighbourhood Plan has been updated with the Housing Needs Survey and map of Significant Landscape Views. The Clerk has sent the draft Plan to Sonia Gallaher at Bedford Borough Council for review.

18. Correspondence: Action

A correspondence list was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting – no matters for discussion other than those detailed on the agenda.

19. Grant Application from Country Days Action

Country Days have requested a grant of £1,000 for their summer courses, which include a high proportion of children with SEND and in receipt of FSM and Pupil Premium. Country Days have confirmed that 8 young people from Oakley would be attending the summer courses. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously **Resolved** to grant a total of £400 to Country Days which equates to £50 per head for the 8 children attending from Oakley. Clerk

20. Cost of office equipment for the Clerk Action

20.1 The Clerk also works for Carlton Parish Council which has agreed that Oakley Parish Council can use the same mobile phone and phone number for Oakley PC business. It was proposed, seconded and **Resolved** that Oakley PC will pay for half the upfront purchase cost of the phone (£19.50) and half of the ongoing monthly fee for the mobile contract (£4.49) as well as half of the purchase cost of Carlton Parish Council's printer (£120) and ongoing ink and paper costs (TBC). Clerk

20.2 New laptop

It was unanimously **Resolved** to defer this item until the next meeting when the Clerk will have completed a report of comparative costs and technical specifications of a number of laptops to provide to the Councillors. Clerk

21. Finance Matters

21.1 **Accounts to pay**

Income and balances:

NatWest Bank – Current account balance at 30.09.26	£8,625.19
NatWest Bank – Business Reserve account balance at 30.09.26	£2,450.94
Nationwide – Savings Bond	£68,096.18
Hampshire Trust – Savings Bond	£85,013.20

Receipts since last meeting:

Bedford Borough Council	2nd precept payment	£32,075.00	
R Worker	September quiz	£285.00	
Bedford Borough Council	Grass cutting contribution	£1836.72	
	Total receipts September	**£34,196.72**	

Payments made since last meeting:			**Chq. No. /Online**
Old School	Rent for upper rooms September	£153.83	SO
S Lewis J Crosier	September payroll	£1385.81	SO / 002118
Anglian Water	Quarterly water bill allotments 5th Jun-4th Sep	151.94	DD

Payments to be made:

Oakley Village Hall	Hire of main hall and meeting room in August and September	£121.00	002119
AJ Gallagher	Parish Council annual insurance fee	£2813.81	002120
VC Property Maintenance	Replacement of two bollards on The Green	474.00	002121
Bedfordshire Pension Fund	Staff September pension contributions	474.34	002122
A Paice	Balance of pay in lieu of holiday	26.44	002123
	Total payments September	**£ 5601.17**	

21.2 **Updates to the Natwest, Nationwide and Hampshire Trust bank account mandates** — Action: Clerk

The bank signatories signed letters to be sent to Natwest Bank, Nationwide and Hampshire Trust Bank requesting the new Clerk's details to be added to mandates in order to make payments from the Council's bank accounts.

21.3 **Set up new Standing Order for the Clerk's salary payments** — Action

No action – the Clerk will make payments monthly to agree with the net salary calculated by the payroll service.

21.4 **Domain name protection** — Action: Clerk

EasySpace, who provides the Council's domain name, have offered identity verification before key domain changes, expert-managed DNS support and protection against accidental or malicious changes at a cost of £14.40 + VAT for one year. It was unanimously **Resolved** to pay the fee after seeking advice from the Council's IT consultant.

21.5 **Allotment rent 2027** — Action: Clerk

Allotment rental is currently £42 for a full plot and £21 for a half plot. Councillors **Resolved** to increase the rent to £47 for a full plot and £25 for a half plot for the year October 2027 – September 2028.

21.6 **Local Government 2026-27 pay agreement** — Action: Clerk

Councillors noted the increase including calculation of backdated pay for the previous Clerk to April 1st 2026 and current Clerk to September 1st 2026.

21.7 **SLCC membership fee** — Action: Clerk

Councillors **Resolved** to share the fee with Carlton PC; the Clerk is in the process of obtaining the full cost from SLCC.

22. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will take place at 7.15pm on Tuesday 3rd November 2026.

The meeting closed at 9.12pm

Signed by the Chairman _____

Date: _____

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