Minutes of the Oakley Parish Council meeting held on 3rd November 2026 in the Village Hall

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk: Mrs Judith Crosier and one member of the public (Chair of the NDP Group)

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

2. Apologies: Cllrs Olney and Hine sent their apologies prior to the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest: Cllr Abbott declared an interest for item 12.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th October 2026:
The minutes will be formally approved at the next meeting.

5. Public Participation
The member of public spoke on behalf of the NDP group and CPRE about the Local Plan consultation, recommending that a meeting is held by the NDP group to establish a response, with the Parish Council also submitting a response.

6. Clerk's Report:
The Clerk's report was circulated prior to the meeting.

7. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th October 2026:
None

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

9. Police Crime Report: — Action
The crime report for second half of September and first half of October was circulated prior to the meeting.

10. Replacement bins — Action

10.1 The quote from Bedford Borough Council for the Jubilee bin by the bridges is still awaited.

10.2 It was unanimously **Resolved** to obtain a further quote to repair the concrete base outside the Old School by the bus stop. — Cllr White

10.3 Bedford Borough Council has suggested a location for a new dog bin at the junction of Dewlands and Grenidge Way. Councillors unanimously **Approved** the location suggested by Cllr Bays. — Cllr Walker

11. Tree survey reports on The Green and Pavenham Road — Action
The Clerk confirmed that she had updated the resident near the Green regarding the reported subsidence. The Clerk has met with one tree surgeon so far and received a quote for £2464.00 + VAT to carry out the work at The Furlong/Pavenham Road, and she has two further meetings set up with tree surgeons. Councillors asked for quotes from two more local tree surgeons and will make a decision once all quotes have been received. Cllr Jones reported a dead tree on Ruffs Furze green. — Clerk

12. The hedgerow at The Furlong — Action
The Clerk is awaiting a response from Bedford Borough Highways in relation to ownership of the hedgerow. Cllr Walker will be speaking to Highways and will raise this. — Clerk Cllr Walker

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13. Highways Matters — Action

The Clerk confirmed the road closures for the Remembrance Day service on Sunday 8th November and also that the Christmas lights are in place ready for the lights switch-on event on 28th November. 226 bollards from Burleigh Place around the Green were inspected by Cllr Bays who found a number that were rotting and loose and assessed that 6 bollards need to be replaced. A quote for £1975.00 + VAT has been obtained by the Clerk to replace 10 bollards as recommended by the contractor who recently replaced 2 bollards. It was unanimously **Resolved** to obtain a further quote for 10 replacement bollards and to add a budget line for a rolling programme of bollard replacement. — Clerk

Cllr White reported the resurfaced pavement around Grenidge Way where the contractors have missed out the spur from the top corner through to Dewlands past the garages; it was unanimously **Resolved** to report this omission to Bedford Borough Council. — Clerk

Cllr Jones reported the faded white lines on Oakley Road at the railway bridge from Clapham; it was unanimously **Resolved** to report to the Clerk at Clapham Parish Council. It was also unanimously **Resolved** to write to Anglian Water about the leak on Park Road, Stevington. — Clerk

Cllr White reported potholes on Station Road near the school; it was unanimously **Resolved** to report these to Bedford Borough Council. — Clerk

14. Highway condition at Willow Vale — Action

The Clerk had circulated information on the history of the prior repair to the track in 2013-14. It was unanimously **Resolved** to ask Bedford Borough for a quote to repair the track as it was repaired in 2014 with chippings with a view of once again apportioning the cost among the residents and the Parish Council, with a meeting with all affected residents to be arranged once the quote has been received. Cllr Abbott will send further supporting information from 2024 to the Clerk. — Clerk Cllr Abbott

15. Borough Council Report:

Cllr Walker and Cllr Abbott reported on the Best Value Inspection report that was sent to the Borough Council in October. The response has been submitted, with improvements already starting to be put in place, and the outcome is awaited, including the possibility of commissioners going in, the decision to be made around the end of November.

The central government devolution programme would mean that Bedford Borough would be part of a larger council along with Central Bedfordshire, Milton Keynes and Luton. It would still be a relatively small devolved council; the Bedford Borough Mayor and Central Bedfordshire Council have proposed the addition of the Northamptonshire councils which central government are currently not accepting.

The Planning Committee meeting has had to be postponed due to new laws surrounding planning decisions and the resulting need for a new planning scheme of delegation, to be agreed on November 11th by Full Council. Parish Councils can no longer request applications to be called in but can still submit comments on applications. Schedule 2 applications can still be referred to Cllr Abbott and the Head of Planning.

There will be a new SEMH school in Biddenham for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs, with Ridgeway special school expanding to take on more pupils with better facilities. There is a new GP surgery in Great Barford. The Christmas lights have been installed in Bedford town centre. The flood / winter programme planning is ongoing and the library will be improved, with other positive work in the Borough ongoing.

16. Planning Applications and Decisions and other planning matters:

16.1 Applications received since the Council meeting on 6th October 2026

Application no.	**26/01936/TELLN Telecommunications Mast, Station Road, Oakley – for information only**
Parish Council comments:	Information noted.

Application no.	**26/01597/FUL Land Adjacent 151 (Oakley Plantation), Oakley Road, Bromham**

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Parish Council comments:	Submission of ecological and biodiversity reports and drawings noted.

Application no.	**26/01998/LBC Listed Building Consent Application, 27 Station Road Oakley MK43 7RB**
Parish Council comments:	Retrospective application noted.

16.2 Decisions notified since the Council meeting on 6th October 2026:

Application No.	**26/01679/TPO** received on 1.9.26: The Green at Station Road and Reynes Drive, Oakley
Original Parish Council comments:	No objection
Decision/Date:	9th October 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
Original Parish Council comments:	No objection
Decision/Date:	16th October 2026

Application no.	**26/01610/AOC** Land at Station Road, Oakley 25/02562/M73 - Condition 21 - Water Efficiency (discharge of condition)
Original Parish Council comments:	No objections in principle but requested the following conditions: 1. There is no left turn from the site onto Station Road 2. There is no access between 8.00am to 9.30am and 2.45pm to 4.00pm 3. The Traffic Management Plan includes frequent cleaning of Station Road.
Decision/Date:	Application re Condition 21 withdrawn on 13th October 2026

17. <u>Updates to the NDP:</u> — Action

The draft Plan is still being reviewed at the Borough Council. A meeting is to be arranged by the NDP group and the Clerk to put together a Parish Council response to the Local Plan 2050 consultation. — Clerk

18. <u>Correspondence:</u> — Action

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

19. New office laptop — Action

The Clerk circulated a report with a choice of various laptops and computer monitors. A maximum budget of £600 was unanimously **Approved** for the Clerk to purchase a laptop after consultation with Bays Media and Power Computing in terms of the specification of the laptop and other technical support that may be required. A computer monitor will be considered after purchase and use of the preferred laptop. — Clerk

20. Request to metal detect on Parish Council land — Action

After a discussion, it was unanimously **Resolved** to refuse permission for metal detecting to take place on Parish Council land. The Clerk will inform the resident. — Clerk

21. <u>Finance Matters</u>

21.1 **Accounts to pay**

Income and balances:

NatWest Bank – Current account balance at 31.10.26	£45,466.81
NatWest Bank – Business Reserve account balance at 31.10.26	£2,450.94
Nationwide – Savings Bond	£68,096.18
Hampshire Trust – Savings Bond	£85,013.20

Receipts since last meeting:

R Worker	October quiz	£282.00	
Resident	Allotment rent	£24.03	
Resident	Allotment rent	£51.20	
Resident	Allotment rent	£25.60	
Resident	Allotment rent	£51.20	
Resident	Allotment rent	£25.60	
Resident	Allotment rent	£1.60	
Resident	Allotment rent	£25.60	
Resident	Allotment rent	£51.20	
Resident	Allotment rent	£25.60	
Resident	Allotment rent	£25.60	
Resident	Allotment rent	£25.60	
Resident	Allotment rent	£51.20	
Resident	Allotment rent	£51.20	
Nationwide	Funds released for new play equipment	£10,000	
Natwest	Bank interest October	TBC	Statement awaited
	Total receipts September	**£10,717.23**	

Payments made since last meeting:			**Chq. No. /Online**
Old School	Rent for upper rooms September	£153.83	SO
S Lewis	September payroll	£479.06	SO

Payments to be made:

Carlton Parish Council	Share of mobile phone and printer costs	£129.50	002124
Oakley Village Hall	Hire of main hall/meeting room in October	£68.50	002130
J Crosier	October payroll	£906.75	002125
HMRC	Quarterly deductions and payments	£1398.66	002129
Bedfordshire Pension Fund	Staff October pension contributions	£356.07	002126
Country Days	Grant	£400.00	002127
The Christmas Decorators	Christmas tree lights and installation	£3644.40	002128
Carlton Parish Council	Share of SLCC membership	£378.67	002131
	Total payments September	**£ 7,565.94**	

21.2 **Quiz donation** — Action: Clerk

Cllr Worker proposed a donation of £250.00 to the Day Centre which was seconded and unanimously **Approved.**

21.3 **SLCC** — Action: Clerk

It was unanimously **Resolved** to pay two thirds of the total cost of membership to the SLCC with Carlton and Chellington Parish Council to pay a third, as per the ratio of salary that the Clerk receives from each.

22. Clerk's Delegated Powers — Action

It was unanimously **Resolved** to reapprove the delegated powers of spending and submission of planning comments as is required with the appointment of a new Clerk.

23. Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will take place at 7.15pm on Tuesday 1st December 2026.

The meeting closed at 9.18pm

Signed by the Chairman _____

Date: _____

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