

BLUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Blunham Parish Council was held on Thursday 30th July 2026 in Blunham Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr Jones (Chair), Cllr Aldis, Cllr Hunt and Cllr Endacott, UCllr Bell and Mrs J Graves (Clerk), there were 20 members of the public present.

Mike Amos from CPRE (Campaign for Protection of Rural England) gave a presentation about how residents could respond to the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan, Call for Sites. Handouts of his slides had been distributed to those present and would be added to the Parish Council website. He advised that only a small proportion of sites would be approved in the Local Plan, but that it was important to engage with the consultation.

Mike also shared a document showing the classification of agricultural land in the Central Bedfordshire area. Residents were invited to ask questions and also advised to respond individually to the Call for Sites consultation.

01:07/26 Co-option to fill a casual vacancy

To consider the co-option of Michael Boreham to fill a casual vacancy.

PROPOSED by Cllr Aldis, SECONDED by Cllr Hunt.

RESOLVED: that Michael Boreham be elected onto Blunham Parish Council.

Michael signed his Declaration of Office in the presence of the Clerk.

02:07/26 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Burgoyne, Cllr Kennedy, Cllr Thacker, Cllr Hall and UCllrs Ford and Pashby.

Cllr Aldis proposed that Cllr Burgoyne's apologies were accepted due to ongoing medical treatment, seconded by Cllr Endacott. **RESOLVED: that Cllr Burgoyne's apologies were accepted.**

03:07/26 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Endacott declared that she owned land contained in some of the sites identified in the CBC Local Plan Call for Sites (agenda item 07:07/26 g). Cllr Jones advised that unfortunately the Parish Council would exclude those specific sites from the discussion as due to the number of Councillors present if Cllr Endacott left the room (as required due to the declaration) for the discussion on those sites, the meeting would become inquorate and have to close, with no further business being discussed.

04:07/26 Minutes of Previous Meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 28th May 2026, were approved as a true record of decisions made and signed by the Chair.

05:07/26 Public Participation (extended session)

- A member of the public asked if the white lines in Park Lane could be painted when the other roads are re-painted as it is a dangerous junction. PCllr Hunt commented that UCllr Pashby had advised that the work in Blunham would be done during this financial year. UCllr Bell advised that it may have been moved slightly and advised everyone to report via FixMyStreet as there is not a bottomless pit of money.
 - The issue was raised of flooding on Tempsford Road. Sites on higher ground could cause flooding further down the village. Infrastructure is already stretched and also the flow of traffic from other villages impacts on Blunham as the village has been used as a cut through during the Black Cat roadworks. There is more speeding traffic through the village and asked if there could be a 20mph speed limit. The guinea fowl and peacocks have been killed on Station Road by vehicles.
 - Speed restrictions were requested as there has been a serious accident at the A1 Sandy junction. UCllr Bell advised that statistics show that Blunham is a low risk area as got some traffic calming measures. Such as SIDs, there is also an active SpeedWatch Group, although more volunteers were welcome. Police are informed of speeding vehicles and send letters. There was a request for average speed cameras, but the costs to install are £100k and it costs £20k per year to monitor them and unfortunately funding received from fines goes to central government rather than the Council.
- Call for Sites Discussion
- There was a concern that further houses would increase the flooding issues already experienced in the village.
 - The sewage there have already been issues locally.
 - Lack of broadband was also raised as an issue.
 - It was felt the amount of sites identified in Blunham was unfair. The Clerk advised that many CBC villages were seeing a similar pattern, but that only 8-10% will eventually go forward to the final plan.

- There was a comment that many of the landowners do not live in the village so therefore do not realise the impact of development.
- There was a request for an additional meeting to discuss the three sites which could not be discussed as they were large sites which would have an impact on the village and residents would like the Parish Council to submit comments.

06:07/26 Unitary Councillors Report – UCllr Bell

- The zebra crossing is still in progress, hoping for further updates in the next few months.
- The PCSO had recently attended a coffee morning at the village hall and been told about the ASB issues.
- Advised residents to report issues to Amplius Housing – UCllr Bell has met with the manager who will deal with any concerns.

14 members of the public left the meeting.

07:07/26 Planning

Planning Applications for consideration:

Application No.	Details	Decision
a) CB/26/01579/FULL	Land South of 196 Grange Road, Blunham Erection of detached dwelling.	No Objection

Planning Responses under Scheme of Delegation

- b) **CB/TCA/26/00300** – Works to trees within a conservation area: T1 Yew – Reduce the left of the Yew Tree (T1) by 0.5m. Prune overhang of Cherry and Prunus Group (G1) back to boundary – **The Gables, 17 Park Lane, Blunham, MK44 3NJ. Response: No Objection.**

Planning Decisions:

Application No.	Details	Decision
c) CB/26/00986/FULL	Wisteria House, 21 High Street, Blunham, MK44 3NL Conversion of onion barn into a garage and habitable spaces including a loft conversion with enlargement of dormer to side elevation and insertion of one rooflight to each side elevation.	Granted
d) CB/26/00759/FULL	29 Jubilee Close, Blunham, MK44 3LZ Single storey rear/side extension..	Granted
e) CB/25/01666/FULL	16 Walnut Close, Blunham, MK44 3NB Installation of a heat pump and solar panels to the south elevation.	Granted
f) CB/26/01543/FULL	1 Park View, Blunham, MK44 3PB Single storey front garage extension.	Granted

- g) **CBC Call for Sites** – to consider sites identified on the map provided by CBC.

Site 136284 – Land behind John Donne School.

RESOLVED: that Council Objects to this site for the following reasons:

Loss of important open green space – harm to protected habitats, local wildlife or diversity.
Land is liable to flooding and has done recently – and could increase flooding around the school site.
School is now a primary school with a larger age group – unsure how leisure and tourism will impact.
Heritage impact – negative effects on the setting of nearby listed buildings and the Conservation Area.

Site 136289 – Land off Barford Road.

RESOLVED: that Council Objects to this site for the following reasons:

Loss of green space/agricultural land (rated as excellent agricultural land – CBC map) – harm to protected habitats, local wildlife and biodiversity.
Flood risk – could worsen local drainage issues. Further impact on water supply and sewage treatment plants.
Traffic safety – dangerous road access, severe congestion or insufficient parking. In Blunham two of three main exits/entrances to the village are via traffic light controlled single track historic bridges.
Lack of a reliable broadband service in the village – impact on residents wishing to work from home.
Overburden of services – lack of capacity in schools and GP surgeries for extra residents. Blunham has a very infrequent bus service, more houses would lead to increased vehicle movements.

Site 136473 – Land behind Walnut Close

RESOLVED: that Council Objects to this site for the following reasons:

Access would be through a gap in Walnut Close, but would Walnut Close cope with increased traffic movements? Walnut Close joins Barford Road close to the chicanes.

Increase in traffic congestion – two out of three entrances/exits to Blunham are via traffic light controlled single track historic bridges.

Loss of green space – harm to protected habitats, local wildlife or biodiversity. This agricultural land is rated as Excellent by CBC.

Overburden of services, including schools, GP surgeries, utilities. Lack of public transport – the bus service is infrequent which would impact on residents without cars and increase traffic movements in and around the village.

Lack of reliable broadband facilities.

Site 136518 – Land off Station Road

RESOLVED: that Council Objects to this site for the following reasons:

Flood risk – site could worsen flooding in other parts of the village.

Heritage impact – there are World War 2 nissen huts which were used for keeping pigs on the land.

Development of this land would impact on the views across Blunham Meadows. There is a well used public footpath across this land.

Increase in traffic congestion – two out of three entrances/exits to Blunham are via traffic light controlled single track historic bridges.

Overburden of services, including schools, GP surgeries, utilities. Lack of public transport – the bus service is infrequent which would impact on residents without cars and increase traffic movements in and around the village.

Site 136593 – Land adjacent to Armistice Croft/Barford Road

RESOLVED that Council Objects to this site for the following reasons:

The area is already overdeveloped and a development on this site would extend the village envelope. It would result in a loss of green space which is rated as Excellent agricultural land.

Dangerous road access and increased congestion.

Increase in traffic congestion – two out of three entrances/exits to Blunham are via traffic light controlled single track historic bridges.

Lack of a reliable broadband service in the village – impact on residents wishing to work from home.

Overburden of services – lack of capacity in schools and GP surgeries for extra residents. Blunham has a very infrequent bus service, more houses would lead to increased vehicle movements.

Flood risk – could worsen local drainage issues. Further impact on water supply and sewage treatment plants.

Site 136611 – Land off Station Road

RESOLVED: that Council Objects to this site for the following reasons:

Reluctant to see this site develop as it includes the only land which would allow for the current cemetery to be extended. There are mature trees around the boundary of the cemetery which could be impacted by a housing development.

It would be a large-scale development behind an historic linear road.

It would result in a loss of green space which is rated as Excellent agricultural land.

A development of this size would worsen flooding and local drainage issues.

Increase in traffic congestion – two out of three entrances/exits to Blunham are via traffic light controlled single track historic bridges.

Overburden of services, including schools, GP surgeries, utilities. Lack of public transport – the bus service is infrequent which would impact on residents without cars and increase traffic movements in and around the village.

Site 136767 – Land off Station Road.

RESOLVED: that Council Objects to this site for the following reasons:

Flood risk – the site gets boggy in the winter and is prone to flooding.

Coalescence with other proposed sites would create an overdevelopment of the area.

Heritage impact – negative impact of nearby listed buildings.

Access line of site on highway is impacted by the stanchions of the old railway bridge.

08:07/26 Highways

Cllr Hunt advised that the CBC Local Transport Plan consultation was open until September. He also advised that there would be a temporary road closure at Wellsfield during September.

09:07/26 Maintenance

- a) Update on Churchyard boundary wall repairs. Awaiting a date from Ardborg Construction and Albion Archaeology about the timing of the work.
- b) Damage to bus stop on 16/03/26. The Clerk advised that the offer had been received from insurers and due to concerns about the safety of the bus stop it had been removed. Awaiting confirmation of date of installation of new bus stop.
- c) Grass Cutting Service Level Agreement with CBC – decision deferred until September meeting.
- d) To consider quotation for tree work at the cemetery.

RESOLVED: to accept quotation from Apex Trees to carry out work on a copper beech tree and a lime tree, removing low growth to gutter height and removing debris at a cost of £200 + VAT. (Open Spaces Act 1906 s10)

- e) To consider tree work to two Magnolia trees in the Churchyard.

RESOLVED: to accept quotation from Apex Trees in the sum of £200 + VAT. (Open Spaces Act 1906 s10)

- f) Flood work at the Pound – Cllr Hunt gave an update on a meeting he had attended. Awaiting confirmation of start date.

10:07/26 Communications

The Clerk advised that the September issue of Blunham Matters had been published and asked for ideas for future articles.

11:07/26 Community Safety**Crime report**

The following information is compiled from the police.uk website and the crime stats supplied to the parish council each month. This report covers May and June 2026 with a total of four reported crimes.

Number of crimes	When	Where	Crime
1	13/5/26	Undisclosed	Stalking *6
1	14/5/26	Undisclosed	Sexual *5
1	16/5/26	Armistice Croft	Possession of cannabis *9
1	19/5/26	Station Road	Assault with injury *5
1	03/06/26	Barford Road	Other theft *4

* 1 Details, case timelines and current statuses are not provided for anti-social behaviour

* 2 Criminal damage and arson includes damage to buildings and vehicles and deliberate fire damage

* 3 Vehicle crime Includes theft from or of a vehicle or interference with a vehicle

* 4 Other theft includes theft by employee, blackmail and making off without payment

* 5 Violence and sexual offences includes offences against the person such as common assault, grievous bodily harm, and sexual offences

* 6 Public order includes offences which cause fear, alarm, or distress

* 7 Burglary includes offences where a person enters a house or other building with the intention of stealing

* 8 Shoplifting includes theft from shops or stalls

* 9 Having possession of a controlled drug

* 10 Other – includes forgery, perjury, and other miscellaneous crimes.

Community Police Links.

PCSO, Lauren Jerrom, Lauren.Jerrom@beds.police.uk , Constable Jack Sharp

Jack.Sharp@beds.police.uk . Constable Sharp has replaced Sergeant Daniel Cook who has moved to a post in 'Traffic'

Communities Safety Officer is Elaine Mountfort: Elaine.Mountfort@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Police Priority Setting Meeting 8th July 2026

The July meeting included a talk about rural crimes such as fly tipping, agricultural theft, hare coursing, stealing or damaging livestock etc.

It was agreed in the area group discussions that the local priorities remain as ASB, speeding and illegal use of scooters and ebikes.

The next Priority Setting meeting is to be held on 14th October 2026.

Speedwatch

Date	Time	Location	total	30+	35+
18/5/26	2.30pm	Barford Road	217	7	1
15/6/26	10.30am	Barford Road	230	13	3

03/7/26	2.00pm	Station Road	83	1	0
15/6/26	2.00pm	High Street	Cancelled		
23/7/26	3.30pm	Station Road	116	17	4

An article, in the latest Blunham Matters, sets out some highlights since we started Blunham speedwatch in 2016.

12:07/26 BSSC/Playing Field Update

- a) To receive annual ROSPA Playground inspection and consider quotations for recommended repairs.
RESOLVED to acknowledge receipt of the annual ROSPA inspection and accept quotation from CPM to carry out some minor repairs and replace grass matting around the spica at a cost of £145.00 + VAT. (*Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s19*)
- b) To confirm arrangements for summer holiday youth activities provided by Amplius Housing Youth Officer. Cllr Endacott advised that she could attend most sessions, the Clerk would also be in attendance when available.

13:07/26 Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk advised that the consultant is currently producing the draft plan and the aim is for it be agreed at the September Parish Council meeting with the consultation period taking place from October to November. The Village Hall has been provisionally booked for Saturday 17th October, midway through the consultation period.

Expenses for this will include printing hard copies of the plans (10-15 required). Publicity for the event including flyers to encourage participation and posters explaining what the plan covers. There will also be the cost of hiring the hall. All of this will be covered by the Neighbourhood Plan Reserve. These were agreed.

14:07/26 Reports from Representatives – no reports received.

15:07/26 Finance - Current Statement

Balance reconciled 20/07/26 - £101,113.76

- a) Payments for approval

Payee	Detail	Amount	Date Paid
Mark Zwetsloot	Inv 3315 and 3316 The Pound, speed cameras inc	£200.00	After meeting
BATPC	Annual Membership fee inc NALC membership	£356.00	After meeting
Clerk	Clerk's account inc expenses July 26		After meeting
Beds Pension	Emper/Empee Pension July 2026		After meeting
D2D Distribution	Delivery of June Blunham Matters	£354.00	After meeting
Andy Muskett	Quarterly streetlighting maintenance April-June 26	£126.00	After meeting
Blunham Village Hall	Committee Room Booking 10/07/26	£12.00	After meeting
Blue Parrot Payroll Services (M Prowse)	Payroll Services April-June 2026	£18.00	After meeting
MATTA	Zipwire resurfacing	£7,196.16	After meeting
CPM Playgrounds	Replacing timber edge of bark pit & replacing swing hanger fittings	£696.00	After meeting
Techies Limited	Laptop, MS licences and annual IT support	£3,013.42	After Meeting

Approved expenditure since last meeting (including forthcoming DD and SO payments):

Payee	Detail	Amount	Date Paid/Due	Online SO DD
Clerk	Clerk's account inc expenses June 26		29/06/26	OL
Waterplus	Cemetery Water bill 16/05/26 – 16/06/26	£6.86	07/07/26	DD
HMRC	PAYE/NICs April-June 2026	£949.63	23/07/26	DD
SSE	Streetlighting Electricity 01/05/26-31/05/26	£112.43	22/06/26	DD
Beds Pension	Pension Emper/Empee June 26		29/04/26	OL
SSE	Streetlighting Electricity 01/06/26-30/06/26	£101.05	21/07/26	DD
Mark Zwetsloot	July S/O	£855.00	08/07/26	DD
Mark Zwetsloot	June S/o	£855.00	08/06/26	OL
Waterplus	Cemetery Water bill 16/06/26-16/07/26	£6.63	06/08/26	DD

Income received since last meeting

Payer	Detail	Amount	Date Received
AJ Mills	Wardley Memorial amendment	£225.00	16/06/26
Wrighton & Barker	2 x memorial installation requests (non resident)	£450.00	19/06/26
Blunham PCC	Judd Bequest payment	£100.40	23/06/26
Resident	Transfer of Deed – Wardley Memorial	£30.00	15/06/26

RESOLVED: that these accounts be paid.

b) To receive quarterly finance report – received, no questions asked.

16:07/26 Policy Document Approval

a) Risk Assessment

RESOLVED: to approve and adopt the Risk Assessment.

b) Internal Audit Terms of Reference

RESOLVED: to approve and adopt the Internal Audit Terms of Reference.

c) Review of Internal Audit

RESOLVED: to approve and adopt the Review of Internal Audit

d) IT Policy

RESOLVED: to approve and adopt the IT Policy

17:07/26 Correspondence

- BATPC – finance training schedule (emailed 18/06/26)
- National Highways – A428 update (emailed 18/06/26)
- CBC - Town and Parish Forum slides and notes (emailed 18/06/26)
- Resident – regarding cemetery trees (emailed 08/06/26)
- Bedford Borough Council – letter requesting support for bid application for Great Barford Bridge
- Black Cat Update – (emailed 14/07/26)
- OPCC – Annual Report (emailed 14/07/26)
- Streetworks – Advance notification of Barford Rd closure 30/9-2/10/2026 (emailed 28/07/26)

a) To consider response to request from Bedford Borough Council regarding their grant application for Great Barford Bridge. Draft letter circulated with Agenda.

RESOLVED: to send letter to Bedford Borough Council supporting their grant application for Great Barford Bridge.

18:07/26 Date of Next meeting

The next Meeting of Blunham Parish Council will on Thursday 24th September 2026 at 7pm. Following the previous discussion it was **RESOLVED** to arrange an additional meeting to discuss the three areas included in the CBC Call For Sites consultation which had not been discussed. Clerk to confirm details as soon as possible.

19:07/26 To exclude members of the public and press from the meeting under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by reason of the confidential nature of the business on the grounds that the business relates to: Agenda item 20:07/26 – the business relates to labour relations issues.

RESOLVED: to exclude the press and public.

Members of the public left the meeting.

20:07/26 Clerk pay scale increase due to CiLCA qualification.

Members to agree a salary increase of one scale point due to completion of CiLCA qualification as per employment contract – backdated to 1st June 2026.

The Clerk was congratulated on passing CiLCA

RESOLVED: that Council agree to the salary increase of one scale point, backdated to 1st June 2026.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed (Chair) _____

Date _____