

BLUNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Blunham Parish Council was held on Thursday 24th September 2026 in Blunham Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr Aldis (Chair), Cllr Hall, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Boreham, Cllr Kennedy and Mrs J Graves (Clerk), there were 3 members of the public present.

In the absence of a Chair or Vice Chair Cllr Hall PROPOSED Cllr Aldis to open the meeting, this was SECONDED by Cllr Kennedy.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Aldis open the meeting.

01:09/26 Election of Chair

a) Election of Chair.

Cllr Jones was PROPOSED by Cllr Aldis, SECONDED by Cllr Hunt.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Jones be elected as Chair of Blunham Parish Council. Clerk to arrange for Cllr Jones to sign the Declaration prior to the next meeting.

b) Election of Vice Chair.

Cllr Aldis was PROPOSED by Cllr Hall, SECONDED by Cllr Kennedy.

RESOLVED that Cllr Aldis be elected Vice Chair of Blunham Parish Council.

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Aldis (Vice Chair) continued to Chair the meeting.

02:09/26 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Jones, Cllr Thacker and UCllrs Bell, Ford and Pashby.

It was noted that Cllr Burgoyne and Cllr Endacott had resigned from the Parish Council. Cllr Aldis thanked them both for their time and work with the Parish Council and wished them all the best for the future.

03:09/26 Declarations of Interest – none received.

04:09/26 Minutes of Previous Meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 30th July 2026 and Monday 10th August 2026, were approved as a true record of decisions made and signed by the Chair.

05:09/26 Public Participation (extended session)

- A member of the public thanked BPC/CBC for the repainting of the white lines and advised that it had resulted in safer driving around the junction.
- A member of the public asked that PC meetings be added to the website calendar – Action the Clerk.
- A member of the public advised that there were a number of signs around the village for events at the sports field and café which were sometimes for months in advance which lead to them looking shabby and asked if they could be displayed for a shorter time.

06:09/26 Unitary Councillors Report – not present.

Comments for the Clerk to put forward to the Ward Councillors

- The PC are concerned that the zebra crossing has still not been installed.
- Concern that CBC do not have a 5 year supply of housing which can lead to planning appeals being approved.

07:09/26 Planning

Planning Applications for consideration:

Application No.	Details	Decision
a) CB/26/02162/FULL	40 Armistice Croft, Blunham, MK44 3FD Garage conversion, alterations to doors.	No Objection

08:09/26 Highways

Pedestrian Crossing High Street

No further update.

Refurbishment of Road Markings

Work has been completed in High Street, The Hill and Barford Road.

Road Closure – Station Road

There will be a temporary road closure affecting the whole length of Station Road, which will be in effect from 11th – 17th November to enable carriageway patching works to be carried out.

Road Closure – Barford Road

There will be a temporary road closure in place on Barford Road, between Station Road and Armistice Croft, from 30th September to 2nd October between the hours of 09.00 & 15.00 to enable carriageway patching works to be carried out.

09:09/26 Maintenance

- a) Update on Churchyard boundary wall repairs. Awaiting a date from Ardborg Construction and Albion Archaeology about the timing of the work. Clerk to chase up due to time limit on planning approval.
- b) Damage to bus stop on 16/03/26. The Clerk advised that the payment had been received from the insurers and that the invoice will be submitted to the insurers once the new bus stop has been installed so it can be reclaimed from the third party insurers. Liaising with CBC regarding the replacement bus stop.
- c) Grass Cutting Service Level Agreement with CBC.
RESOLVED: to agree to the CBC Grass Cutting Service Level Agreement as provided by CBC.
- d) To receive and approve grass cutting tender documents for the new contract starting in April 2027.
RESOLVED: to approve the tender documents, with the addition of Rights of Way maintenance at an hourly rate.
- e) To agree additional work (frosting for windows) under Village Hall S106 funding – deferred due to not receiving invoice.

10:09/26 Communications

The Clerk advised that the December issue of Blunham Matters was being prepared.

- a) To nominate a Councillor to assist with the production of Blunham Matters and Facebook page administration.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Hall will assist with the production of Blunham Matters and the Facebook page.

11:09/26 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 July and August 2026 with a total of five reported crimes.

Number of crimes	When	Where	Crime
1	3/7/26	Barford Road	Other theft *4
1	4/8/26	High Street	Other theft *4
1	6/8/26	High Street	Residential Burglary *7
1	24/8/26	Barford Road	Possession of weapons *6
1	24/8/26	Station Road	Theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle *3

* 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

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

Police Priority Setting Meeting 8th October 2026 and any locally identified priorities can be notified to the Clerk up until that time.

Speedwatch

Date	Time	Location	total	30+	35+
15/6/26	2 pm	Station Road	143	8	3
3/7/26	10.30	Barford Road	230	13	3
15/7/26	3 pm	High Street	Cancelled		
23/7/26	3pm	Station Road	116		
7/8/26	11am	Barford Road	158	13	2

12:09/26 BSSC/Playing Field Update

- a) To receive receive feedback on Amplius Youth Events.
Some dates had been better attended than others, but there had been positive feedback from residents.
The Amplius Youth Activity Officer had advised that running the events for a number of years leads to an increase in attendance due to word-of-mouth recommendations.

13:09/26 Neighbourhood Plan

At the NPSG meeting on 16th September it was agreed that holding the consultation from October-November would not be realistic due to the work required and also waiting for advice from CBC.

The group was working towards the consultation taking place from beginning of December to end of January. It is not ideal holding it over the Christmas period, but the timescale would be extended to allow for this. The December Blunham Matters can be used to detail what work has been done on the Neighbourhood Plan as well as explain what is included. This will mean that there will not be the cost of producing and delivering a flyer with the date of the consultation event, which is going to be scheduled for the first couple of weeks of January and more detail can be included in Blunham Matters than on an A5 flyer.

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

- a) To confirm agreement to the Cemetery Chapel and Blunham Festival of Britain Village Sign being designated as Heritage Assets in the Neighbourhood Plan.
RESOLVED: to agree to the Cemetery Chapel and the Blunham Festival of Britain Village Sign being designated as Heritage Assets in the Neighbourhood Plan.

14:09/26 Reports from Representatives

- a) Village Hall – Cllr Aldis advised that the village hall windows had been installed and frosting added to give privacy to hall users. The solar panels were producing a good amount of power and that a new cooker had been purchased.

15:09/26 Finance - Current Statement

Balance reconciled 14/09/26 - £109,748.70

- a) Payments for approval

Payee	Detail	Amount	Date Paid
Mark Zwetsloot	Inv 3317 and 3318 The Pound, speed cameras inc	£200.00	After meeting
XLPress	Design and Production of Sept Blunham Matters	£273.00	After meeting
Clerk	Clerk's account inc expenses September 26		29/09/26
Beds Pension	Emper/Empee Pension Sept 2026		29/09/26
Apex Tree Specialists	Work to magnolia trees in the churchyard and work to two trees on the cemetery path	£480.00	After meeting
Blunham Village Hall	Committee Room Booking 10/08/26	£12.00	After meeting
CloudNext	Annual website hosting	£119.98	After meeting
CloudNext	Annual domain name registration	£60.00	After meeting
Dignity Funerals	Reimbursement of payment in error (rec 31/07/26)	£358.68	After meeting
BATPC	New Cllr Training – Cllr Boreham	£35.00	After Meeting
Blunham Village Hall	Committee Room Booking 16/09/26	£18.00	After Meeting
Reach and Rescue	Replacement throwline and cabinet	£300.00	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 August 26		28/08/26	OL
Waterplus	Cemetery Water bill 16/07/26 – 16/08/26	£9.68	07/09/26	DD
SSE	Streetlighting Electricity 01/07/26-31/07/26	£108.36	22/08/26	DD
Beds Pension	Pension Emper/Empee August 26		28/08/26	OL
SSE	Streetlighting Electricity 01/08/26-31/08/26	£121.08	21/09/26	DD
Mark Zwetsloot	August S/O	£855.00	08/08/26	DD
Mark Zwetsloot	Sept S/o	£855.00	08/09/26	OL
Excelsior Windows Ltd	Village Hall Windows and Doors (S106)	£19,800.00	07/09/26	OL
HMRC	PAYE/NICs Jul-Sept 2026	£1,080.32	23/10/26	DD

Income received since last meeting

Payer	Detail	Amount	Date Received
Dignity Funerals*	Payment in error, refund to be processed	£358.68	31/07/26
CBC	Final instalment of 2026/2027 precept	£31,000	09/09/26
CBC	S106 funding for zipwire safety surface	£5,996.80	25/08/26
HMRC	VAT Reclaim 2025/2026	£2,647.44	24/08/26
Ecclesiastical Insurance	Insurance claim for bus stop	5764.00	26/08/26

* This payment was made in error and it is listed as a payment to process the refund

RESOLVED: that these accounts be paid.

- b) To receive half yearly finance report – received, no questions asked.
- c) To note receipt of final instalment of 2026/2027 precept from CBC in the sum of £31,000 – noted.
- d) AGAR 2025/2026 – to acknowledge receipt of Notice of Conclusion of Audit from Mazars with no issues raised – noted and published on website and noticeboard.
- e) Remembrance Sunday – to consider and agree donation/purchase of wreath.

RESOLVED: to donate £75.00 to the Royal British Legion, including the cost of the wreath. Cllr Aldis advised that the Chair of the Council lays the wreath on Remembrance Sunday. (LGA 1972 s.137)

- f) Budget setting/precept 2027/2028. The Clerk advised that the budget/precept would be discussed and agreed at the November meeting and asked for project ideas to be budgeted. There was a discussion regarding extending the Christmas lights display. Cllrs to advise Clerk in advance of the November meeting.
- g) To agree bank signatories for the Barclays and Hampshire Trust Accounts.

RESOLVED: to remove Ellie Burgoyne as a bank signatory and add Cllr Hunt and Cllr Boreham. Action the Clerk.

16:09/26 Christmas Lights

- a) To consider quotation for the installation and decommissioning of the Christmas lights display.

RESOLVED: to accept quotation from Andy Muskett in the sum of £1,705 + VAT. (LGA 1972 s.44)

17:09/26 Community Fund Application

- a) To consider Community Fund Application received from the East Anglia Air Ambulance charity.

RESOLVED: to award a Community Fund Grant of £500 to be paid with November payments. (LGA 1972 s.137)

18:09/26 Correspondence

- Resident – query regarding early morning shoot (emailed 08/09/26)
- CBC - Road Safety Partnership details and application form. (emailed 08/09/26)
- BATPC - confirmation of details of annual pay review agreement. (emailed 08/09/26)
- CBC - Town and Parish Council update (emailed 08/09/26)
- NALC - Chief Executive Bulletin. (emailed 08/09/26)
- BATPC – information regarding AGM on 14/10/26 (24/09/26)

19:09/26 Date of Next meeting

The next Meeting of Blunham Parish Council will on Thursday 26th November 2026 at 7pm. The Clerk advised that as a planning application had been received that a Planning Committee Meeting would be held on Thursday 29th October 2026.

20:09/26 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 21:09/26 – the business relates to labour relations issues.
RESOLVED: to exclude the press and public.

Members of the public left the meeting.

21:09/26 NALC National Pay Award.
Members to noted that the agreement had been reached and approved the increase in salary scales as informed by NALC/SLCC – including back pay, new rates payable from 1st April 2026, to be paid with September salary.
RESOLVED: that Council agree to the increase in salary rates, backdated to 1st April 2026.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.05pm

Signed (Chair)_____

Date_____