

BOLNHURST & KEYSOE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes

MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 9TH MARCH 2026 AT 7.30pm.

MEETING HELD AT BOLNHURST OLD SCHOOL

	Present: Chairman M Gossage, Cllr Cook, Cllr Saunderson, Cllr Scorer, Cllr Selley
	In attendance: the meeting was attended by a number of parishioners
1	Chairman's Welcome
2	Members of the Public were invited to raise any issues with Parish Councillors. One resident asked about support package for Bolnhurst defibrillator- had it been renewed. (Clerk post meeting has emailed supplier- no response) One resident asked about lights at Public sewage plant. Another resident offered to visit the site. A resident spoke on behalf of St Dunstan's Church- requesting grant support to the church for repair of the footpath. They need to spend Rural Grant monies £4,251 by end May else this will be lost. St Dunstan's have committed available reserves including funds put aside for a replacement mower, but still have an estimated £2,500 shortfall. They are actively undertaking fund raising via a new fund raising group and village events and propose starting a 100 Club- open to all, not just residents.
3	Apologies received - Cllr Faulkner, Cllr Bellamy and B Cllr Sira.
4	No declarations of interest in any item on the agenda.
5	Approved minutes of the Meeting held on February 9th 2026.
6	Late Correspondence- to report any important items received after the agenda was published. Grant request of St Dunstan's for footpath repair discussed- Cllr Selley suggested £1,500. This was approved. Keysoe Village Show had asked if dogs could be allowed onto the playing field for the village show. It was agreed to grant a one-day exemption providing this is fully risk assessed and no flexi-leads permitted. There will be a right to asked badly behaved dogs to be removed. Following local first aid training the PC had been made aware of blood kits to stop excessive blood loss in the event of injury. It was agreed that given this is a rural area with many people working with farm machinery it would be a good idea to have these available in our parish. It was agreed that two Wingman boxes and blood kits should be purchased; one to be installed at Bolnhurst Old School and the other at Keysoe Village Hall.

	Flooding at Pitts Corner – the Chairman advised that the Bedford Borough Council Highways department was coming to remedy the issue on 10 March.
7	To review any planning granted or planning applications a) Planning Committee Update- 4 houses- 25/00820/FUL- requested by Cllrs Bellamy & Cook (within 6 months last discussed) This was discussed - Cllr Selley felt that it was inappropriate to be seen to discuss this again with a view to reversing a previous decision when there had been no material change in the application itself in relation to the reasons for objection. Although in favour of the development in principle he felt that the Parish Council should be seen to be always acting in accordance with Nolan Principles. An alternative motion put forwards by Cllr Selley to not review as no fundamental changes to site, layout or design. This was supported, 4 in favour with one abstention. b) 26/00307/S73A Retrospective planning permission Application Proposal: Replacement storage and welfare barn (development already commenced) LOCATION : Land at College Farm (Keysoe International), Church Road, Keysoe, Bedford, Bedfordshire, MK44 2JP No objection c) Update on any previous planning applications - None
8	Borough Cllr Sira Update- absent as meeting clash with another PC It was reported that the Bedford Borough Council tax increase for 2026/27 would be 4.99%.
9	Invoices and payments received or paid since February 9th 2026 were approved. Clerk- February payroll and Pension Scribe Accounting System £27.36 Bank balances £27,889.93, Current Account £12,776.01 and savings £15,113.92 Village show Playground Donation £250 Received St Dunstan's Playground Donation £269.50 Received SDC Builders Playground Donation £1,000 Received Clerk to prepare a reserves schedule
10	Crime Stats - no crimes reported in the Parish in the last month.

11	Data mapping update - training progress- Clerk & Cllr Selley- met online Friday 27th February 2026. Cllr Selley explained to Cllrs about Attestation 10, and GDPR impact on BKPC and when and where it applied. Cllr Selley had completed the data mapping and drafted a Risk Assessment which had been circulated to Councillors for comment. The next stage is to draft a Data Protection policy to include retention and security of data and use of Council email. A data protection training video had been used as part of the induction event held for new Councillors on 6 March.
12	Damage to PC owned Memorial bench adjacent to Keysoe War Memorial - Insurance Claim update- since the village handyman could repair for estimated £100 it was agreed not to pursue the insurance claim. All approved - reinstated as before
13	Keysoe War Memorial - Refurbishment quote from AJ Mills to clean the memorial, £1,560.06 - all in agreement.
14	Gate to KVH Car Park damage- repair authorised £300 for Health & Safety reasons - all in agreement - fixed as dangerous.
15	Offer of possible Red Cross First Aid / Defibrillator and Wingman bandage training – Cllr Cook - to investigate further including any associated travel costs. Wingman kit available from £175 online (discussed under late correspondence).
16	Stop East Park 17th March- public meeting King's House, Ampthill Rd, Bedford. All residents invited to register by 10th March 2026. Cllr Bellamy had registered to attend and will speak on behalf of BKPC.
17	PC Induction Update – held 6th March by Cllr Selley, Cllr Gossage and Clerk for the new Councillors. The Clerk advised BATPC new Cllr induction training available end May 2026
18	CPRE 100 years offer of a Celebratory Oak for £30 - decided not to support- agreed nowhere suitable to locate.
19	Parish Grass Cutting - decision necessary due to BBC financial contribution being unchanged from 2025/26- agreed PC should continue to arrange this with existing contractor – but may need to reduce cuts from 6 to match funding- Clerk to advise BBC.

Meeting closed 21.15