

**Minutes of the meeting of the COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE held
in the Committee Room at Eskdale Road Community Centre
on Tuesday 11 November 2025 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllrs J Theobald, G Shrivastava, and D Field.

Resident J Gates attended the meeting as an appointed non-councillor whilst Cllr M Broad attended as an observer.

Clerk: T Skeggs

Absent: None

Assistant: B Hotya

Residents: None

C25/93	APOLOGIES None.	
C25/94	OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS There were no residents present.	
C25/95	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION There were no new requests for dispensation.	
C25/96	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING a) The minutes of the meeting of the Communities Committee held on 9 Sept 2025 were unanimously AGREED as a true record. b) The action plan was reviewed and would be updated accordingly.	
C25/97	PATH AROUND THE FIELD Putnams repaired the path around the field in the recent weeks by filling the cracks and retarmacking the sections where the ground level shifted away. The path is now fully usable, and a wider path option will be considered next year.	
C25/98	PLAYING FIELD a) A resident has repaired one of the benches in the park and will carry out repairs on the other damaged bench as well. He will be the main contact for any future bench repairs that may be required. b) A complete survey of the trees around the playing field was carried out and the overall report was positive. Only two large trees require their tops to be cut, whilst two smaller trees needed removing, these had been marked. It was AGREED the Clerk to arrange for a company to carry out the work. c) R Haynes will carry out ad hoc ground maintenance work at Swallow Lane Burial Ground and around the playing field once her contract expires on the 31 December 2025. This will provide additional tasks for the Parish Warden and may require some extra equipment.	
C25/99	CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON a) A 20-foot Christmas tree will be installed on The Green, Brudenell Drive. The event will take place on 29 November 2025. A band will perform from 5 to 7pm, with the lights being switched-on by a Stoke Mandeville Combine School pupil at 6pm. J Gates (The Bull Pub) will arrange a gazebo and will provide complimentary mulled wine and mince pies for the public. Chairs will be brought over from SMVCA. It was AGREED that the Christmas tree to be taken off on 4 January 2026.	

	b) This year the Rotary Club would be touring the village with their Santa Sleigh. All donations would go to local charities. The dates for the tours were the 4 th and 11 th of December. It was hoped that it would now become an annual event.	
C25/100	DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING As Cllr P Wood received a note from St John's Ambulance regarding a first aid training, it was discussed the option for councillors to take part. It was AGREED to ask Cllr P Wood to provide more details and email all councillors inviting them to the training. It was AGREED posters with information about the first aid training to be displayed at each defibrillator in the village for residents interested in participating.	
C25/101	PARTY IN THE PARK a) In previous years, the event planning started in January when many of the performers/attractions were already booked out, therefore it was AGREED that the working group would start organising the 2026 Party in the Park event in November 2025. Each member will be assigned a task and provide monthly updates. b) It was discussed that the event must comply with the Martyn's Law. As the law requires a 24-month implementation period and will not be in effect by the event date, it was AGREED to arrange a risk assessment prior to the event.	
C25/102	ALLOTMENTS a) The access road was inspected and found it to be in good condition. It was AGREED to continue monitoring and address any signs of deterioration. b) It was AGREED to ask the plot holders for their opinion on installing a toilet at the allotments. It was AGREED further research to be carried out including potential locations, costs, maintenance requirements before making a final decision.	
C25/103	PLAY AROUND THE PARISHES As this year's report showed good attendance, it was AGREED to continue with the same arrangements next year.	
C25/104	2026/2027 COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE DRAFT BUDGET The draft budgets for the activities that fell under the Communities Committee were considered. After reviewing the following amendments were AGREED : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4282 – Playing Field Footpath – Reduced to £0 from £10,000 with the £10,000 being an earmarked reserve. • 4233 – Solar Panels - Reduced to £0 from £5,000. • 4172 – Party in the Park – Increased from £7,000 to £20,000. • 4173 – Christmas Events – Increased from £0 to £5,000. The Party in the Park budget was increased to cover additional advertising costs, provision of tepees, and subsidising of the children's rides. The Christmas Events budget was increased for the possibility of holding a Christmas Lunch for residents over 70 in December 2025.	
C25/105	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be on 9 December 2025.	

The meeting closed at 21:05

Signed _____ Dated: 9th December 2025

Action List

Date	Minute	Description	By Whom	Status
04/02/25	C25/17	Obtain further quotes for toilet block	Cllrs Shrivastava /Theobald	In progress
04/02/25	C25/17	Contact Buckinghamshire Council re planning advice for toilet block	Clerk	On Hold

08/07/25	C25/59	Produce map for first walk	Clerk	In progress
08/07/25	C25/62	Discuss with the school having children paint designs on the SGN cabinet	Cllr Theobald	In progress
08/07/25	C25/63	Get quotes for guttering replacement	Clerk	In progress
08/07/25	C25/67	Find out if Sport England would provide match funding for a replacement path around the field	Cllr Shrivastava	In progress
08/07/25	C25/67	Find out from Cllr Kirve the HS2 contact for possible funding for a replacement path around the field	Cllr Theobald	In progress
11/11/25	C25/102	Carry out further research for the options of a toilet at the allotments	Assistant Clerk	

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