

**Minutes of the meeting of the COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE held
in the Committee Room at Eskdale Road Community Centre
on Tuesday 14 May 2026 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllrs D Field (Chair), J Theobald, M Broad and J Gates

Assistant Clerk: B Hotya

Absent: None

Residents: 1

C26/31	APOLOGIES None.	
	OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS A resident requested the installation of three benches at Stoke Grange.	
C26/32	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION There were no new requests for dispensation.	
C26/33	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - The minutes of the meeting of the Communities Committee held on 12 May 2026 were unanimously AGREED as a true record. - The action plan was reviewed and would be updated accordingly.	
C26/34	BENCHES AT STOKE GRANGE The Committee considered the request from a resident from Stoke Grange for the installation of three benches. It was unanimously AGREED that the benches would be installed. The resident is happy to work with the Council on the choice of seating, and the Clerks will arrange a site visit with the resident to determine the most suitable locations for installation. It was noted that the benches would require a concrete base and that waste bins should be located nearby. Cllr Field highlighted the need to ensure the waste bins are added to Buckinghamshire Council's register so that they can be emptied regularly. The Clerk will contact Buckinghamshire Council to obtain the necessary permit.	Clerk
C26/35	PARTY IN THE PARK The lessons learned were discussed and noted. The committee agreed that the event was a fantastic success, with an incredible turnout despite the bad weather. Positive feedback was received from residents, particularly regarding the subsidised rides. Cllr Field expressed his appreciation to the volunteers and councillors who helped run the event. It was discussed whether an additional gate at the front of the playing field, providing direct access from the road could improve access for the fairground rides, and this would be investigated. It was also suggested that the owner of the marquee company should be invited to discuss options for a stage with a canopy and chill-out zones.	
C26/36	VOLUNTEERING PROJECT The Committee AGREED the volunteering brief plan. The Clerks will work in partnership with a local resident, S Hendy, who kindly volunteered to assist the Council with the project. It was noted that the Stoke Mandeville Volunteer Network had been registered on Volunteer Bucks, but they subsequently advised that the objectives are similar to those of Community Impact Bucks, who manages Volunteer Bucks. The Assistant Clerk has created an account on Volunteer Bucks and designed a logo. The next step will be to meet with Volunteer Bucks to seek advice on how the project can work most effectively, and to contact and meet with	Assistant Clerk

	local organisations to discuss the project further and identify their volunteering needs and opportunities.	
C26/37	ALLOTMENTS The Committee AGREED the allotments development plan. Cllr Theobald reported that the Capital Projects Working Group is exploring the provision of green portable toilets at Eskdale Road Playing Field until a permanent toilet block is installed, after which they will be relocated to the allotments.	
C26/38	STOKE MANDEVILLE FC 2026/27 HIRE AGREEMENT The Committee AGREED that the hire fee should remain unchanged this year, as the facilities set out in the contract have not yet been provided. Cllr Theobald reported that two portable toilets will be installed and later replaced with a green portable toilet until the pavilion project is completed. Cllr Field expressed concern regarding the condition of the playing field and it was AGREED that the field maintenance should be prioritised. It was suggested that a temporary grounds maintenance specialist be engaged until the Parish Warden has completed the necessary training. It was AGREED that this item should be referred to the Full Parish Council meeting next week and circulate this year's contract so that members can consider whether any amendments are required to the new contract due for renewal in September.	
C26/39	COMMUNITY EVENTS a)The Committee AGREED that shelter and water should be provided at the summer events booked for this year at Eskdale Road Playing Field and Hawkslade in case of extreme weather. It was suggested that SMPC gazebos should be used for shelter, subject to volunteers being available to erect them, or the Main Hall, if available. The Assistant Clerk will check the company's risk assessment for extreme weather, whether they would provide shelter, and whether the hall is available. b)It was AGREED that the dates and budgets for the following events planned for this year would be as follows: • Halloween Party - A primary school age event will be held on 30 October, with a forecast budget of £1,000. The Assistant Clerk will carry out further research regarding timings. • Remembrance Day Service - The event will be held on 8 November, with the budget increased to £500, as the memorial will have been installed by then and an inauguration will be required. • Christmas Lights Switch-On - The event will be held on 27 November and will be a joint event with the school's Christmas Fayre, with a forecast budget of £3,000. It was AGREED that a donation would be made to the school to support its fundraising. The Assistant Clerk was asked to contact the brass band and book them again for this year's event. • Santa's Sleigh Tour around the Parish - The event will be run by the Rotary Club on 3 and 10 December, following two routes as last year. The budget was increased to £500, with a donation to the charity to be considered. • Seniors' Christmas Lunch - The event will take place on 10 January 2027, considering the comments from some residents regarding last year's event, with a forecast budget of £2500. A local resident will cater the food for 60 people. It was suggested the Clerks to arrange a meeting with the caterer to discuss the menu options and any requirements. • Kids' Winter Party - The event will take place on 3 January 2027, from 12pm to 3pm, with a forecast budget of £1,500.	Assistant Clerk
C26/40	CHRISTMAS TREES It was AGREED that real Christmas trees would be installed on the Green at Brudenell Drive and Hawkslade only, as there are no suitable locations in the other wards and the Parish Council does not have storage facilities for a commercial metal frame tree. The Clerk will make the necessary application to Buckinghamshire Council for permission to install a tree	

	at Hawkslade. It was suggested that the residents from the other wards should be invited to the Christmas Lights Switch-On event.	
C26/41	MUGA AT ESKDALE ROAD PLAYING FIELD It was AGREED that this item be brought to the Full Parish Council meeting next week for further consideration, with the potential use of Section 106 funding to help deliver the MUGA. The Committee is fully supportive of the proposal, as it would be a great asset for residents.	
C26/42	FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL TRANSPORT It was AGREED that this item will be deferred pending further information.	
C26/43	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be on 11 August 2026.	

The meeting closed at 21:19

Signed _____ Dated: 8 September 2026

Action List

Date	Minute	Description	By Whom	Status
08/07/25	C25/62	Discuss with the school having children paint designs on the SGN cabinet	Cllr Theobald	On hold
08/07/25	C25/63	Get quotes for guttering replacement	Clerk	In progress
10/03/26	C26/17	Get quotes for metal frame Christmas trees	Assistant Clerk	Completed
12/05/26	C26/25	Obtain quotes for fencing and gate around playground	Assistant Clerk	In progress
12/05/26	C26/26	Create poster and entry form for gardening competition	Assistant Clerk	Completed
12/05/26	C26/28b	Contact Lindengate regarding judging allotment competition.	Cllr Theobald	Completed