**Stoke Mandeville Parish Council**
*Clerk: Mr Tony Skeggs*
*Telephone: (01296) 613888*

**Minutes of the meeting of the COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE held in the Committee Room at Eskdale Road Community Centre on Tuesday 8 September 2026 at 7.30pm**

**PRESENT**: Cllrs D Field (Chair), J Theobald, P Wood, M Broad and A Lennard (substitute for J Gates)

Assistant Clerk: B Hotya

Absent: None
Residents: None

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| **C26/44** | **APOLOGIES**<br>Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr J Gates. | |
| | **OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS**<br>There were no residents present. | |
| **C26/45** | **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**<br>There were no new requests for dispensation. | |
| **C26/46** | **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**<br>a) The minutes of the meeting of the Communities Committee held on 14 July 2026 were unanimously **AGREED** as a true record.<br>b) The action plan was reviewed and would be updated accordingly. | |
| **C26/47** | **STOKE MANDEVILLE VOLUNTEERING PROJECT**<br>The Assistant Clerk and a resident volunteer are coordinating the project and have contacted local organisations to introduce the Stoke Mandeville Volunteering Network. They have met with representatives from the Church, the Ark, the Goat Centre and from the Repair Café to discuss their volunteering needs and available opportunities. The resident volunteer has prepared advertisements for couple of volunteering opportunities, which will be added to Volunteer Bucks. It was noted that the Church is planning a clean-up day on 26 September and a Harvest Lunch on 3 October. It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council would help the Church coordinate the Harvest Lunch. | |
| **C26/48** | **ESKDALE ROAD PLAYING FIELD**<br>It was **AGREED** that additional trees would be planted following the completion of the pedestrian bridge works, to fill any gaps in the existing border along the edge of the playing field. | |
| **C26/49** | **COMMUNITY EVENTS**<br>• It was **AGREED** that £2 tickets should be issued for the children's Halloween and Winter parties to help reduce no-shows and goodie bags will be provided for the children.<br>• It was **AGREED** that the Seniors' Christmas Lunch should be a free event for up to 70 people. The previous year's event lessons learned were discussed, along with a number of catering options. It was **AGREED** that Posh Nosh would provide the food. It was **AGREED** that this item should be referred to the Full Parish Council, as an increased budget may be required due to rising costs. A budget of £3,000 was suggested, with the possibility of increasing this to £3,500 if necessary to cover the cost of hiring the hall. It was noted that ASDA should be contacted in advance to request donations for the raffle. | |

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| | • Cllr Field suggested using the Community Centre as a cold space for residents during the summer and a warm space during the winter and advised that the Council should speak with the Bucks Community Board, as they may be able to support the project and help publicise it.<br>• It was **AGREED** that the Easter Egg Hunt would be discussed after Christmas. | |
| **C26/50** | **PLAY AREA AT STOKE GRANGE**<br>It was noted that a resident had requested a small play area at Stoke Grange. It was proposed by Cllr Broad, Cllr Theobald seconded, that the small playground to be installed. This was unanimously **AGREED** and the project would be referred to the Major Projects Working Group. | |
| **C26/51** | **ESKDALE ROAD PLAY AREA FENCE**<br>The quote for the fence and additional gate was reviewed. The Assistant Clerk had contacted a number of contractors but received only one quote. Cllr Theobald suggested putting this matter on hold, as the fence could be included with other planned improvements for the playing field. | |
| **C26/52** | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**<br>The next meeting will be on 13 October 2026. | |

The meeting closed at 21:09

Signed _____ Dated: 13 October 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 |