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Minutes of the Meeting of the **Full Council** held on Wednesday 14th October 2015 at 8pm in The Memorial Hall, Bedford Road, Wootton.

Open Forum	There were no members of the public or press present and so the meeting continued without adjournment.			Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, s1(1).
Present	Cllrs Lloyd, C. Bennett, P. Bennett, Brady, Bygraves, Chalmers, Groves, Hall, Noakes, Price and Quirk.			
Absent	None.			
Agenda no	Agenda item title	Resolution	Action	Power
FC15/176	Apologies for absence. Cllrs Doggrell, Wallace and BBCllr/Cllr Wheeler. (BBCllr/Cllr Wheeler arrived at 8.20pm and Cllr Wallace arrived at 8.45pm).	N/A.	N/A.	Local Government Act 1972, Sch12 p40.
FC15/177	Disclosure of local and/or disclosable pecuniary interests.	None.	N/A.	Localism Act 2011, s31.
FC15/178	To consider any dispensation requests received by the Clerk in relation to local and/or disclosable pecuniary interests, not previously recorded.	None.	N/A.	Localism Act 2011, s33.
FC15/179	Report from outside organisations – for information only. To include a report from BBCllr Wheeler. (Appendix 1).	BBCllr Wheeler's report was circulated ahead of the meeting and this agenda item was deferred until his arrival. No further questions were made regarding his report. BBCllr/Cllr Wheeler reported on proposed Borough Council budget cuts, handing a summary to the Clerk	Clerk to keep on file. Clerk to keep on file.	N/A.

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	To receive crime figures for the period 31 st August 2015 – 1 st October 2015. No PCSO's were in attendance. (Please refer to Appendix 1a).	for circulation with his report. He added ward monies would also cease - the current deadline for applications was 14 th November 2015. No further comments received.		
FC15/180	List of correspondence received (copies of correspondence can be requested from the Clerk) – for information only. (Please refer to Appendix 2).	No further comments received.	Clerk to keep on file.	N/A.
FC15/181	Chairman's report – for information only.	Cllr Lloyd reported on the resignation of Cllr Weeks, urging all present to speak out at meetings if they were not in agreement or were unhappy about comments during issues being debated. He reminded all present they were there to represent the entire community.	Clerk to keep on file.	N/A.
FC15/182	Schedule of receipts and payments – final closing statement(s) (Co-operative Bank Plc) and statement(s) 14 (Unity Trust Bank Ltd) as previously approved by the Finance & General Purposes committee – for information only. (Appendix 3 and 3a).	No further comments received.	Clerk to keep on file.	Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and Accounts and Audit Regulations (2015).
FC15/183	To receive and verify the attached bank reconciliation(s) (to be signed by two members who are not authorised signatories).	Resolved to receive and verify – signed by Cllrs P. Bennett and Groves. Proposed: Cllr Bygraves. Seconded: Cllr Brady. Resolved by all present.	Clerk to keep on file.	Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and Accounts and Audit Regulations (2015).
FC15/184	To receive and verify the Income & Expenditure report for all cost centres for 2015-16, to date.	No further comments received. Resolved to receive and verify. Proposed: Cllr Noakes.	Clerk to keep on file.	Local Government Act 1972, s150 (6).

		Seconded: Cllr Bygraves. Resolved by all present.		
FC15/185	Minutes of the previous meeting. <i>Minutes are published on the Wootton Parish Council website: http://woottonpc.bedsparishes.gov.uk/.</i> Members of Full Council are asked to receive and adopt the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 9th September 2015. Members of Full Council are asked to receive and adopt the minutes of the (advisory with the exception of payment authorisation) Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 26th August 2015. Members of Full Council are asked to receive and adopt the minutes of the (advisory) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Committee meeting held on 16th September 2015.	Minutes were received and adopted. Proposed: - Cllr C. Bennett. Seconded: Cllr Noakes. Resolved by all present. Minutes were received and adopted. Proposed: - Cllr Price. Seconded: Cllr Bygraves. Resolved by all present. Minutes were received and adopted. Proposed: - Cllr Chalmers. Seconded: Cllr Quirk. Resolved by all present.	Clerk to keep on file. Clerk to keep on file. Clerk to keep on file.	Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, s41.
FC15/186	To receive a report from the (Executive) Planning & Environment Committee – for information only. (Appendix 4).	No further comments received.	Clerk to keep on file.	N/A.
FC15/187	Matters arising from the minutes to include Issues log review – for information only. - n/a – Traffic Management issues. Double mini roundabout proposed for Church/Fields/Bedford Road so left on file until works are completed. Ongoing. - FC12/107 + FC14/173 + FC15/16 – Bus Route 53 and general. Issues on Church Road have been reported to all relevant stakeholders (Road Safety – Bedford Borough Council, Traffic Management – Bedfordshire Police and the upper school) and remain ongoing. Cllr Lloyd and	No further comments received.	Clerk to keep on file.	N/A.

	BBCllr/Cllr Wheeler continue to chase for updates. Ongoing. • FC12/108 – s106 changes to Fields Road development. ME bid has been submitted but no further response received. Andy Lord attended FC on 8th January 2014 and has now asked if WPC intend to take control of the proposed new community centre and pitches. Reserved matters application for the hall, sports pitches, play facilities and MUGA are currently with the Planning committee for consideration. Clerk has chased Andy Lord for an update on both the ME bid and the control of the community centre/pitches. Ongoing. • FC14/62 + FC14/175 + FC15/19 – Replacement noticeboards project. The first noticeboard (Bedford Road near Manor Road flats) has been installed. The second for Hall End will be replaced after the appointment of a new handy person. Ongoing. • FC14/117 – Bedford Borough Council's Local Plan 2032. Resolved 6th August 2014 to request NO proposed sites be taken forward. Please refer to agenda items FC15/196-201). • FC14/178 – A R Worboys Ltd appointed to undertake remedial works to the paddock hedgerow. This has been attempted, however the horses were in situ despite assurances to the contrary. All parties have now agreed to leave the works until early spring 2015. Paddock user has contacted the Clerk (August 2015) to request the works be undertaken – Clerk is awaiting a response from Worboys. Ongoing. • FC14/179 + FC14/191 – Transfer of Lorraine Road green. Resolved on 9th September 2015 (FC15/175) to accept the Borough Council's offer of £350 per annum to cover grass cutting expenses. Move to close. • FC14/192 + FC15/114 + FC15/132 – Submission of sites for consideration as Local Green Spaces. Resolved 8th June 2015 to appoint a working committee to obtain the relevant information required by the Borough Council (BBC). The clerk has since submitted further information as requested. Ongoing. • FC15/17 + FC15/115 – Trial of alternative Dog Control Order signage. Resolved 8th July 2015 (FC15/132) the order remain in place. The clerk is taking forward a trial using a heat gun stencil. Ongoing. • FC15/39 – Designation of the whole civil parish of Wootton as a			
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	Neighbourhood Area. Resolved on 11th February 2015 this be taken forward with Bedford Borough Council. Ongoing. • FC15/53 + FC15/94 – Local Council Award Scheme. The clerk has arranged training courses for several members. Ongoing. • FC15/54 – Newsletter distribution. Resolved on 11th March 2015 to trial a 3 edition delivery with DOR-2-DOR (MK and Bedford). First two deliveries (Jun/Sep 2015) have been completed. One further delivery is needed after which the situation will be reviewed. Ongoing. • FC15/157 – Approved list of contractors. The Clerk has requested information from Bedford Borough Council and Cllr P. Bennett is assisting also. Ongoing. • FC15/158 – RoSPA inspection reports. The Clerk has contacted all installers for guidance on findings. Ongoing. • FC15/174 – Drones. Resolved 9th September 2015 (FC15/174) the Clerk prepare an article for the Wootton news, including advice received from the Civil Aviation Authority. Ongoing.			
FC15/188	To receive an update from all relevant councillors regarding ongoing projects for 2015-16.	The Clerk detailed in Cllr Doggrell's absence he was putting timescales together regarding the regeneration works to Keeley End Pond. Cllr Quirk reported the Borough Council had replaced several parish council lighting columns and that the monies earmarked for future upgrades would remain as such until their full intentions were known. Allan Peacocks had erected new columns at Potters Cross and Hall End – the Clerk confirmed they were due to be fitted with shields. Cllr Quirk added nothing further had happened with regard to the	Clerk to take forward and keep on file.	Localism Act 2011, Ch 1, s1-8 and Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

		cemetery footpath and memorial walls. Cllr C. Bennett asked what could be done with regard to CCTV for the Memorial Hall project (currently held on file). Cllr Lloyd instructed the Clerk to take the project to the next Leisure & Amenities meeting before bringing it back to Full Council.		
FC15/189	To request that all committee Chairs (and members) consider their financial requirements for 2016-17, ahead of finalising the precept demand in January 2016.	Request made for all members to consider projects for the next financial year (and take to each relevant committee) before bringing back to Full Council.	All to take forward.	Local Government Finance Act 1992, s41. Financial Regulations.
FC15/190	To consider a strategy with regard to the opening/closing of the village hall car park entrance gates and to resolve a suitable course of action.	Cllr Lloyd stated if the caretaker was unable to close the gates and did not wish to approach any cars, he would meet the caretaker in the carpark if called. Cllr Brady confirmed the same and mentioned the gates were sticking when opened. The Clerk was instructed to see if the village hall caretaker could assist after a late-finishing event. Resolved that the Clerk inform the caretaker as above, see if the village hall caretaker could help also and investigate the gate mechanism. Proposed: Cllr Brady. Seconded: Cllr Bygraves. Resolved by all present.	Clerk to take forward.	Localism Act 2011, Ch 1, s1-8 and Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

FC15/191	To receive a report from Cllr Bygraves and the Clerk regarding the immediate and ongoing clearance of a ditch adjacent to the adult football pitch at the recreation ground and to resolve a suitable course of action.	Members present agreed with the Clerk's instruction to clear the ditch as soon as possible. As the ongoing maintenance quotation had not been received it was resolved it be added to the existing grass cutting contract, without the need to refer again to Full Council (subject to an agreed limit of £500 – to be removed from the public copy). Proposed: Cllr Groves. Seconded: Cllr C. Bennett. Resolved by all present.	Clerk to take forward.	Localism Act 2011, Ch 1, s1-8 and Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.
FC15/192	To revisit observations made in recent RoSPA inspection reports for the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) and skate park following responses received from the relevant contractors and to resolve a suitable course of action.	Resolved to take no further action with regard to both the MUGA and skate park and to leave all findings on file and monitor. Proposed: Cllr Groves. Seconded: Cllr Price. Resolved by all present.	Clerk to keep on file.	Localism Act 2011, Ch 1, s1-8 and Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.
FC15/193	To resolve to accept a quotation to renew the annual MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) astro turf maintenance contract with Dura Sport (Leisure Care) Ltd.	Resolved to renew the annual contract (option 2). Proposed: Cllr Bygraves. Seconded: Cllr P. Bennett. Resolved by all present.	Clerk to take forward.	Localism Act 2011, Ch 1, s1-8 and Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.
FC15/194	To receive a report from the Clerk regarding the repositioning or removal of one/both teen shelters adjacent to the skate park at the recreation ground and to resolve a suitable course of action.	BBCLlr/Cllr Wheeler was aware of an incident log regarding anti-social behaviour in the area, which he agreed to pass to the Clerk when received. He had informed the resident the report them also to the police. It was	Clerk to keep on file.	Localism Act 2011, Ch 1, s1-8 and Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

		hoped nonetheless, recent incidents were isolated and that the colder weather would stop further occurrences. Resolved to take no action but review again in six months. Proposed: Cllr Bygraves. Seconded: Cllr C. Bennett. Resolved by all present.		
FC15/195	To receive a report from BBCllr/Cllr Wheeler in response to a request for fuller information regarding Bedford Borough Council's Local Plan 2032 and the opportunity for residents and Wootton Parish Council to respond during the consultation period (19th October-14th December 2015) and to resolve a suitable course of action. Cllr Lloyd made the following requests: • That BBCllr/Cllr Wheeler obtain evidence from Bedford Borough Council (BBC) regarding their claim the village had good infrastructure (this is disputed). This was publicly stated at their Local Plan briefing on 1st October but no evidence was forthcoming when challenged; • That BBCllr/Cllr Wheeler obtain paper copies of their consultation forms (for the library, shops, doctors, etc) as not all residents have the opportunity to comment electronically; • That BBCllr/Cllr Wheeler establish the exact grounds against which comments/objections may be registered; • That BBCllr/Cllr Wheeler establish how many lower school places were taken by out-of-catchment children, following a claim by BBC the new school was currently filled with such children.	BBCllr/Cllr Wheeler had established the lower school presently had 65 out of catchment children (344 in total on record), many of whom made use of their good SEN facilities. He was still investigating how many Wootton-based children attended out of catchment schools. This information was in response to a statement made by Bedford Borough Council that the majority of children attending the lower school were out of catchment. He added their pre-school facility was now full in the mornings. The Borough Council had responded with regard to the other queries raised, however much of that information would not be available until 19th October and it was likely the parish council would have to download its own paper responses.	Clerk to take forward.	Localism Act 2011, Ch 1, s1-8 and Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

		After further discussion it was resolved to carry this agenda item forward to a planned extra-ordinary meeting to be held on 21st October 2015. Proposed: Cllr Wheeler. Seconded: Cllr P. Bennett. Resolved by all present.		
FC15/196	To consider the preparation of a forward plan on how best to respond to the Local Plan 2032 consultation and to resolve a suitable course of action. • Action points/steps needed to create the forward plan; • A strategy detailing timescales/deadlines; • Allocation of tasks amongst members/the Clerk; • Identification of organisations who may be able to provide information/support (such as Campaign to Protect Rural England, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity).	Concerns were raised over a lack of forthcoming information from the Borough Council and why this was the case. Cllr C. Bennett stated as an employee of Bedford Borough Council, she and her colleagues were employed by the Chief Executive, responsible for many decisions made on the Borough Council's behalf. An embargo was in place preventing the release of any information ahead of the consultation start date (19th October) and she stated for the record no employee would be in receipt of that information until that time. After further discussion it was resolved to carry this agenda item forward to a planned extra-ordinary meeting to be held on 21st October 2015. Proposed: Cllr Wheeler. Seconded: Cllr P. Bennett. Resolved by all present.	Clerk to take forward.	Localism Act 2011, Ch 1, s1-8 and Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

FC15/197	To investigate and consider the appointment of a professional independent planning organisation to assist in the Local Plan 2032 consultation response and to resolve a suitable course of action.	In light of previous agenda items (FC15/195+6) it was resolved to carry this agenda item forward to a planned extra-ordinary meeting to be held on 21 st October 2015. Proposed: Cllr Wheeler. Seconded: Cllr P. Bennett. Resolved by all present.	Clerk to take forward.	Localism Act 2011, Ch 1, s1-8 and Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.
FC15/198	To consider approaching Nadine Dorries (MP for Mid-Bedfordshire) and Alistair Burt (MP for North East Bedfordshire and a Wootton resident) for their assistance in the Local Plan 2032 consultation response and to resolve a suitable course of action.	Cllr Price commented that Alistair Burt would most likely be unable to assist as Wootton was not within his constituency, but it was felt he may get involved as a Wootton resident. In light of previous agenda items (FC15/195+6+7) it was resolved to carry this agenda item forward to a planned extra-ordinary meeting to be held on 21 st October 2015. Proposed: Cllr Wheeler. Seconded: Cllr P. Bennett. Resolved by all present.	Clerk to take forward.	Localism Act 2011, Ch 1, s1-8 and Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.
FC15/199	To ensure constant parish council attendance at Bedford Borough Council's drop-in session held at Wootton New Life Methodist Church Hall, Cause End Road between 2pm and 9pm on Wednesday 4th November 2015 and to resolve a suitable course of action.	The Clerk detailed those who had responded to date alongside relevant time slots and it was resolved that remaining members contact her (if available) before the extra-ordinary meeting. Proposed: Cllr Wheeler. Seconded: Cllr P. Bennett. Resolved by all present.	Clerk to take forward.	Localism Act 2011, Ch 1, s1-8 and Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.
FC15/200	To consider any alterations to a draft Local Plan 2032 consultation poster ahead of its distribution to all households and to resolve a suitable course of action.	In light of previous agenda items (FC15/195+6+7+8) it was resolved to carry this agenda item forward	Clerk to take forward.	Localism Act 2011, Ch 1, s1-8 and Parish Councils (General

		to a planned extra-ordinary meeting to be held on 21 st October 2015. Proposed: Cllr Wheeler. Seconded: Cllr P. Bennett. Resolved by all present.		Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.
FC15/201	To resolve that under the terms of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, s1(2) any press and/or public present leave the meeting, due to the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted.	Resolved that press and/or public be asked to leave the meeting however none were present. Proposed: Cllr Price. Seconded: Cllr Bygraves. Resolved by all present.	N/A.	Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, s1(2).
FC15/202	To receive a report from the Clerk on recent interviews to fill the post of litter picker and to resolve which candidate to appoint to fill the role.	The Clerk provided a verbal report following her and Andy Snelson's interviews with the two applicants. After discussion it was resolved to appoint Lorna Cochrane to the position of litter picker. Proposed: Cllr Groves. Seconded: Cllr Chalmers. Resolved by all present.	Clerk to take forward.	Localism Act 2011, Ch 1, s1-8 and Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

Meeting closed at 9pm.

FC15/179

Borough Councillor report to Wootton Parish Council for meeting 14th October 2015.

1. Chris Bourne has put up no dog fouling signs down Fields Road and Payne Road and is doing spot checks this and next week.
2. The shrubbery in Emerton Way has been partly cleared by Borough but I have asked them to come back and take it all down to two feet as agreed two weeks ago.
3. There is yet again another hold on the community centre, two weeks ago Jim Caffrey said the build would start on 2nd November along with the football pitches (not 4g pitch), however as of 7th October Midas have not received the go ahead from Persimmon, so if nothing heard soon they have made arrangements for all there cabins etc., to be cleared off site on 26th October. I have spoken to Jim who is looking into this however he did say this is down to Persimmon, and Borough are looking to put a stop notice on them if they fail to complete their obligations i.e. mini roundabouts and pelican crossing, Yellow zig zags and safety barrier outside new school, road markings at Berryfields, community centre to mention a few! I will keep you all updated on this.
4. I have sent the Fields Road safety report to Borough and hopefully should get a reply soon to answer the concerns raised.
5. Signs to Wootton, I did an article in the BOS last week about this and national highways have said they will come and talk to the Parish about this, we will wait and see!!
6. As you are all no doubt aware the Mayor is announcing major cut backs, as soon as I know how these will affect us I will inform you.

I am attending Borough's Full Council meeting on Wednesday 14th, I am planning to come to the parish meeting straight afterwards to give you a report on what was said regarding various issues relating to Wootton.

Cllr John Wheeler

FC15/179

Executive Budget Proposals 2016/17 – 7th October 2015 as provided by BBCllr/Cllr Wheeler

Item 6 – Savings Proposals for Public Consultation

As detailed further at item 11 in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, the Chancellor has instructed all non-protected departments (all departments other than Education, Health, Defence and International Development) to plan for 25% - 40% reductions in spending over the course of this Parliament.

The Council is, therefore, likely to see significant reductions in the availability of resources from the Department of Communities and Local Government. The budget allocation for councils in 2016/17 is set to be announced via the Spending Review on the 25th November.

The picture has, however, become more complicated given that the Chancellor announced this week that local government finance is to be reformed, with councils being able to retain 100% of their business rate receipts by 2020, whilst the Revenue Support Grant (RSG - the main grant for councils) will be phased out by 2020 (see [here](#) - this will be explored in greater detail under item 11).

As a result of the reduction in resources and indeed spending pressures via changing demographics, the Executive has agreed £0.670m of savings proposals which will be the subject of an 8 week public consultation. Officers have forecasted a savings requirement of £15.4m during the years 2017 – 2020, meaning that the proposals agreed at the Executive meeting is the first step of an ongoing savings programme.

The individual savings proposals can be seen at Appendix A. They are summarised below:

Chief Executive's Directorate

CEX/A - Stop the Bed:Safe service: The Council is to cease its £0.016m contribution to Bed:Safe; a scheme which seeks to reduce alcohol related disorder resulting from Bedford's night time economy (see [here](#) for more details). The saving will be accrued through a reduction in staffing **Saving: £0.016m.**

CEX/B – Review of third sector grant funding and commissioning: The annual budget to support third sector groups is circa £0.350m which is allocated by the Executive's Grants Committee. In the current year and in previous years, most of the budget has gone to the Bedford Citizen's Advice Bureau (£0.175m) and the Community and Voluntary Service (£0.050m). A further 10 organisations have received funding of around

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Appendix 1

£0.090m between them; 8 of which recorded a surplus last year, with 5 having a surplus exceeding the grant received.

The proposal is centred on moving all funding to commissioned services. This means that funds will be disseminated following a competitive tender process for each service, which will ensure that the funds are targeted at those most in need of assistance. Despite the prospect of reduced funding, the report deems there to be a benefit to the voluntary organisations concerned in that they will have certainty of funding beyond 1 year, which is not the case at present and it will reduce their administration costs as they will not have to apply for funding each year. The commissioned contracts will begin from October 2016 and will last for a period of at least 3 years.

The result is that 'general advice services' and 'third sector infrastructure support services' (i.e. the services provided by the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Community and Voluntary Service (see [here](#)) respectively) will be commissioned going forwards.

In addition, funding will be discontinued for the third sector groups which have received the cumulative £0.090m between them this year. Instead, a Community Chest worth £0.040m will be used for small grants to groups such as these.

This proposal also affects voluntary organisation contracts procured and grants paid by the Council's Adults Commissioning team for an array of services, some of which are statutory requirements for the Council. Following a review, it is proposed that the Council ceases payments to the Bedford Guild House (£0.014m – see [here](#)) and Bedford Concern for the Homeless and Rootless (BeCHaR) (£0.017m – see [here](#)). Other services will be recommissioned via a tender process and an Emergency Hardship Fund worth £0.050m will be established to assist groups in 2016/17. **Saving: £0.193m.**

CEX/C – Fund Rural Grants from Reserves: Rural organisations, including parish councils, are able to apply to the Rural Grants Committee for the receipt of grants worth up to £0.025m. The Rural Grants annual budget is £0.100m. It is proposed that the scheme is, for a minimum of 4 years, funded from the Council's reserves rather than direct revenue funding as at present. **Saving: £0.100m.**

CEX/D – Review of Customer Service Centre opening hours: The Customer Service Centre is situated on Horne Lane in the town centre. It allows residents to make queries and payments. It is proposed that the Centre closes at 4pm rather than 5pm from Monday – Thursday and 4pm instead of 4.45pm on Friday. **Saving: £0.020m.**

Children's and Adults' Directorate

CAS/A = Change in schools' transport policies: School transport is to be the subject of a review in the midst of the 2 tier changes and the increasing number of schools leaving the Council's control to become academies. The removal of schools catchment areas will be considered, meaning that transport will be provided only to the nearest school geographically with available places. **Saving: £0.080m.**

Environment and Sustainable Communities Directorate

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ESC/A – Stop funding for changes in speed limits and investment in average speed cameras: The report notes that over 100 speed limits have been reviewed in the last 5 years and 9 sets of average speed cameras have been introduced. This scheme will end, which will lead to savings on Traffic Regulation Orders, signage, maintenance and electricity. **Saving: £0.020m.**

ESC/ B and C – Road safety initiatives / Marston Vale Rail Partnership: Road safety initiatives, such as campaigns on school gate parking, are to cease, saving £0.015m.

In addition, the Council will withdraw its £0.010m support for the Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership, of which it is one of 10 partners. This contribution was originally made at a time of uncertainty for the line but passenger numbers are now increasing and it is to be part of the East – West railway between Bedford and Oxford. **Saving: £0.025.**

ESC/D – Removal of Dog Warden / Pest Control post: There are currently 2 Dog Warden / Pest Control officers, with the latter part of their roles being cost neutral due to income received. An external party will be commissioned to undertake the collection of stray dogs. **Saving: £0.015m.**

ESC/E – Reduce the number of Automatic Public Conveniences (APCs): The APCs on The Broadway, St Peter's, Melbourne Street and Russell Park will be closed, resulting in the cessation of payments to the external provider. The report notes that the APCs are expensive to run given their low usage. **Saving: £0.037m.**

ESC/F – Reduction of Recycling Officer posts: The Recycling Team will be reduced by 1 FTE post. This is 'not expected to have a significant impact on the Council's statutory obligations'. **Saving: £0.017m.**

ESC/G – Discontinue separate Dog Litter collection: Dog litter will be henceforth disposed of in normal bins. A review will be undertaken with town and parish councils on 'current litter and dog bin arrangements'. **Saving: £0.030m.**

ESC/H – Charge for commercial waste: There is the potential to allow local traders to dispose of non-household waste such as soil, rubble and plasterboard for a charge at the Council's household waste recycling centres. **Saving: £0.010m.**

ESC/I and J – Review seasonal planting / more targeted play area inspections: More 'perennial planting' is to be undertaken 'including replacing flower beds with bushes etc.', although this will not affect the displays on the Embankment. In addition, a new 'risk based approach' is to be taken to play area inspections. **Saving: £0.045m.**

ESC/K – Reduce events programme: The Victorian Christmas Fair is to finish although there is a possibility that external funds could be found for its continuation. **Saving: £0.010m.**

ESC/L – Stop Summer Play Schemes and reduce sports events budgets: A number of activities are to be discontinued under this heading, including Summer Play Schemes (attracting 5000 attendees every year), 90 physical activity courses (7000 attendees) and a variety of sports events. **Saving: £0.071m.**

Executive Comments:

The following comments were made at the meeting:

- The Mayor said the Council's RSG had been cut by a 1/3 in the last 2 years already. He cited rising demand in social services as a particular concern, particularly given that the Government has protected health spending but adult social care will be the subject of funding cuts.
- The Mayor added that the proposed 100% retention of business rates is the right move but that it will not mean any extra funding for the Borough Council. He said he would be 'sending a message' to the Government that the cuts are unacceptable.
- Cllr Royden said the cut to the Council's funding is 'morally repugnant'. He added that austerity is not working.
- On the proposal to end the Summer Play Schemes, Cllr Jackson criticised the Chancellor for recently providing £3m for football coaching for Chinese children whilst the Borough Council has to cut back.

Item 11 – Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

The MTFS sets out the financial position of the Council, including revenue budget forecasts, for the period 2017/18 – 2019/20. Points of interest are as follows:

- As mentioned under item 6 above, para. 5.7 states that the Chancellor has requested that non-protected departments, including DCLG, prepare for 25% - 40% cuts over the course of this Parliament. This is reflected in the table at page 11(14) which shows the Council's budgetary situation in the coming years and is reproduced below:

Baseline Model

	2017/2018 £m	2018/2019 £m	2019/2020 £m	2017-2020 £m
Council Tax	74.4	76.6	78.9	
Business Rates	34.0	35.0	36.1	
Revenue Support Grant	19.2	14.8	10.7	
Total Resources	127.5	126.5	125.7	
Budget Requirement Carried forward	128.3	131.3	135.8	
Modernisation Proposals Already Agreed	-0.7	0.0	0.0	
Legislative / Funding Changes	0.1	0.2	0.1	
Demand / Demographics	0.6	0.8	0.7	
Service Pressures	1.6	1.7	1.6	
Council-wide Pressures	1.6	1.8	2.6	
New Homes Bonus	-0.3	0.1	-0.4	
Net Spending	131.3	135.8	140.4	
Net Resource Position	3.7	9.4	14.7	

Savings to be Identified	3.7	5.6	5.3	14.7
Total Savings In Year	4.4	5.6	5.3	15.4

- The Revenue Support Grant (RSG) is the main Government grant to local authorities. The RSG has reduced fairly steeply in recent years and the table shows that this is expected to continue. Regarding the Business Rate income, the Council has been able, since 2013, to retain 49% of its rate receipts, with 1% going to the Fire Service and 50% to the Treasury. Descriptions of the assumptions made in compiling the MTFS forecast are set out on pages 11(7 – 10), including the pressures from changing demographics and income received from the New Homes Bonus (payments made for each extra home built within a local authority area).
- This MTFS report was written before the Chancellor's announcement at Party Conference last week, at which he said that the RSG is to be phased out, with local authorities being able by 2020 to retain 100% of their business rate receipts. The rationale of this move is to incentivise local authorities to promote economic growth and it has been largely well-received, including by the Local Government Association (see [here](#)). Para. 4.2 shows that the gross business rate yield in Bedford Borough is £77.3m.
- Andy Watkins, Chief Finance Officer has said that he is sceptical as to whether the business rate change will be of benefit to the Council as the requirement for 25% - 40% cuts in DCLG will likely mean that other grants available to the Council will be substituted by the revenue received from business rates. The Chancellor has also stated that local authorities will have to undertake extra, unspecified responsibilities which could add to costs. Full details are likely to be revealed via the Spending Review on the 25th November.
- Andy Watkins' comments were echoed by Cllr Headley in his presentation to the Executive meeting. He added that the reforms will bring opportunities and risks, with the latter being affected by a huge increase in business rate appeals within the last year.

Crime report for Wootton September 2015

Offence Class Description	First Committed	Address	Beat Code	Beat Name
BURGLARY IN A BUILDING OTHER THAN A DWELLING	15/9/2015 17:00	FIELDS ROAD WOOTTON BEDFORD	NORTH-766	WOOTTON
BURGLARY IN A BUILDING OTHER THAN A DWELLING	15/9/2015 17:30	HARRIS WAY WOOTTON BEDFORD	NORTH-766	WOOTTON
BURGLARY IN A BUILDING OTHER THAN A DWELLING - ATTEMPTED	05/9/2015 16:00	BEDFORD ROAD WOOTTON BEDFORD	NORTH-766	WOOTTON
BURGLARY IN A DWELLING	28/8/2015 00:01	MANOR ROAD WOOTTON BEDFORD	NORTH-766	WOOTTON
BURGLARY IN A DWELLING	18/9/2015 13:15	ASHPOLE AVENUE WOOTTON BEDFORD	NORTH-766	WOOTTON
COMMON ASSAULT	25/9/2015 18:00	BEDFORD ROAD WOOTTON BEDFORD	NORTH-766	WOOTTON
DANGEROUS DOG INJURE PERSON OR ASSISTANCE DOG - IN ANY PLACE (WHETHER PUBLIC OR NOT)	18/9/2015 15:00	KEELEY LANE WOOTTON BEDFORD	NORTH-766	WOOTTON
INTERFERENCE WITH MOTOR VEHICLE	16/9/2015 18:30	MEPHAM ROAD WOOTTON BEDFORD	NORTH-766	WOOTTON
INTERFERENCE WITH MOTOR VEHICLE	18/9/2015 23:00	CANONS CLOSE WOOTTON BEDFORD	NORTH-766	WOOTTON
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	18/9/2015 17:00	STUDLEY ROAD WOOTTON BEDFORD	NORTH-766	WOOTTON
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	18/9/2015 23:30	LORRAINE ROAD WOOTTON BEDFORD	NORTH-766	WOOTTON

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Schedule of correspondence

Date received	Type	From	Brief details
2.9.15	Newsletter	Clerk & Councils Direct	Issue 101 September 2015
3.9.15	Email and attachment	Came & Co	Council Matters Autumn 2015
3.9.15	Letter and enclosure	Bedford Borough Council	Monthly Electoral Roll update - September 2015
4.9.15	Email	SLCC	News bulletin 4th September 2015
4.9.15	Email	Bedford Borough Council	Applications/Notices received by the Authority under the Licensing Act 2003 and Local Govt (Misc Provisions) Act and the Gambling Act 2005 - 24th Aug 2015 - 28 th Aug 2015
4.9.15	Letter and enclosure	Bidwells	Full Planning Application re Fields Road South
7.9.15	Magazine	SLCC	The Clerk Magazine - September 2015
8.9.15	Email	Bedford Borough Council	Planning weekly list - Week 36
9.9.15	Email	Unity Trust Bank Ltd	Changes to payment processing services and Important Information regarding the Financial Services Compensation Scheme
11.9.15	Magazine	LCR	National Association of Local Councils Autumn 2015
14.9.15	Email	Beds and Luton Biodiversity Recording & Monitoring Centre	Annual report 2014-15
14.9.15	Email	BRCC (Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity)	BRCC - E-bulletin September 2015

Appendix 2

16.9.15	Email	Bedford Borough Council	Applications/Notices received by the Authority under the Licensing Act 2003 and Local Govt (Misc Provisions) Act and the Gambling Act 2005 - 1st Sep 2015 - 11th Sep 2015
17.9.15	Email	Bedford Borough Council	Planning weekly list - Week 37
17.9.15	Email	BATPC (Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils)	Annual report and accounts 2014-15
18.9.15	Email	BRCC (Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity)	Invite to AGM 2015 - 15th October 2015
21.9.15	Email	Bedford Borough Council	Applications/Notices received by the Authority under the Licensing Act 2003 and Local Govt (Misc Provisions) Act and the Gambling Act 2005 - 14th Sep 2015 - 18 th Sep 2015
22.9.15	Email	Bedford Borough Council	Planning weekly list - Week 38
28.9.15	Email	Bedford Borough Council	Applications/Notices received by the Authority under the Licensing Act 2003 and Local Govt (Misc Provisions) Act and the Gambling Act 2005 - 21st Sep 2015 - 25 th Sep 2015

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Unity Trust Bank Ltd - Receipts & Payments presented - 1st September 2015 - 1st October 2015			
Credit	Debit	To/From	Description
£ 25.00		Advertising	Wootton newsletter income
£ 320.00		Abbotts Funeral Undertakers	Memorial income - cemetery
	£ 43.98	Mark Atkins	FunFest Domain name purchase
	£ 51.09	E-on	Changing rooms electricity
£ 80.00		Wrighton & Barker	Memorial income - cemetery
	£ 167.21	E-on	Street lighting
£ 480.00		Darlow	Cemetery plot reservation
£ 105.22		Co-operative Bank Plc	Closing balance of accounts
£ 65,423.50		Bedford Borough Council	Precept and Council Tax Grant
	£ 53.00	Bedford Borough Council	Cemetery rates
	£ 50,000.00	Unity Trust Bank Ltd	Transfer to deposit account
£ 40.00		Advertising	Wootton newsletter income
£ 40.00		Advertising	Wootton newsletter income
	£ 37.43	EE & T-Mobile	Clerk's mobile
	£ 25.18	BT	Phone line
	£ 52.53	Anglian Water	Allotments water rates
	£ 76.00	Anglian Water	Changing rooms water rates
	£ 31.80	BT	Broadband
£ 240.00		Abbotts Funeral Undertakers	Memorial income - cemetery
£ 240.00		Wrighton & Barker	Memorial income - cemetery
£ 184.00		Spelman and Lovell	Paddock rent
£ 10.90		Unity Trust Bank Ltd	Credit interest
	£ 35.00	Royal British Legion	Poppy wreath
	£ 3,529.95		Salaries September 2015

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Appendix 3

£ 40.00		WRFC u9's	MUGA hire
£ 350.00		Bedford Borough Council	Lorraine Road green grass cutting contribution
£67,578.62	£54,103.17		

b/f	£ 8,265.53
Income	£ 67,578.62
Expenditure	£ 54,103.17
Balance c/f	£ 21,740.98

Appendix 3a

Co-operative Bank Plc Receipts & Payments presented - 1st June 2015 - 31st July 2015			
Credit	Debit	To/From	Description
£ 4.53		Co-operative Bank Plc	Transfer from deposit account
	£ 105.22	Unity Trust Bank Ltd	Transfer of closing balance(s)
£ 4.53	£ 105.22		

b/f	£ 100.69
Income	£ 4.53
Expenditure	£ 105.22
Balance c/f	£ -

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FC15/186 Planning & Environment Committee report**9th September 2015****Correspondence**

Bedford Borough Council – proposed temporary road closure – Broadmead Road, Stewartby. To enable major drainage and construction work. Between Park Crescent and a point approximately 200 metres northeast of Park Crescent. The closure is anticipated to be in operation 24 hours a day from Monday 14th September 2015 to Friday 30th October 2015. Specific dates will be advertised locally closer to time. Due to the nature of the work it will **not** be possible for emergency service vehicles to go through this closure.

Matters arising – for information only

- P11/47 + P15/40 - Overgrown alleyway Lorraine Road/Hoo Close. Remedial works have been completed by the Crown Estate and they have removed a number of items which were fly tipped on their land (plus old fencing). Andy Prigmore (Bedford Borough Council (BBC) Highways) has agreed to replace the damaged fencing and remove the ash tree. Ongoing.
- P13/40 + P15/64 – Roads and footpaths. Resolved 11th March 2015 (P15/64) to request remedial works to footpaths in the following areas: Thorpe/Foster/Neale/Emerton Way, Tithe Barn Road, from the Cause End Road junction (pharmacy side) and the entire length of Bedford Road (both sides) from the village boundary sign on Bedford Road to the village exit on Cranfield Road. Andy Prigmore (BBC Highways) has also confirmed patch work will be carried out along Fields Road. Ongoing.
- P14/50 + P15/196 – Identification of Parish Council/Borough Council street lights. Records differ between the two organisations and the Clerk and Cllr Quirk will be working to resolve this, and a meeting was held with the Borough Council, who confirmed their records were out of date. Bedford Borough Council has made a proposal with costings for them to adopt all street lights. That adoption remains ongoing but it was resolved 10th December 2014 (FC14/196) to replace failing columns at Hall End (two) and Potters Cross (three). Clerk has chased the contractors undertaking the replacement columns (15th July 2015) and Cllr Quirk has since met with them. It should be noted the Borough Council has begun a programme of replacement columns in Keeley Lane (columns previously came under the remit of the parish council) without proper consultation*.
- P14/84 + P14/152 + P15/10 – Parking problems/yellow lines proposals. Resolved 8th July 2015 (P15/162) that Part 1, F (Cause End Road) be amended to **NOT** approve. Works expected to be undertaken in September 2015.
- P14/248 + P15/11 + P15/39 – Replacement programme of trees within the parish. Resolved 11th November 2015 (P15/39) to accept the retiring tree warden's recommendations but leave the works on file until autumn (better planting conditions).
- P14/250 + P15/124 + P15/138 + P15/151 – Tree works. Resolved 24th June 2015 (P15/151) to instruct Bartlett Tree Specialists Ltd to quote for all category 1 and 2 works, to be undertaken in autumn 2015. The clerk has requested further quotations (15th July 2015). Ongoing.

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Appendix 4

- P15/54 + P15/123 – Land within School Lane (behind ‘The Pound’ and noticeboard) on Bedford Road. Resolved to replace the fencing with a similar wooden picket style. Resolved 5th August 2015 (P15/186) to appoint S J Helliwell Fencing Contractors. Ongoing.
- P15/75 + P15/136 + P15/137 + P15/152 – Regeneration of Keeley End Pond. Brambles have been cut back and sprayed and this will be repeated in August 2015. The RoSPA report has been received and noted – the hedgerow gap along Bedford Road is to be infilled with planting (the clerk has been advised to carry this out in the autumn) and the hedgerow is to be cut/tidied in August 2015. Cllr Lloyd’s planting report is being taken forward and Cllr Doggrell and continues to liaise with the lower school. Buckets, soil and pond plants (lilies and marigold) are to be purchased by the clerk at the end of August for the lower school to look after, ahead of planting at the pond. Cllr Doggrell to meet with Andy Worboys to discuss rotivating requirements. Ongoing.
- P15/111 – Wood chippings to be added to Lorraine Road cemetery borders. The cemeteries contractors has been instructed to proceed. Ongoing.
- P15/134 – Replacement notice board at Hall End. Resolved 10th June 2015 (P15/134) the board be replaced at the existing location. This will be undertaken either by a contractor or the replacement handy man). Ongoing.
- P15/139 – Ongoing and proposed capital projects for 2015-16. Resolved 10th June 2015 (P15/139) that:
 - Replacement columns at Hall End and Potters Cross remain ongoing (current columns are failing);
 - Replacement trees at St. Mary’s cemetery extension remain ongoing;
 - Plans be drafted ahead of taking forward a proposed new tarmac pathway, turning circle and memorial wall(s) at Lorraine Road cemetery;
 - Replacement columns at Keeley Lane and Squires Road be placed on hold, following correspondence from Bedford Borough Council detailing their intention to undertake the same replacements (see also * above);
 - Wootton village (brick built) sign for Fields Road to be taken forward. Resolved 5th August 2015 (P15/185) that the sign be illuminated if possible and sited in front of the wooden gates on Fields Road.
- P15/163 – Complaint received re memorials within the natural burial ground at Lorraine Road cemetery which do not comply with regulations. The clerk has been unable to contact the next of kin so a laminated letter will be placed on site, giving four weeks’ notice to remove the items, after which they will be taken away and stored securely. Items have now been removed.
- P15/173 – Holly bush at Lorraine Road cemetery. Resolved 29th July 2015 (P15/173) to reduce its height to that of the boundary fence and cut back from the fence also. Ongoing.
- P15/174 – Lack of accessible bus stops within the village. Resolved 29th July 2015 (P15/174) the Borough Council be asked to fund works starting with the bus stop opposite the health centre. Other parishes have had works undertaken without needing to use ward monies. Ongoing.

Planning Applications

15/01760/MAR – Land North of Fields Road - reserved matters application for the scale, layout, appearance of buildings, landscaping and access for 108 dwellings within land parcel D as defined by the Phasing and Play Strategy Plan pursuant to hybrid permission 11/01502/EIA and including discharge of conditions 2, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, 29 and 35.

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Appendix 4

Resolved **NO objections** but that an observation be passed to Bedford Borough Council regarding centred social housing in one area as opposed to being spread throughout the development.

15/01816/TELPN – T Mobile site at Wootton Blue Cross Football Club, Bedford Road - removal of existing 16.6 metre high telecommunications monopole and installation of replacement 17.5 metre high telecommunications monopole, one cabinet and associated development.

Resolved **NO objections**.

15/01924/FUL – The Croft, Cranfield Road - single storey rear extension.

Resolved **NO objections**.

Planning Approvals

15/00840/FUL – 30 Potters Cross – one and two storey rear/side extensions incorporating garage conversion.

This council previously resolved **NO objections**.

15/00862/FUL – land to the rear of 99 and 101 Bedford Road – shared access and parking for approved bungalows on land to the rear of 99 and 101 Bedford Road.

This council previously resolved **NO objections**.

15/00920/FUL – 5 Lambert Close – single storey rear/side extension.

This council previously resolved **NO objections**.

15/00511/AOC – Land North of Fields Road – 11/01502/EIA - condition 27 foul water drainage scheme – hybrid application consisting of: (i) an outline application for 415 residential units with associated ancillary works and facilities including a retail local centre, a lower school, a community building, sport and recreational facilities, open space, associated infrastructure including means of access (all other matters reserved); and (ii) a full application for an access road, 195 residential units, a central parkland area with footpaths and play facilities and associated infrastructure.

Not previously sent to council for comment.

15/00518/AOC – Land North of Fields Road – 11/01502/EIA – condition 28 surface water drainage scheme – hybrid application consisting of: (i) an outline application for 415 residential units with associated ancillary works and facilities including a retail local centre, a lower school, a community building, sport and recreational facilities, open space, associated infrastructure including means of access (all other matters reserved); and (ii) a full application for an access road, 195 residential units, a central parkland area with footpaths and play facilities and associated infrastructure.

Not previously sent to council for comment.

15/00246/AOC – Land North of Fields Road – 14/00880/MAR – condition 2 external materials – erection of school with car parking and landscaping works. Reserved matters application for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to Outline Approval 11/01502/EIA.

Not previously sent to council for comment.

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15/00280/AOC – Land North of Fields Road – 14/00880/MAR – condition 3 masonry panel - erection of school with car parking and landscaping works. Reserved matters application for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to Outline Approval 11/01502/EIA.

Not previously sent to council for comment.

15/00281/AOC – Land North of Fields Road – 14/00880/MAR – condition 4 hard surface finishes - erection of school with car parking and landscaping works. Reserved matters application for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to Outline Approval 11/01502/EIA.

Not previously sent to council for comment.

15/00282/AOC – Land North of Fields Road – 14/00880/MAR – condition 5 boundary treatments - erection of school with car parking and landscaping works. Reserved matters application for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to Outline Approval 11/01502/EIA.

Not previously sent to council for comment.

15/01328/FUL – Hall End House, 66 Hall End Road – conversion of ground floor of garage to additional living space for existing first floor annexe and external alterations.

This council previously resolved **NO objections.**

15/01344/FUL – 4 Cranfield Road – alterations to form dormer windows to front and rear elevations.

This council previously resolved **NO objections.**

15/01464/FUL – 35 Grovebury Court – single storey side/rear extension.

This council previously resolved **NO objections.**

15/01365/LDP – 5 Potters Cross – use of dwelling for housing up to 4 children age 8-17 with learning difficulties plus a minimum of 2 carers at any one time.

Not previously sent to council for comment.

15/01534/TPO – 153 Bedford Road – ash – reduce by 2-3m, reduce overhang to bus stop by 5-6m.

Not previously sent to council for comment.

Planning Refusals

15/01189/FUL – 9 Russell Way – two storey front extension.

This council previously resolved **NO objections.**

Resolutions

P15/206 – Resolved to accept the reports' recommendations without amendment.

P15/207 – Resolved to accept the maintenance programme without amendment.

P15/208 – Resolved to request via the post office that a post box be added near the bus loop on Folkes Road.

P15/209 – Resolved Cllr Quirk contact a suitable stonemason as soon as possible regarding an unsafe memorial. Further resolved to accept the report findings and risk assessments without amendment.

Appendix 4

P15/210 – Resolved the ivy be cut back from the boundary fence cemetery side and all suckers/lower branches be cut back as high as possible. Further resolved that the works recommended to reduce the crown as contained in the visual tree inspection report be adhered to.

30th September 2015

Meeting cancelled due to illness.

Sue Playford
Clerk to the Council
6th October 2015