

DRAFT MINUTES OF MAULDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2026,
AT THE CHURCH HALL, CHURCH ROAD, MAULDEN, AT 7.30pm

Present: Maulden Parish Cllrs S Browning (Chair), D Illingworth, P Penniston, P Phillips, S Rudkin, J Wasser, B Woodward (BEM) (Vice-Chairman), Clerk Tracey Bearton, & 3 members of the public.

58	Apologies for absence – Cllr Aston (<i>proposer & seconder received, apologies accepted</i>). Ward Cllrs Smith & Clinch.	
59	Declaration from members in relation to a personal or pecuniary interest in any agenda item – Cllr Penniston on graveyard/BW32 and flooding, Chair gave her permission to speak.	
60	Public Forum – STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED CORRESPONDENCE 15/08/26 CBC ASB event at rec 19 Sep – Cllr Browning arranged CBC/police ASB event for Sept 19, they accidentally arrived on Aug 19, spoke with residents, looked at the graffiti. Heard about the electric bikes and motorbikes, suggested blocking entrances with metal barriers. PC Kerry Maxwell of Beds Community Police gave an update on ASB incidents in the village which have been the priority over the past few months, including youngsters climbing on the pavilion roof, illegal electric scooters/e-bikes, and cannabis usage. She explained numerous active patrols have happened. There was also an engagement event between the police, CBC's youth team and Cllr Browning. MP Blake Stephenson visited The Rec with PC Maxwell and included it in a presentation, he is also using it for something he's doing at Parliament. Several individuals have received Section 8 warnings for cannabis use. Parents of youngsters who climb on the pavilion roof and have been seen trespassing at Kings Farm have been visited and warned that if behaviour continues, they will be served with behaviour orders. Parents of youngsters seen riding illegal bikes and scooters have also been visited and warned that their bikes/scooters will be seized if seen. The police will be continuing their patrols. Update on Maulden Garden Centre is that the police, CBC and Trading Standards visited. Investigations will continue. Cllr Browning thanked PC Maxwell for attending, which was much appreciated as she as off-duty, and will email MPC's upcoming events so the community police can attend if possible. The next police engagement event is on October 4 in the Village Hall car park. Cllr Browning thanked PC Maxwell for attending, which was much appreciated as she as off-duty, and will email MPC's upcoming events so the community police can attend if possible. Having established no one attending wished to speak STANDING ORDERS WERE REINSTATED	ACTION: Cllr Browning
61	Approval Of Minutes – Minutes of Maulden Parish Council meeting held on July 27, 2026, and minutes of Maulden Parish Council's extra ordinary meeting on August 5, 2026, had been circulated. RESOLVED: Proposers and seconders were received, and the July 26, 2026, and August 5, 2026, minutes were unanimously approved as a true record.	
62	Actions Arising All actions arising are covered under an agenda item	
63	Clerk's Report & Correspondence – Clerk's report circulated (see https://maulden-pc.gov.uk/surveys-and-reports/ and Appendix C). Correspondence to meeting date – circulated to all Cllrs ((see https://maulden-pc.gov.uk/surveys-and-reports/ and Appendix C) and all dealt with or covered within the agenda apart from: CORRESPONDENCE 02/09/26 Future Countryside dinner, Bedfordshire, Thursday 8 October 2026 – invitation from CPRE to dinner to discuss opportunities for future collaboration. Cllr Illingworth agreed to be MPC's rep at the CPRE dinner on October 8 at The Kingfisher in Bedford to discuss opportunities for future collaboration.	ACTION: Cllr Illingworth
64	Chair's Report ACTIONS ARISING 50j/36j/22j/127j/113j/99j/85j/71j/57j/44j/32j/32j/20j <i>Chair's Report: Explore ways of inviting young people to attend MPC meetings. Cllrs Browning & Smith Ongoing</i> MPC's Resilience & Succession Planning – Cllr Phillips' report circulated (see https://maulden-pc.gov.uk/surveys-and-reports/ and Appendix C) ACTIONS ARISING 50j <i>Chair's Report: All Councillors to read the Job Evaluation document re the considerations for MPC as a whole. All Cllrs</i> Cllr Browning hoped everyone has read the Job Evaluation document for the considerations for MPC as a whole, and the finance & general purposes working group have circulated a Resilience & Succession Planning report. Cllr Rudkin asked what other councils do, Cllr Phillips said most have a plan which MPC don't, so it is best practice. Cllr Browning said the recommended option is to have a part-time assistant which impacts the budget so needs to be considered before the final budget is agreed in December. Agreed the F&GP Working Group to continue planning and bring recommendations to the next meeting. Councillor Vacancy 24/08/26 Resignation – Cllr Kelly Lawrence submitted her resignation as a Cllr, Clerk informed CBC electoral services. Chair Cllr Browning thanked her for her work. 25/08/26 Re: Councillor resignation – Notice of Vacancy dated August 25, 2026, sent by CBC, request for election needed by September 15, then co-option. Cllr Lawrence has resigned. Cllr Browning gave thanks for her work. CBC have issued the notice of vacancy, if there is no request for election by tomorrow, September 15, MPC can co-opt, so the Clerk will advertise this.	ACTION: Cllrs Smith & Browning ACTION: F&GP Working Group ACTION: Clerk

	Cllr Browning reminded everyone MPC email accounts can only be used for MPC correspondence. Cllr Rudkin said he was using his MPC email for VH committee work as he's a MPC representative, but the Clerk explained he's registered as a trustee with the Charity Commission making his legal obligation to the Village Hall so he is no longer MPC's rep, those are now Cllrs Penniston and Wasser. Cllr Rudkin confirmed he has never signed any declaration to be a trustee nor agreed to do so. Cllr Jackson, who is a VH trustee and current vice-chair of the VH committee, admitted the VHC had not followed proper procedures and Cllr Rudkin is registered as a trustee even though he did not complete the required forms. Cllr Rudkin said he will be removing himself as a trustee. The other trustees are Cllr Brian Woodward, Andrew Summerfield and Chris Elliott. Cllr Jackson said he has been in contact with CBC's village hall expert Simon Patterson, who told him MPC Council representatives must become trustees as it's the only way they can attend trustees' meetings which are private – Clerk explained that makes their legal obligation to put the charity's interests first so they cannot represent the parish council properly. Cllr Jackson added the expert said the parish council must financially support the VH for maintenance costs, and he said the parish council also help by putting invoices through MPC's accounts to reclaim the VAT. The Clerk said that would mean all VH monies having to be part of MPC's accounts which would affect MPC's financial status but Cllr Jackson said that was separate. The Clerk read out the 1983 solicitor's letter which clearly states MPC have no financial responsibility to the Village Hall: "By the conveyance of 4th March 1963 the Village Hall site, including the car park, was conveyed by Ampthill RDC to Maulden Parish Council. By the declaration of trust 9th April 1965 the Parish Council effectively gave the Village Hall site to the Village Hall Management Committee although the freehold of the site remains vested in the Parish Council. The Parish Council has no obligation to carry out, or contribute towards the cost of carrying out any works to the Village Hall or surrounding site. Nor does the Parish Council have any say in the use of the land whilst it is run by the Village Hall Management Committee for the purpose of a Village Hall." Cllr Jackson said there is a lack of clarification and they have engaged with the Village Hall expert. Cllr Phillips said everyone wants an effective Village Hall, if he VH Committee want things done differently they need to approach MPC with their proposal. AGREED: Clerk to send the 1983 solicitor's letter to the Village Hall Committee, and Cllrs for information. AGREED: Cllr Jackson agreed the Village Hall Committee will put together a proposal for the future of the Village Hall to bring to a meeting in the new year between the VHC, MPC and CBC's village hall expert Simon Patterson. Cllr Browning said there is a new head teacher, Mr Cox, at Maulden Lower School so she will invite him to attend a meeting or meet with MPC to encourage more engagement. Universal Studios' coordinator to be invited to meet with MPC to discuss residents' concerns.	ACTION: Clerk ACTION: Cllr Jackson, VH Committee ACTION: Cllr Browning ACTION: Clerk
65	Policies – Copies of the IT Policy and BYOD Policy have been circulated for each Cllr to sign, and will also be sent to non-cllrs with MPC email addresses. Online Storage – ongoing. Moving to a full mobile device management or mobile application management system will be expensive, or there is the option of moving to webmail multi-factor authentication which means accessing emails on personal phones can only be through the webmail system, it cannot be downloaded to Outlook or MacMail. Also looking into Dropbox for storage. The Clerk and Cllr Phillips will keep investigating.	ACTION: Clerk
66	Planning including applications to consider & resolve where applicable Planning applications circulated (see https://maulden-pc.gov.uk/surveys-and-reports/ and Appendix C) (Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 s25) Three planning applications were received from CBC and circulated with comments from the planning group as detailed in Appendix C. CB/26/02312/FULL – comments by Sept 1 extended to Sept 15 Location: 9 Moores Close, Maulden, Bedford, MK45 2AJ CB/26/02058/FULL – comments by Sept 25 Location: Church View Farm, New Road, Maulden, Bedford, MK45 2BG CB/26/02687/FULL – comments by Oct 2 Location: 8 The Brache, Maulden, Bedford, MK45 2DR RESOLVED: Proposer and seconder received, MPC unanimously accepted the planning group's recommendations that an objection be sent as detailed for the 9 Moores Close application, and no adverse comments be made for the other two applications. Autumn Cottage (Highways) – See Clerk's Report (https://maulden-pc.gov.uk/surveys-and-reports/ and Appendix C) Meadowside – Planning Enforcement Appeal ACTIONS ARISING 33/18 Planning: Send Ward Cllrs Smith and Clinch details of Meadowside planning enforcement so Ward Cllrs can contact CBC Planning Enforcement to ensure it is carried out. Clerk/Ward Cllrs	ACTION: Clerk, WCllr Summerfield

		CORRESPONDENCE 03/07/26 Reporting breaches of Planning Control – all breaches of planning control, enforcement and appeals, must now be reported via CBC's online form – not sure how this impacts Ward Cllrs' chasing, Ward Cllr Clinch will use Meadowside enforcement as a test. Ward Cllr Clinch is raising the Meadowside enforcement issue with CBC enforcement, and using it as a test case to see if ward cllrs can still act despite CBC's new online planning enforcement form system. Maulden Garden Centre Planning Enforcement <i>ACTIONS ARISING 47/33/18/124/110/96/82/68/54/41/29/29/17/149/137/125/112/99/86/73/54/35/16/186/168/150/131 Planning: Continue pressure on CBC planning enforcement, IDB and Environment agency re Maulden Garden Centre and the cars and lorries parked there and environment issues, and new evidence of people living on site. W Cllrs Clinch & Smith</i> In the Ward Cllrs' absence this will be raised next time. Dog & Badger Planning Enforcement Appeal <i>ACTIONS ARISING 47 Planning: Contact CBC over next steps for Dog & Badger enforcement as appeal has been dismissed. W Cllr Clinch</i> CORRESPONDENCE 02/08/26 Dog & Badger – Cllr Phillips raised concerns about the number of cars at the D&B, clerk reported a planning enforcement breach to CBC via the online form as the appeal against the enforcement was dismissed on July 21, 2026, so no vehicles should be stored on site. CORRESPONDENCE 06/08/26 Re 109 Clophill Road, MK45 2AD (Case Ref BS01412) – resident copied MPC in on email asking Ward Cllrs for an update as more cars are on the Dog & Badger site. Ward Cllr Clinch responded that planning enforcement have confirmed they are now proceeding with the original enforcement notice, and that breaches need to be reported, as MPC did on August 2. CORRESPONDENCE 29/08/26 Re 109 Clophill Road, MK45 2AD (Case Ref BS01412) – resident thanked MPC for reporting planning enforcement breach at Dog & Badger, copied MPC in on issues with CBC's handling of the case. The extra vehicles seen at the Dog & Badger were reported as a planning enforcement breach but nothing heard. In the Ward Cllrs' absence this will be raised next time Planning Working Group <i>ACTIONS ARISING 47 Planning: Cllr Browning to contact Planning Working Group leader Cllr Jackson re ongoing planning arrangements, Cllrs Phillips & Aston to draw up responses for approval at extra ordinary MPC meeting before August 12. Cllrs Aston, Browning, Phillips & Jackson</i> The planning applications were dealt with at the extra ordinary meeting. One way to prevent this happening again would be to give the Clerk delegated powers to respond to planning applications. The terms of reference could be written so it would be done in consultation with the planning working group. Cllr Phillips said there needs to be more than just one cllr making comments as it's meant to be a collaborative view but the group have not met for some time, and planning is one of the most important tasks for parish councils. AGREED: Clerk to look into delegated authority for making planning application comments. Local Plan Call For Sites Consultation <i>ACTIONS ARISING 47 Planning: Draw up 100-word summaries for Local Plan Sites consultation responses, submit to CBC by August 17 deadline. Clerk</i> <i>ACTIONS ARISING 47 Planning: organise & publicise public drop-in session ,Church Hall, August 5, 5pm-9pm, as many Cllrs as possible to attend, 4.30pm for set-up. Clerk, All Cllrs</i> CORRESPONDENCE 13/08/26 Urgent Action Please LP extension request to CBC – CPRE organising petition to CBC to have the Local Plan sites consultation extended beyond Aug 17 due to inconsistent info, and holiday periods, sent template letter. As it can't do any harm to ask and MPC's responses will be submitted before the deadline, the Clerk signed and submitted on MPC's behalf. CBC leader responded there would be no extension as six weeks was plenty of time and it was not a statutory consultation. The public drop-in session went very well, residents seemed to appreciate the effort, about 50 attended. MPC's responses were submitted by the deadline.	ACTION: WCllr Clinch ACTION: WCllr Clinch & Smith ACTION: WCllr Clinch ACTION: Clerk
67	Finance: To consider info & reports and resolve where applicable	a: Finance Report – Clerk's report and finance report circulated (see https://maulden-pc.gov.uk/surveys-and-reports/ and Appendix C). Cllr Woodward confirmed he understands the bus shelter at Hall End is still being cleaned by a resident who is paid £100 as an honorarium each year. The internal auditor has flagged this as honorariums are one-off payments. In discussion it's not clear who owns the shelters as only one is cleaned but there are two in Hall End and one by Church Road. AGREED: Clerk to write to the resident to thank them for their work over the years but MPC no longer require the bus shelter to be cleaned. b: Confirm Monthly Bank Reconciliation Approval – (see https://maulden-pc.gov.uk/surveys-and-reports/ and Appendix C) – June, July and August bank recs have been circulated, Cllr Aston has indicated approval for June, Cllr Phillips has checked July and August. c: Payments To Be Approved - None d: Payments Since The Last Meeting – circulated.	ACTION: Clerk

		Maulden Parish Council Payments Made Jul-Sept 2026							
		Date	Payee	Reason	Nett	VAT	Total	Chq no	
		28.07.26	Jawson	Cable ties for installing posters	£ 4 53	£ 0 91	£ 5 44	DC	
		31.07.26	Natwest	Bank charges Jul 26	£ 8 05		£ 8 05	BACS	
		04.08.26	Apple	iCloud monthly storage	£ 2 49	£ 0 50	£ 2 99	DC	
		06.08.26	BATPC	Annual affiliation fee inv AFF062	£ 811 00		£ 811 00	BACS	
		06.08.26	BATPC	Training Clerk Crisis Communications inv Training 208	£ 42 00		£ 42 00	BACS	
		06.08.26	BATPC	Training Cllr Illingworth Data Protection inv Training 210	£ 42 00		£ 42 00	BACS	
		06.08.26	Woodfines Solicitors/ Robinson & Hall	Land Registry compliant plan for Orchard Access, 50% of fee as agreed paid to Woodfines who passed payment to Robinson & Hall. VAT reclaim from R&H 198 488 011 inv 117709	£ 215 14	£ 43 03	£ 258 17	BACS	
		06.08.26	D5 Treecare	Orchard grasscutting as contract July x2 inv 1243	£ 200 00		£ 200 00	BACS	
		06.08.26	Maulden Parochial Church Council	Hall hire inv 47	£ 36 00		£ 36 00	BACS	
		06.08.26	DJ Granger	Grasscutting as contract inc VAT for below inv 027313	£ 520 80	£ 123 36	£ 644 16	BACS	
		06.08.26	DJ Granger	Cut Trilley Fields as contract VAT inc above inv 027313	£ 96 00		£ 96 00	BACS	
		13.08.26	Aldi	Filing folders & printer paper	£ 21 59	£ 4 32	£ 25 91	DC	
		17.08.26	Amazon	Casebound notebooks for minutes VAT GB994380967	£ 23 32	£ 4 67	£ 27 99	DC	
		18.08.26	Maulden Parochial Church Council	Hall hire inv 48 Public drop-in session	£ 54 00		£ 54 00	BACS	
		21.08.26	SSE	Streetlights energy supply 01/07/26-31/07/26	£ 310 99	£ 62 20	£ 373 19	DD	
		22.08.26	Beds Pension Fund	Employee's & Employer's pension costs	£ 641 26		£ 641 26	BACS	
		22.08.26	Beds Pension Fund	Employee's & Employer's pension costs	£ 71 67		£ 71 67	BACS	
		22.08.26	Tracey Bearton	Clerk's salary inc holiday pay & £26 home working	£ 2 143 80		£ 2 143 80	BACS	
		25.07.26	HMRG	Employee's Tax & NI liability, & Employer's NI liability	£ 833 27		£ 833 27	BACS	
		31.08.26	Natwest	Bank charges Aug 26	£ 6 30		£ 6 30	BACS	
		01.08.26	Eon.nest	Pavilion electricity Jul 19-Aug 18 £34.71	£ 33 06	£ 1 65	£ 34 71	DC	
		04.08.26	Apple	iCloud monthly storage	£ 2 49	£ 0 50	£ 2 99	DC	
		04.09.26	DJ Granger	Grasscutting as contract inc VAT for below inv 027434	£ 520 80	£ 123 36	£ 644 16	BACS	
		04.09.26	DJ Granger	Cut Trilley Fields as contract VAT inc above inv 027434	£ 96 00		£ 96 00	BACS	
		04.09.26	D5 Treecare	Orchard grasscutting as contract Aug x2, hedgecutting as contract x1 inv 1257	£ 350 00		£ 350 00	BACS	
		04.09.26	Portal Plan Quest/CBC	Pavilion refurbishment Planning application fee	£ 237 00	£ 16 50	£ 253 50	DC	
		11.09.26	Defib Supplies	Replacement defib pads x2	£ 104 00	£ 20 80	£ 124 80	DC	
				Total	£ 7 427 56	£ 401 80	£ 7 829 36		
		RESOLVED: A proposer and seconder were received, and the above payments since the last meeting on July 27, 2026, were unanimously approved.							
		h: Grant Funding – Cllr Jackson said he has found a site showing a number of grant possibilities, but all need fully-costed projects.							
		i: Grant Applications – CPRE CORRESPONDENCE 28/07/26 Local Plan Consultation and Grant application – CPRE requested grant application forms. CORRESPONDENCE 14/08/26 Grant application – from CPRE Bedfordshire for £500. Grant application from CPRE for £500 circulated with correct paperwork submitted. Cllr Phillips said CPRE are a very helpful organisation for planning issues. RESOLVED: A proposer and seconder were received and it was agreed to give CPRE Bedfordshire a £500 grant.							
		j: S106 Funding CORRESPONDENCE 17/08/26 RE_ S106 rules – CBC responded to request for explanation of how S106 funding is requested and allocated, but didn't answer how CBC's Gardeners' Close small play area got priority. Stated CBC have no plans to change S106 to CIL. CBC sent response to questions on how S106 funding works, but didn't explain how their Gardeners Close play area got priority and £44,000. The Clerk did update MPC's project list in December but there doesn't appear to be a mechanism to do so very often and they don't seem to be interested in costings. Cllr Phillips said the monies seem to be agreed between CBC and the developer so it's too late by the time MPC hears about what has been decided. Cllr Jackson said CBC were asked a couple of years ago if monies could be moved for a different use but they said it was too difficult and cost money to make such changes. Cllr Phillips added that even if the development is within a specific parish, S106 monies don't all have to be spent in that parish, CBC can spread it around.							
68	Recreation Ground, Play Areas, Green Spaces: To consider info & reports & resolve where applicable	a: Recreation Ground & Play Area (Power to acquire and maintain land for public recreation, Public Health Act 1875 s164, Open Spaces Act 1906, s9-10, Local Government Act 1972 Sched 14 para 27) Play Area Inspector Training – See Clerk's Report (https://maulden-pc.gov.uk/surveys-and-reports/ and Appendix C). Green Spaces & Bus Shelter Steward Contract ACTIONS ARISING 49a The Rec: Contact Mike Pascoe to invite him to attend an interview and discuss Green Spaces & Bus Shelter Steward Contract further. Clerk Cllr Browning and the Clerk met Mike Pascoe and showed him the work required under the Green Spaces & Bus Shelter Steward contract. He seemed competent and happy with the terms and conditions and £550 per quarter fee. He's able to put the bins out for collection but it's not reasonable to expect him to travel back on a Tuesday evening to put them away so we'll need to work this out between Cllrs and the Clerk. RESOLVED: A proposer and seconder were received and it was agreed MPC would contract MWP Handyman Services as the Green Spaces & Bus Shelter Steward on a three-year contract, starting immediately. Rec Issues – See Clerk's Report (https://maulden-pc.gov.uk/surveys-and-reports/ and Appendix C).							
								ACTION: Cllrs Phillips & Illingworth	

	Volunteer Group <i>ACTIONS ARISING 49a The Rec: Draw up suggested parameters for volunteer group to help with minor incidents of damage, clean-up and repair. Cllr Smith</i> Cllr Smith is working on the Volunteer Group parameters. RoSPA Inspection & Play Equipment Maintenance <i>ACTIONS ARISING 49a The Rec: Take RoSPA Inspection report on next play area inspection and report back on what works need to be carried out now and what can be left. Cllr Illingworth</i> Cllr Phillips and the Clerk's report on the RoSPA Inspection suggested repairs has been circulated (https://maulden-pc.gov.uk/surveys-and-reports/ and Appendix C). With no urgent issues they recommend only two repairs are actioned, stripping down and refitting the HipHop and Rotaweb at £285.00 each +vat. The local jet wash company, who kindly cleaned off the graffiti on the slide, have been contacted for a quote to clean moss and algae off the Toddler MultiUnit and the Slide Tower – and anything else they're willing to do. For the ongoing issues with the wet pour shrinkage, they suggest trying a repair kit at around £60+vat. For all other repairs the recommendation is to leave them until next year's inspection, which gives MPC the chance to carry forward any funding from this year's budget and properly budget for 2027-2028 to cover up to £5,000 in repairs – there is also the suggestion of looking to replace the wet pour surfaces with the same as that under the Slide Tower which is less prone to shrinkage and cracking. The vintage rocking horse is still very popular and quite rare, and Cllr Phillips said that, while only minor issues were identified in the RoSPA inspection, it may be worth having a complete overhaul to ensure it can be kept in good condition. Agreed the Clerk to investigate the manufacturer, probably Wicksteed, and contact them for information. RESOLVED: A proposer and seconder were received and it was agreed to follow the recommendations of Cllr Phillips and the Clerk's report on the RoSPA inspection suggested repairs. b: Pavilion Group – Cllr Aston's report has been circulated (https://maulden-pc.gov.uk/surveys-and-reports/ and Appendix C). <i>ACTIONS ARISING 49b/35b Pavilion Group: Consider suggested concept schemes and give feedback to Pavilion Group to discuss with architect. ALL CLLRS Pavilion Group</i> CORRESPONDENCE 06/08/26 Proposed Concept Schemes – latest scheme from architect, accessible toilet has two doors so can be accessed from outside for football games when café isn't open, pitched roof to stop climbing and higher inside, has wider overhang at front for standing under and tables, and at back covering outside storage. Internal space all open with sliding screen for changing room. CORRESPONDENCE 28/08/26 Re: Correct Drawings – architect sent corrected concept drawings, clerk approved and will complete and forward visuals, and design and access statement with a view to submitting the planning application next week. CORRESPONDENCE 04/09/26 Payment receipt for planning application PP-15188815 - Full planning permission – confirmation of £237.00 + £16.50 payment for planning application for pavilion works. Following on from MPC's comments the concept drawings were updated (see Appendix C) and the architects have submitted the planning application for the pavilion works. It's mainly for changing to a pitched roof as all other works would only need building regs. There may eventually need to be a change of use application if a café is to be opened. c: Trilley Fields Play Area (Power to acquire and maintain land for public recreation, Public Health Act 1875 s164, Open Spaces Act 1906, s9-10) CORRESPONDENCE 20/08/26 Hedgerow Heroes - 'call for sites!' – CPRE after more sites to plant hedgerows. CPRE are looking for more hedgerow sites, it was agreed to suggest Trilley Fields to replace the dying box hedge and along the new fence. d: Community Orchard (Power to acquire and maintain land for public recreation, Public Health Act 1875 s164, Open Spaces Act 1906, s9-10) <i>ACTIONS ARISING 49d/35d Community Orchard: Circulate artwork for new Community Orchard sign to all cllrs before agreeing design. Clerk</i> CORRESPONDENCE 03/08/26 Maulden Parish Council - Signage - Community Orchard Post & Panel Sign (REF25448-2) – Liquid Designs sent suggested artwork for new Community Orchard sign, circulated to cllrs. CORRESPONDENCE 04/09/26 Quotation - Signage - Community Orchard Post & Panel Sign (REF25448-3) – updated artwork for proposed new Orchard sign, suggestion to reposition to front of the site, updated quote at £346.25+£69.25 vat. The updated sign design for the Orchard has been circulated, which Cllrs approved, but the exact positioning needs to be decided because it would be better at the front to advertise the Orchard but it needs to look right. Cllr Phillips reported having spoken to a number of people sitting in the Orchard who said they really love the green space. e: Millenium Garden Maintenance Costs – Cllr Phillips' report has been circulated (see https://maulden-pc.gov.uk/surveys-and-reports/ and Appendix C). <i>ACTIONS ARISING 49e/35e Millennium Garden: Write to landowners to say MPC are considering whether to continue with the agreement due to rising costs, and ask their views. Clerk</i>	ACTION: Cllr Smith ACTION: Clerk ACTION: Clerk
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		The Clerk has spoken to the landowners to ask their views on MPC giving back the Millennium Garden, and if they would allow the Maulden sign to stay there. They have been assured MPC would explain to residents it is a council decision. f: Tree Warden – The Clerk will be organising the two-yearly arboricultural survey shortly. g: Allotments – See Clerk's Report (https://maulden-pc.gov.uk/surveys-and-reports/ and Appendix C). A quote of up to £1,760+VAT was received today for clearing the unused and overgrown areas, that allows for a skip which may not be required, plus £3,688.90+ VAT for additional fencing and gates if to be used as two grazing plots. The clearance is necessary to be able to utilise the land at all. Horse grazing plots attract significantly higher rents of over £100 per month whereas the current agricultural rent for this area is £244 per year so it is a case of investing for the future. RESOLVED: A proposer and seconder were received and it was agreed to accept the £1,760+VAT quote for clearing unused and overgrown allotment land. h. Environment <i>ACTIONS ARISING 49h/35h Environment: Organise village litter pick, September 12. Cllr Illingworth</i> Cllr Illingworth reported five people took part in the litter pick, collecting five bags of rubbish, and from the Facebook post a couple of people have since indicated their willingness to participate in future events. He's planning the next one for March 20.	ACTION: Clerk
69	Other reports to consider & resolve where applicable	a: Highways – Cllr Browning's report has been circulated (see https://maulden-pc.gov.uk/surveys-and-reports/ and Appendix C). Safer Crossings <i>ACTIONS ARISING 36a/22a/127a/13a Highways: Begin process for getting safe crossings in the village, particularly Amptill Road. Application window Oct/Nov through Ward Cllrs. W Cllr Clinch/Cllr Browning</i> Cllr Browning reported there seems to be no chance of persuading CBC to bring in safer crossings any earlier than their current plans in the 2030s. Road Safety Partnership & Limbersey Lane <i>ACTIONS ARISING 50a/36a/22a/127a Highways: Look into how to get warning signs for horses and cyclists on Limbersey Lane. Ward Cllr Clinch.</i> The only way to get warning signs on Limbersey Lane would be to apply under the Road Safety Partnership and MPC would have to pay an unknown fee for this. Bridleway 32 CORRESPONDENCE 30/07/26 Maulden Bridleway – Rector copied in MPC on confirmation to CBC that he would welcome a face-to-face meeting re the BW diversion, expecting it to be in early September. 30/07/26 RE CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - MAULDEN BRIDLEWAY NO. 32 MODIFICATION ORDER 2026 – Rector copied in MPC on response to British Horse Society and mentioned difficulties riders have accessing Maulden Woods due to Forestry Commission (Forestry England) obstructions. CORRESPONDENCE 03/08/26 The diversion of Maulden BW 32 at the graveyard and SSSI – CBC confirmed the route down the track to George Street has been discounted due to the flooding issues, the new suggestion is to go through the newest section of graveyard, along the path walkers currently use, and down Woodcocks Path. Clerk sent to Cllrs with suggested response using existing info and MPC decisions pointing out unsuitability of Woodcocks Path at under 6ft wide and disturbance to graveyard, and asking for date of promised meeting with CBC. Three cllrs responded with approval by Aug 12 date so response sent to CBC. CORRESPONDENCE 05/08/26 Re: CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - MAULDEN: BRIDLEWAY NO. 32 MODIFICATION ORDER 2026 – BHS response to Rector's July 30 email. Said will look at the suggested new route everyone has said is too narrow, and hopes MPC supports improved access for all within Maulden Woods. CORRESPONDENCE 17/08/26 Urgent meeting Fwd: The diversion of Maulden BW 32 at the graveyard and SSSI – Rector's latest notes re graveyard/Woodcocks Path diversion, saying it's a non-starter as still through the graveyard and Woodcocks Path is too narrow. CORRESPONDENCE 20/08/26 The diversion of Maulden BW 32 at the graveyard and SSSI – Rector's response to CBC's latest diversion, backing up MPC's points about the unsuitability of any route through the graveyard, Woodcocks Path being too narrow, prioritising the SSSI, and need for a stakeholder meeting. CORRESPONDENCE 03/09/26 Meeting to discuss the proposed Bridleway No. 32 and its diversion – CBC requested dates and availability for meeting, and asked for venue if to be face-to-face. Rector offered the church or Church Hall. Available dates are Sept 24 2-4pm; Sept 25, 10-11am or 2-3pm (clerk not available); Sept 29, 10-11am or 2-3pm; Sept 30, 10-11am or 2-3pm. CORRESPONDENCE 03/09/26 RE: The diversion of Maulden BW 32 at the graveyard and SSSI – CBC response to MPC's email on suggested new diversion: 4m width is for new bridleways, if inspector says the Woodcocks Path route technically already exists, this doesn't apply. All other objections to Woodcocks Path essentially dismissed as they claim to be able to deal with them, and also dismissing objections to horses and cyclists within the graveyard as it's already a pedestrian route. Want to keep access to SSSI to minimum, say any bridleway there couldn't be fenced and bridleway gates from the car park could let livestock escape and allow motorcycle access. There will be a meeting with CBC and stakeholders at the end of September to discuss the latest BW32 diversion through the graveyard's new section and along Woodcocks Path. As soon as the date and time are confirmed it will be circulated – it may be at the Church. Quiet Lanes CORRESPONDENCE 06/09/26 Quiet Lane Proposal for Water End, Maulden – Ward Cllr Clinch request for MPC comments on Quiet Lanes proposal for Water End.	

	The Ward Cllrs' proposal for Water End to be designated a Quiet Lane has been circulated. For info, Limbersey Lane is unlikely to qualify due to speed and volume of traffic. A Quiet Lane has 20mph limit to encourage walking, cycling and horse riding. Cllr Phillips said Water End is used as a rat run and is significantly busier now Wooden Hill Coffee Co is based there. Cllr Penniston pointed out there are quite a few businesses on the road, with employees needing access as well as business vehicles and deliveries. AGREED: Cllrs agreed to support the Ward Cllrs' proposal for Water End to be designated a Quiet Lane, although it has become significantly busier with people now visiting Wooden Hill Coffee, and there are a number of businesses along there where employees' access, and business vehicles and deliveries should not be affected.	
	b: Flooding ACTIONS ARISING 50b/36b/22b/127b/113b Flooding: Find out why CBC imposed a paltry £2,500 fine on the Carnegie Close developers. W Cllr Clinch In the Ward Cllrs' absence this will be raised next time. ACTIONS ARISING 50b/36b Flooding: Forward interim report from CBC's Flooding Survey. W Cllr Clinch In the Ward Cllrs' absence this will be raised next time. Silsoe Road culvert ACTIONS ARISING 50b Flooding: Chase CBC over decision the blocked Silsoe Road culvert does not qualify for repairs. Ward Cllr Clinch In the Ward Cllrs' absence this will be raised next time.	ACTION: W Cllr Clinch ACTION: W Cllr Clinch ACTION: W Cllr Clinch
	c: Events (Provision of entertainment and support of the arts, LGA 1972, s.145) Senior Citizens' Xmas Tea December 10 ACTIONS ARISING 50c/36c Events: Look into Christmas Afternoon Tea food offer keeping individual boxes at around the £12 price. Cllr Lawrence The Clerk has been in contact with Clare's Catering whose food last year was very well received, and they are hoping to keep it around the same £12 price, although costs have risen so there will be a small increase. Clerk will get in touch with MIDA for volunteers again. Christmas Lights, Lantern Parade, Tractor Run November 28 ACTIONS ARISING 50c/36c Events: Provide battery-operated tea lights for lantern parade, Nov 28. Cllr Illingworth ACTIONS ARISING 50c/36c Events: Liaise with local tractor owners for tractor parade on Nov 28. Clerk The local tractor owners are will to do a tractor run for the Christmas Lights. Father Christmas is booked and happy to lead the Lantern Parade – we do need to have an events meeting to organise this, Cllr Wasser to arrange asap. Summer Play Events & Youth Provision – See Clerk's Report (https://maulden-pc.gov.uk/surveys-and-reports/ and Appendix C). Community Café ACTIONS ARISING 50c/36c Events: Work on Community Café idea, and work with church so it enhances their new monthly offer. Cllr Lawrence/Clerk Cllr Browning has asked The George if MPC could have a Community Café as part of their Friday coffee morning, this could be once a month, with Cllrs on a rota to be in attendance for any questions. Cheese & Wine Evening – next time Bus Stop Books/Maulden Moor Project ACTIONS ARISING 50c Events: Tell student interested in cataloguing books at the bus stop that it's not worth it as the turnover is too high. Clerk CORRESPONDENCE 11/08/26 Fwd Maulden Moor project – Student suggested dates for cataloguing Bus Stop Books, clerk responded that Cllrs had agreed it's not worth it as the turnover is so high. Student responded they're still interested for the film they're working on, clerk said they're welcome to do so. 09/09/26 Maulden Moor project – student forwarded not public copy of their video for feedback and participant form which Clerk completed as Maulden Parish Council, and gave some feedback including requesting a change in the Bus Stop Book Swap wording. Forwarded to Cllrs for their feedback. The student's Maulden Moor Project film has been circulated for feedback. It's not the final version but does include the Bus Stop Books and interesting Flittabus coverage. Bonfire Night Clearing the allotments for the grazing plots will create a lot of debris. The easiest and cheapest way to dispose of it will be by burning – it's been suggested we could have a one-off Bonfire Night event on November 5, with a bonfire and people allowed to bring	ACTION: Clerk ACTION: Cllr Illingworth ACTION: Clerk ACTION: Cllr Wasser ACTION: Cllr Browning, Clerk

	sparklers but no fireworks, possibly have a hot drinks and snacks cart. Safety concerns were raised and it was agreed not to pursue this. Remembrance Sunday The Clerk is chasing the stonemasons to have the missing name engraved in time for this year's commemoration. CORRESPONDENCE 31/07/26 WI Poppies – Caddington Parish Council rang to praise the Maulden WI poppies that decorate the War Memorial each year, and their WI want to do something similar. Clerk contacted Maulden WI to get permission to pass on contact details. CORRESPONDENCE 06/09/26 MWI - War memorial decoration for Remembrance Sunday 2026 – request from Maulden WI to decorate the War Memorial again. The WI's War Memorial decoration has inspired another village to do their own version, and Maulden WI would like to decorate it again. It was agreed they could do so. CORRESPONDENCE 26/08/26 RE_ Road closures for local events - Remembrance Sunday, November 8, 2026 – confirmation from Ampthill Town Council of receipt of MPC's detailed Remembrance Sunday road closure so they can ensure Ampthill's does not conflict as happened last year without warning. CORRESPONDENCE 27/08/26 CBC103769 - Snow Hill, Ampthill Rd, Flitwick Rd, Maulden – Notification from CBC of proposed temporary closure order for Remembrance Sunday. CORRESPONDENCE 27/08/26 RE_ Road closures for local events - Remembrance Sunday, November 8, 2026 – confirmation from CBC TCO has been processed, when TTRO is received around 3 weeks before it will be forwarded for circulation. CORRESPONDENCE 09/09/26 Ampthill Remembrance – ATC confirmed their TTRO submission with slight adjustments so traffic is not being diverted in to Maulden where the road will also be closed, and are going to discuss adjusting the time Church Avenue needs to be closed for the parade line-up. The road closure has been applied for, there should be no problem. The Clerk has been in discussion with Ampthill Town Council trying to avoid a repeat of last year's unadvertised closure of Church Street, completely stopping all movement for residents between Snow Hill and the centre of Ampthill. CORRESPONDENCE 29/08/26 Re_ Maulden Parish Council - Remembrance Sunday – Maulden Netball Club asked about ordering the wreath with the logo, clerk to check out RBL contact details, Cllr Woodward, said the Wreaths for MPC are already organised and come with a space for any organisation to include their own logo.	ACTION: Clerk
	d: Village Hall – Cllr Penniston reported the VH are bringing in an online booking system in January, and prices are being reviewed and updated. The VH committee is meeting with CBC's VH expert Simon Patterson and looking at liabilities, title deeds, policies, etc, so there is a lot going on. The response from the VH survey has helped prioritise what is important – the building's appearance, maintenance, air conditioning, and the hard and uncomfortable chairs. The discussion on the refurbishment is now looking as a possible reconfiguration of the current building versus the costs of an extension. They are also considering employing a caretaker, and looking at legalities.	
	e: Defibrillators (<i>Public Health Act 1936 s234 Power to provide life preservers</i>) – See Clerk's Report (https://maulden-pc.gov.uk/surveys-and-reports/ and Appendix C).	ACTION: Clerk
	f: Streetlights – (<i>Power to light roads and public places Parish Councils Act 1957 s3, Highways Act 1980, s301</i>) No report this month.	
	g: Neighbourhood Plan – See Clerk's Report (https://maulden-pc.gov.uk/surveys-and-reports/ and Appendix C).	
	h: Safety – Cllr Browning's report has been circulated (see https://maulden-pc.gov.uk/surveys-and-reports/ and Appendix C).	
	i: Ward Cllrs' Report – this has been circulated (https://maulden-pc.gov.uk/surveys-and-reports/ and Appendix C).	
	j: Community Emergency Response Team – Cllr Penniston said the next stage is to get resilience together. The field fire off Limbersey Lane has highlighted that such possibilities need to be included along with the impact on the village if there are issues with trains and arterial routes, so working in partnership with neighbouring villages needs to be considered. The village will need to coordinate its own WhatsApp group and it needs to be clarified who will run this, with people needing to choose to join it. Cllr Phillips spoke to the Clophill PC representative and said it would be advantageous to have discussions. Cllr Penniston said everything is ramping up nationally with a focus on resilience and looking at scenarios as Maulden is under a flight path. There is training coming up on how to become a resilience centre. There may need to be a public meeting in the new year to explain the national resilience plan, and the CERT should work together with the volunteer group Cllr Smith is looking to establish.	
70	Items for next agenda: October 12, 2026.	
71	Dates of next meetings (venue Maulden Church Hall unless stated): October 12, 2026; November 16, 2026; December 21, 2026; January 25, 2027; March 1, 2027 (& Annual Parish Meeting 7pm); April 5, 2027; May 17, 2027 (& Annual Parish Council Meeting).	

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.47pm

Signed _____

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APPENDIX A – ACTIONS ARISING FROM SEPTEMBER 14, 2026, MEETING

60 Public Forum	Send MPC's events list to PC Kerry Maxwell for Community Police team to attend if possible.	Cllr Browning,
63 Correspondence	Attend CPRE dinner on October 8 at The Kingfisher in Bedford to discuss opportunities for future collaboration.	Cllr Illingworth
63 Clerk's Report-69e/50e Defibrillators	Organise defibs training with NUCO, offer places to Clophill PC and other PCs to share cost, then spare places to local people on condition they make themselves available for MPC events.	Clerk
64/50j/36j/22j/127j/113j/99j/85j/71j/57j/44j/32j/20j Chair's Report	Explore ways of MPC engaging with young people.	Cllrs Browning & Smith
64 Chair's Report	Continue with Resilience & Succession Planning and bring recommendations to the next meeting.	Finance & GP Group
64 Chair's Report	Advertise Cllr vacancy for co-option if no call for election.	Clerk
64 Chair's Report (Village Hall)	Send 1983 solicitor's letter to Village Hall Committee and Cllrs.	Clerk
64 Chair's Report (Village Hall)	Village Hall Committee will put together a proposal for the future of the Village Hall to bring to a meeting in the new year between the VHC, MPC and CBC's village hall expert Simon Patterson.	Cllr Jackson Village Hall Committee
64 Chair's Report	Invite Maulden Lower School's new headteacher Mr Cox to a meeting or to meet with MPC.	Cllr Browning
64 Chair's Report	Invite Universal Studios' coordinator to meet with MPC.	Clerk
65 Policies	Send copies of the IT Policy and BYOD Policy to non-cllrs with MPC email addresses for signing.	Clerk
66/47/33/18/124 Planning	Chase Autumn Cottage update re removal of gates and walls and new planning application. Ward Cllr Summerfield to contact Highways too.	Clerk Ward Cllr Summerfield
66/47 Planning	Contact CBC Planning Enforcement re Meadowside enforcement is carried out.	Ward Cllrs Clinch
66/47 Planning	Contact CBC over next steps for Dog & Badger enforcement as appeal has been dismissed.	W Cllr Clinch
66/47/33/18/124/110/96/82/68/54/41/29/29/17/149/137/125/112/99/86/73/54/35/16/186/168/150/131 Planning	Continue pressure on CBC planning enforcement, IDB and Environment agency re Maulden Garden Centre and the cars and lorries parked there and environment issues, and new evidence of people living on site, and building work.	W Cllrs Clinch & Smith
66 Planning	Look into delegated authority for making planning application comments.	Clerk
67a Finance Report	Write to Mrs Blackley to thank her for her work over the years and say MPC no longer require the bus shelter to be cleaned.	Clerk
68a/49a/35a/21a/126a/112a/98a/84a/70a/56a The Rec	Undertake play area inspection training if BATPC/CBC organise it.	Cllrs Smith, Browning & Summerfield
68a/49a The Rec	Liaise with Clophill Parish Council over possible joint play area inspection training course.	Cllrs Phillips & Illingworth
68a/49a The Rec	Draw up suggested parameters for volunteer group to help with minor incidents of damage, clean-up and repair.	Cllr Smith
68a The Rec	Investigate manufacturer of vintage rocking horse and contact for info on full maintenance and overhaul.	Clerk
68c Trilley Fields	Suggest Trilley Fields as a site for CPRE's Hedgerow Heroes project.	Clerk
68e/49e/35e Millennium Garden	Write to landowners to say MPC are considering whether to continue with the agreement due to rising costs, and ask their views.	Clerk
69b/50b/36b/22b/127b/113b Flooding	Find out why CBC imposed a paltry £2,500 fine on the Carnegie Close developers.	W Cllr Clinch
69b/50b/36b Flooding	Forward interim report from CBC's Flooding Survey.	W Cllr Clinch
69b/50b Flooding	Chase CBC over decision the blocked Silsoe Road culvert does not qualify for repairs.	W Cllr Clinch
69c Events	Chase stonemasons to get missing name engraved on War Memorial before this year's commemoration event.	Clerk
69c Events	Contact MIDA for Xmas Tea volunteers	Clerk
69c/50c/36c Events	Provide battery-operated tea lights for lantern parade, Nov 28.	Cllr Illingworth
69c/50c/36c Events	Liaise with local tractor owners for tractor parade on Nov 28	Clerk
69c/50c/36c Events	Work on Community Café idea, and work with church so it enhances their new monthly offer.	Clerk, Cllr Browning

APPENDIX B – CORRESPONDENCE JULY 27-SEPTEMBER 14, 2026 AGENDA ITEM 63

TO BE DISCUSSED
???

ON AGENDA OR DEALT WITH

24/07/26 VH notice board – Maulden Walking Football Club asked if they can move their banner from outside the school to the VH board when it's not being used by anyone else, clerk confirmed this is ok. The Tractor Club does have a banner there at the moment, but that could be moved to the back.

28/07/26 Planning application 78 Clophill Road, Maulden, Bedford, MK45 2AA CB_26_02195_FULL

28/07/26 Local Plan Consultation and Grant application – CPRE requested grant application forms.

28/07/26 Fwd_ Clophill PC Visit – Clophill Cllr who attended last night's meeting thanked MPC for welcoming them and forwarded contact details to all Cllrs and clerk for future collaboration opportunities, also trying to link with Haynes, Gravenhurst and Silsoe.

Signed _____

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29/07/26 Set up your SAAA Small Authority Portal Account – Small Authorities Audit Appointment invitation to set up account on Small Authority Portal for annual external audit – link didn't work

30/07/26 Fire – Fire at Kings Farm, Cllr Summerfield reported the fire hydrants had been switched off probably by CBC when dealing with the water left running after the previous tenant left. It has been reported to Anglian Water and Beds Fire, and Clerk also reported to Beds Fire but didn't have sufficient info to complete the AW form.

30/07/26 Maulden Summer Event – parent asked for help attending MPC's summer play events as they're a single parent. Clerk organised booking for August 19 event.

30/07/26 Maulden Bridleway – Rector copied in MPC on confirmation to CBC that he would welcome a face-to-face meeting re the BW diversion, expecting it to be in early September.

30/07/26 RE_ CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - MAULDEN_ BRIDLEWAY NO. 32 MODIFICATION ORDER 2026 – Rector copied in MPC on response to British Horse Society and mentioned difficulties riders have accessing Maulden Woods due to Forestry Commission (Forestry England) obstructions.

31/07/26 WI Poppies – Caddington Parish Council rang to praise the Maulden WI poppies that decorate the War Memorial each year, and their WI want to do something similar. Clerk contacted Maulden WI to get permission to pass on contact details.

02/08/26 Re_ Query about MPC's involvement with the Call for Sites Consultation - Clarification of the Role of Maulden Action Group – new MAG organiser chased MPC's response, clerk explained Cllrs discussed it and would be very happy to work with a local action group, gave contact details for CPRE who help organise LAGs, and also info about the Local Plan Sites Consultation drop-in on Aug 5. Responded that they will contact CPRE to see how best to rebuild MAG as a local action group.

02/08/26 Dog & Badger – Cllr Phillips raised concerns about the number of cars at the D&B, clerk reported a planning enforcement breach to CBC via the online form as the appeal against the enforcement was dismissed on July 21, 2026, so no vehicles should be stored on site.

03/08/26 RE_ Re_ [External Message] [Ext Msg] Fire at Kings Farm today. – MPC copied in on response to Cllr Summerfield's report to land agents re fire hydrants issues, reported to Anglian Water and technicians have checked and cleared shingle and debris from the hydrant.

03/08/26 Re_ Fire Hydrants Limbersey Lane – Fire Brigade response to MPC report of issues accessing fire hydrants for Kings Farm fire, they will investigate and take any action necessary. Logged as Planning Enforcement Enquiry - PEN001624

03/08/26 Planning application 78 Clophill Road, Maulden, Bedford, MK45 2AA CB_26_02195_FULL – amendments to description.

03/08/26 The diversion of Maulden BW 32 at the graveyard and SSSI – CBC confirmed the route down the track to George Street has been discounted due to the flooding issues, the new suggestion is to go through the newest section of graveyard, along the path walkers currently use, and down Woodcocks Path. Clerk sent to Cllrs with suggested response using existing info and MPC decisions pointing out unsuitability of Woodcocks Path at under 6ft wide and disturbance to graveyard, and asking for date of promised meeting with CBC. Three cllrs responded with approval by Aug 12 date so response sent to CBC.

03/08/26 Maulden Parish Council - Signage - Community Orchard Post & Panel Sign (REF25448-2) – Liquid Designs sent suggested artwork for new Community Orchard sign, circulated to cllrs.

03/08/26 Breakthrough Communications training booking notification_ #BR-0006560 – confirmation of clerk's booking on Crisis Communications For Local Councils training course on October 22, 9.30am.

04/08/26 Maulden Engagement Event : Sun 04 Oct 12:15 – police engagement in Village Hall car park.

04/08/26 FW_ Our clients_ [REDACTED] Your client_ Maulden Parish Council Ref Woodfines LLP_MA_049925-0007 – invoice for extra map as agreed, MPC to pay half = £258.17 inc VAT.

04/08/26 National Allotment Survey – from the National Allotment Society, clerk completed details for MPC and rough details for Maulden Charities.

05/08/26 Re: CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - MAULDEN: BRIDLEWAY NO. 32 MODIFICATION ORDER 2026 – BHS response to Rector's July 30 email. Said will look at the suggested new route everyone has said is too narrow, and hopes MPC supports improved access for all within Maulden Woods.

05/08/26 Re_ Communal ground hedges etc – Contractor advised orchard hedging needs cutting to allow newer plants to grow and bring height back to 5ft level which helps with sightlines and safety. Cost £150 including disposal of waste. Clerk and Chair approved works.

06/08/26 Local plan – resident unable to attend last night's meeting asked if they could meet the clerk to discuss some of the issues. Clerk forwarded MPC's submitted responses, links to website info, and gave info on how to respond themselves.

06/08/26 Proposed Concept Schemes – latest scheme from architect, accessible toilet has two doors so can be accessed from outside for football games when café isn't open, pitched roof to stop climbing and higher inside, has wider overhang at front for standing under and tables, and at back covering outside storage. Internal space all open with sliding screen for changing room.

06/08/26 Be Green. Go Electric Event, in Leighton Buzzard – CBC want to promote this October 2 event in Leighton Buzzard more widely and request info on MPC's channels to reach residents. Clerk responded noticeboards aren't big enough for non-statutory or non-MPC posters so main one is Facebook where sharing CBC posts is the easiest way.

06/08/26 Set up your SAAA Small Authority Portal account – account has been created, clerk set up password and corrected contact details.

06/08/26 Re_ 109 Clophill Road, MK45 2AD (Case Ref_ BS01412) – resident copied MPC in on email asking Ward Cllrs for an update as more cars are on the Dog & Badger site. Ward Cllr Clinch responded that planning enforcement have confirmed they are now proceeding with the original enforcement notice, and that breaches need to be reported, as MPC did on August 2.

07/08/26 RE_ Planning application 9 Moores Close, Maulden, Bedford, MK45 2AJ CB_26_02312_FULL – confirmation of an extension for comments to midday on Sept 15.

10/08/26 Thank you - defib status check complete emergency ready – AED Registrations' check of VH defib.

10/08/26 RE_ Mandate Support 1728572584 Tracey – confirmation the banking mandate has been completed and Chair Cllr Browning added as a signatory.

10/08/26 PETITION: Fix Junction 13 of the M1 – MP Blake Stephenson re issues over Universal's plans.

11/08/26 Fwd_ Maulden Moor project – Student suggested dates for cataloguing Bus Stop Books, clerk responded that Cllrs had agreed it's not worth it as the turnover is so high. Student responded they're still interested for the film they're working on, clerk said they're welcome to do so.

12/08/26 Pavilion - The Rec. – resident complained the football notice on the pavilion has obscene graffiti and asked for it to be cleaned or removed. Clerk said it would be investigated and contacted Maulden Magpies as the sign may be theirs. Magpies responded it's fine to remove. Clerk asked Rec Cllrs if they could take it down. Maulden StreetWatch also reported this. Cllr Illingworth removed the sign.

12/08/26 Booking display board for banner – The Art Club requested the VH board Sept 20-Oct 11, clerk confirmed and put them on the list.

13/08/26 Maulden Action Group – Drop-in Session and LAG Discussions – new action group chair requested numbers for Local Plan drop-in session to gauge level of engagement locally, clerk said a guesstimate was around 50, quite a good level of engagement but there are 3,300 residents, and explained getting details of events to residents is always an issue, MPC use the website, noticeboards, posters in the pubs and shop, Maulden magazine and Facebook pages but there are always those who say they didn't see the notices. Said MPC are very happy to work with a local action group but the remit needs to be guided by CPRE who have the knowledge and experience to help set up and support, and that Cllr Aston is happy to join the LAG. MAG responded they will come back following discussions with CPRE.

13/08/26 New Monitoring Officer – CBC's new interim monitoring officer appointed and deputy, and slides explaining the MO's role and remit.

13/08/26 Urgent Action Please_ LP extension request to CBC – CPRE organising petition to CBC to have the Local Plan sites consultation extended beyond Aug 17 due to inconsistent info, and holiday periods, sent template letter. As it can't do any harm to ask and MPC's responses will be submitted before the deadline, the Clerk signed and submitted on MPC's behalf. CBC leader responded there would be no extension as six weeks was plenty of time and it was not a statutory consultation.

14/08/26 Grant application – from CPRE Bedfordshire for £500.

14/08/26 NALC Neighbourhood Planning Survey - Bedfordshire Councils Encouraged to Take Part – BATPC asking for responses by Sept 25. Clerk forwarded to Cllr Aston who leads the NHP Working Group, who will respond.

15/08/26 CBC ASB event at rec 19 Sep – Cllr Browning arranged CBC/police ASB event for Sept 19, they accidentally arrived on Aug 19, spoke with residents, looked at the graffiti. Heard about the electric bikes and motorbikes, suggested blocking entrances with metal barriers.

17/08/26 RE_ S106 rules – CBC responded to request for explanation of how S106 funding is requested and allocated, but didn't answer how CBC's Gardeners' Close small play area got priority. Stated CBC have no plans to change S106 to CIL.

17/08/26 Urgent meeting Fwd: The diversion of Maulden BW 32 at the graveyard and SSSI – Rector's latest notes re graveyard/Woodcocks Path diversion, saying it's a non-starter as still through the graveyard and Woodcocks Path is too narrow.

18/08/26 Fwd_ StreetWatch Patrol - Maulden 18th August 2026 – StreetWatch reported offensive graffiti on wall of bungalow alongside public footpath from Amphill Road to Becketts Close, and a treehouse in bushes off Kings Road. Clerk reported graffiti to CBC. Treehouse is in trees of private house.

19/08/26 Your report has been logged_ Public footpath alongside 76A Amphill Road, Maulden, MK47 2DP – graffiti report confirmed.

19/08/26 RE_ Problem Report_ Public footpath alongside 76A Amphill Road, Maulden, MK47 2DP – CBC Highways responded that offensive graffiti is prioritised and this isn't offensive. Clerk replied that it clearly shows male genitalia and was reported as obscene. Highways will establish ownership.

19/08/26 HLP014535 Land at Becketts Close – CBC confirmed path is theirs but wall is part of the property.

19/08/26 Your report has been logged_ Outside 44 Amphill Road, MK45 DH - confirmation of report of broken safety bollard that's been stuck back upright with metal spikes sticking out at child's head height on the specific crossing point.

19/08/26 New FixMyStreet updates on report_ 'Outside 44 Ampthill Road, MK45 DH' – CBC closed case saying it didn't qualify for repairs, clerk forwarded to Ward Cllrs to ask for help.

20/08/26 Hedgerow Heroes - 'call for sites' – CPRE after more sites to plant hedgerows.

20/08/26 The diversion of Maulden BW 32 at the graveyard and SSSI – Rector's response to CBC's latest diversion, backing up MPC's points about the unsuitability of any route through the graveyard, Woodcocks Path being too narrow, prioritising the SSSI, and need for a stakeholder meeting.

21/08/26 Bollard Repair 44 Ampthill Road – Ward Cllr Clinch confirmed the bollard was replaced on the morning MPC made the report.

24/08/26 Resignation – Cllr Kelly Lawrence submitted her resignation as a Cllr, Clerk informed CBC electoral services. Chair Cllr Browning thanked her for her work.

24/08/26 RE_ Allotment rent 2026-2027 – thanks from Amicus Trust for MPC's continuing support.

24/08/26 Advance notice of closure of bridge for repair – CBC notification of FP2 from Ampthill closure over bank holiday weekend for bridge repairs.

25/08/26 Re: Councillor resignation – Notice of Vacancy dated August 25, 2026, sent by CBC, request for election needed by September 15, then co-option.

25/08/26 A simpler way to review planning applications – Planning application review site, £49 per individual report, or buy credits for £40 or £30 per report.

25/08/26 Your Breakthrough Events Bulletin – training sessions including Data Protection for Cllrs, forwarded with this flagged as strongly recommended.

26/08/26 Class enquiry – query about Zumba classes at Village Hall, clerk forwarded to VH bookings sec.

26/08/26 RE_ Road closures for local events - Remembrance Sunday, November 8, 2026 – confirmation from Ampthill Town Council of receipt of MPC's detailed Remembrance Sunday road closure so they can ensure Ampthill's does not conflict as happened last year without warning.

27/08/26 CBC103769 - Snow Hill_Ampthill Rd_Flitwick Rd, Maulden – Notification from CBC of proposed temporary closure order for Remembrance Sunday.

27/08/26 RE_ Road closures for local events - Remembrance Sunday, November 8, 2026 – confirmation from CBC TCO has been processed, when TTRO is received around 3 weeks before it will be forwarded for circulation.

28/08/26 Planning application Church View Farm, New Road, Maulden, Bedford, MK45 2BG CB/26/02058/FULL comments by September 25

28/08/26 Allotment rent 2026-2027 - payment due by October 1, 2026 – tenant queried that part of their plot had been taken over by their neighbour previously, leaving plot at 13 poles not 20. Clerk and allotment steward to investigate.

28/08/26 Re: Correct Drawings – architect sent corrected concept drawings, clerk approved and will complete and forward visuals, and design and access statement with a view to submitting the planning application next week.

29/08/26 Re_ 109 Clophill Road, MK45 2AD (Case Ref_ BS01412) – resident thanked MPC for reporting planning enforcement breach at Dog & Badger, copied MPC in on issues with CBC's handling of the case.

29/08/26 Re_ Maulden Parish Council - Remembrance Sunday – Maulden Netball Club asked about ordering the wreath with the logo, clerk to check out RBL contact details,

31/08/26 Disruption – resident reported issues with ongoing disruption caused around The Rec and Sandy Acres by youths/teenagers, including sitting in large groups in The Rec smoking cannabis, making the resident uncomfortable, and that it's off-putting for those wanting to use The Rec with young children. Clerk thank them for raising the matter, assured them MPC do liaise with the police who held an ASB-event recently, and said all incidents need to be reported, giving links, so the police can build a picture of what is happening, when and where.

02/09/26 Copy of Letter Sent to Cllr Adam Zerny – Silsoe Road Residents' Association sent copy of letter setting out concerns over the handling of planning applications for the Silsoe Road site where the flood risk led to outline planning permission being rescinded.

02/09/26 Future Countryside dinner, Bedfordshire, Thursday 8 October 2026 – invitation from CPRE to dinner to discuss opportunities for future collaboration.

02/09/26 Breakthrough Communications Training Programme from September 2026 – latest BATPC training including Cllrs' Data Protection, strongly recommended for all cllrs to attend.

03/09/26 Meeting to discuss the proposed Bridleway No. 32 and its diversion – CBC requested dates and availability for meeting, and asked for venue if to be face-to-face. Rector offered the church or Church Hall. Available dates are Sept 24 2-4pm; Sept 25, 10-11am or 2-3pm (clerk not available); Sept 29, 10-11am or 2-3pm; Sept 30, 10-11am or 2-3pm.

03/09/26 RE: The diversion of Maulden BW 32 at the graveyard and SSSI – CBC response to MPC's email on suggested new diversion: 4m width is for new bridleways, if inspector says the Woodcocks Path route technically already exists, this doesn't apply. All other objections to Woodcocks Path essentially dismissed as they claim to be able to deal with them, and also dismissing objections to horses and cyclists within the graveyard as it's already a pedestrian route. Want to keep access to SSSI to minimum, say any bridleway there couldn't be fenced and bridleway gates from the car park could let livestock escape and allow motorcycle access.

03/09/26 2026-27 Pay Agreement Reached - Table of Pay Scales – BATPC info on staffing pay agreement.

04/09/26 Planning application 8 The Brache, Maulden, Bedford, MK45 2DR CB_26_02687_FULL

04/09/26 Locker site at Maulden Village Hall – company looking for site, clerk forwarded to MPC's VH cllr reps.

04/09/26 Audit of current and proposed youth activity – CBC form re youth provision, clerk completed with info on Summer Play Events, adding that anything for ages 12-16 would be welcome.

04/09/26 Quotation_ Signage - Community Orchard Post & Panel Sign (REF25448-3) – updated artwork for proposed new Orchard sign, suggestion to reposition to the front of the site, updated quote at £346.25 + £69.25 vat.

04/09/26 Payment receipt for planning application PP-15188815 - Full planning permission – confirmation of £237.00 + £16.50 payment for planning application for pavilion works.

06/09/26 Quiet Lane Proposal for Water End, Maulden – Ward Cllr Clinch request for MPC comments on Quiet Lanes proposal for Water End.

06/09/26 Paint – Parent thanked MPC for the great summer play events but pointed out the paint in the arts & crafts sessions wasn't washable and has left clothes damaged, another parent had also previously reported this. Clerk raised with MKPA.

06/09/26 WWI - War memorial decoration for Remembrance Sunday 2026 – request from Maulden WI to decorate the War Memorial again.

09/09/26 Maulden Moor project – student forwarded not public copy of their video for feedback and participant form which Clerk completed as Maulden Parish Council, and gave some feedback including requesting a change in the Bus Stop Book Swap wording. Forwarded to Cllrs for their feedback.

09/09/26 Ampthill Remembrance – ATC confirmed their TTRO submission with slight adjustments so traffic is not being diverted in to Maulden where the road will also be closed, and are going to discuss adjusting the time Church Avenue needs to be closed for the parade line-up.

09/09/26 Reminder - Local Transport Plan Consultation closes 20th September

09/09/26 AGAR Completion update – note from external auditor Mazars to councils yet to receive their final AGAR, external auditor's report and completion letter, they're working in date order of receipt and hope to complete by the Sept 30 deadline but will let councils know if it will be late.

09/09/26 Glass at the park – resident reported broken glass in and around the play area. Cllr Illingworth had reported picking up glass, and temp rec steward also checked to ensure it was clear.

10/09/26 GRASS CUTTING – resident complained about the state of the grass on the A6/Flying Horse roundabout and verges in the vicinity. Clerk explained CBC are responsible but may have reduced it to 6 cuts a year.

12/09/26 Street Cleansing Report - Case Ref_ ESS010045 – acknowledgement of report for overflowing dog poo bins at The Rec.

14/09/26 Street Cleansing Report - Case Ref_ ESS010045 – passed to contractors to clear.

14/09/26 allotment – Quote from Ben Palmer for clearing allotments and overgrown land in preparation for creating grazing plots £1,760+£352vat inc skip which may not be required. Estimate for fencing works £3,688.90+£736.78vat.

FOR INFORMATION

28/07/26 Roadworks Alert from Causeway one.network

28/07/26 The PCC's Survey for Bedfordshire residents affected by crime closing date August 17, shared on Facebook

30/07/26 Chief executive's bulletin - 30 July 2026

30/07/26 What's on this summer in Central Bedfordshire? CBC

31/07/26 July round-up - Local Countryside News and Planning Developments. CPRE

02/08/26 Crime Stats July 2026

03/08/26 Register of Electors

04/08/26 Roadworks Alert from Causeway one.network

04/08/26 NALC events

04/08/26 FW_ CBC103292 - AMPHILL TO MAULDEN BYPASS, AMPHILL – road closure 101 roundabout Sept 7-18, 9am-3.30pm

05/08/26 The PCC's Survey for Bedfordshire - Residents Affected by Crime reminder

06/08/26 Chief executive's bulletin - 6 August 2026 NALC

06/08/26 Operation Scoot: Targeting illegal e-scooters and e-bikes [#727630718] Beds Police

06/08/26 Ampthill Town Mayor's Charity Curry Night - Thursday 10th Septmeber

06/08/26 What's on this summer in Central Bedfordshire? CBC
 10/08/26 Local Transport Plan Consultation - reminder to have your say CBC deadline Sept 20
 11/08/26 Roadworks Alert from Causeway one.network
 11/08/26 NALC events
 12/08/26 What's on this summer in Central Bedfordshire? CBC
 13/08/26 Chief executive's bulletin - 13 August 2026
 18/08/26 Crime Stats - Interim - August 26
 18/08/26 Roadworks Alert from Causeway one.network
 20/08/26 Chief executive's bulletin - 20 August 2026 NALC
 20/08/26 What's on this summer in Central Bedfordshire? CBC
 25/08/26 Roadworks Alert from Causeway one.network
 27/08/26 Ampthill Mayor's Charity Curry Night - Thursday 10th September 2026 reminder
 27/08/26 Chief executive's bulletin - 27 August 2026 NALC
 28/08/26 Tree Planting Funding CBC list
 28/08/26 August round-up - Countryside events, hidden gems and Awards update CPRE
 28/08/26 Remote New Councillor Induction Training - 12/11/26 (7.30pm) BATPC
 28/08/26 New NPPF, Pride in Place in Blacon, neighbourhood planning NALC consultation
 29/08/26 Back To School-Parliament MP Blake Stephenson
 01/09/26 Roadworks Alert from Causeway one.network
 01/09/26 Be Green Go Electric Event in Leighton Buzzard CBC event October 2
 01/09/26 FW_CBC103292 - AMPTHILL TO MAULDEN BYPASS, AMPTHILL – road closure 101 r/bout moved to Oct 27-Nov2
 01/09/26 CBC103775 - OLIVER ST, AMPTHILL – closed to Sept 7 burst water main
 01/09/26 Register of Electors
 03/09/26 Chief executive's bulletin - 3 September 2026 NALC
 03/09/26 CO Home Extravaganza - Fun for All The Family 20th September 11-3pm Parkside Hall
 03/09/26 Town and Parish Council Update - September 2026 CBC
 04/09/26 Crime Stats - August 2026
 07/09/26 Remittance Advice note from 04.09.2026 – 2nd precept payment £46,192.00
 07/09/26 RE_Road Safety Partnership CBC – reminder of Sept 30 application deadline
 08/09/26 Roadworks Alert from Causeway one.network
 08/09/26 NALC events
 08/09/26 Appointed: Shadow Home Office Minister MP Blake Stephenson
 08/09/26 Celebrating the work of CPRE Bedfordshire - Special events for you to attend
 09/09/26 Emergency Works Notification - George St, Maulden Sept 9-15 burst water main
 10/09/26 Chief executive's bulletin - 10 September 2026 NALC

APPENDIX C – REPORTS PRESENTED TO SEPTEMBER 14, 2026, MEETING CLERK'S REPORT, AGENDA ITEM 63

PLANNING

ACTIONS ARISING 47 Planning: Feedback to Maulden Action Group that MPC do value them and would be happy to work together, and give CPRE details to contact re setting them up as a local action group. Clerk

CORRESPONDENCE 02/08/26 Re_Query about MPC's involvement with the Call for Sites Consultation - Clarification of the Role of Maulden Action Group – new MAG organiser chased MPC's response, clerk explained clrs discussed it and would be very happy to work with a local action group, gave contact details for CPRE who help organise LAGs, and also info about the Local Plan Sites Consultation drop-in on Aug 5. Responded that they will contact CPRE to see how best to rebuild MAG as a local action group.

CORRESPONDENCE 13/08/26 Maulden Action Group – Drop-in Session and LAG Discussions – new action group chair requested numbers for Local Plan drop-in session to gauge level of engagement locally, clerk said a guesstimate was around 50, quite a good level of engagement but there are 3,300 residents, and explained getting details of events to residents is always an issue, MPC use the website, noticeboards, posters in the pubs and shop, Maulden magazine and Facebook pages but there are always those who say they didn't see the notices. Said MPC are very happy to work with a local action group but the remit needs to be guided by CPRE who have the knowledge and experience to help set up and support, and that Cllr Aston is happy to join the LAG. MAG responded they will come back following discussions with CPRE.

Maulden Action Group informed MPC do value their work and want to work together, they're being guided by CPRE to become a Local Action Group and Cllr Aston is happy to be a member.

ACTIONS ARISING 47/33/18/124 Planning: Chase Autumn Cottage update re removal of gates and walls and new planning application. Ward Cllr Summerfield to contact Highways too. Clerk/ Ward Cllr Summerfield

CBC have indicated the walls and gates at Autumn Cottage will be removed within three months.

THE REC

ACTIONS ARISING 49a/35a/21a/126a/112a/98a/84a/70a/56a The Rec: Undertake play area inspection training if BATPC/CBC organise it. Cllrs Smith, Browning & Summerfield

ACTIONS ARISING 49a The Rec: Liaise with Clophill Parish Council over possible joint play area inspection training course. Clerk

Still working on play area inspection training and will see if Clophill PC want to collaborate.

ACTIONS ARISING 49a The Rec: Get contractor to renew the anti-climb paint. Clerk

CORRESPONDENCE 12/08/26 Pavillion - The Rec. – resident complained the football notice on the pavilion has obscene graffiti and asked for it to be cleaned or removed. Clerk said it would be investigated and contacted Maulden Magpies as the sign may be theirs. Magpies responded it's fine to remove. Clerk asked Rec Cllrs if they could take it down. Maulden StreetWatch also reported this. Cllr Illingworth removed the sign.

CORRESPONDENCE 18/08/26 Fwd_StreetWatch Patrol - Maulden 18th August 2026 – StreetWatch reported offensive graffiti on wall of bungalow alongside public footpath from Ampthill Road to Becketts Close, and a treehouse in bushes off Kings Road. Clerk reported graffiti to CBC. Treehouse is in trees of private house.

CORRESPONDENCE 19/08/26 Your report has been logged_ Public footpath alongside 76A Ampthill Road, Maulden, MK47 2DP – graffiti report confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE 19/08/26 RE_Problem Report_ Public footpath alongside 76A Ampthill Road, Maulden, MK47 2DP – CBC Highways responded that offensive graffiti is prioritised and this isn't offensive. Clerk replied that it clearly shows male genitalia and was reported as obscene. Highways will establish ownership.

CORRESPONDENCE 19/08/26 HLP014535 Land at Becketts Close – CBC confirmed path is theirs but wall is part of the property.

CORRESPONDENCE 31/08/26 Disruption – resident reported issues with ongoing disruption caused around The Rec and Sandy Acres by youths/teenagers, including sitting in large groups in The Rec smoking cannabis, making the resident uncomfortable, and that it's off-putting for those wanting to use The Rec with young children.

Clerk thank them for raising the matter, assured them MPC do liaise with the police who held an ASB-event recently, and said all incidents need to be reported, giving links, so the police can build a picture of what is happening, when and where.

CORRESPONDENCE 09/09/26 Glass at the park – resident reported broken glass in and around the play area. Cllr Illingworth had reported picking up glass, and temp rec steward also checked to ensure it was clear.

CORRESPONDENCE 12/09/26 Street Cleansing Report - Case Ref _ESS010045 – acknowledgement of report for overflowing dog poo bins at The Rec.

The anti-climb paint has been renewed on the pavilion, and the boulders on the corners of the War Memorial land repainted white to make them more obvious after a van got stuck on one.
Two incidents of obscene graffiti around The Rec, Cllr Illingworth dealt with one by removing the old football notice. The other is on the wall alongside the footpath, but it belongs to the property which is for sale by a developer – I'll get in touch with the estate agent to see if they can persuade the developer to deal with it.
Broken glass in the play area was cleaned up by Cllr Illingworth and the temp rec steward. Overflowing poo bins reported to CBC.

ALLOTMENTS

ACTIONS ARISING 49g/35g/21/f126f Allotments: Look into changing spare land into grazing plot. Clerk
CORRESPONDENCE 04/08/26 National Allotment Survey – from the National Allotment Society, clerk completed details for MPC and rough details for Maulden Charities.

CORRESPONDENCE 28/08/26 Allotment rent 2026-2027 - payment due by October 1, 2026 – tenant queried that part of their plot had been taken over by their neighbour previously, leaving plot at 13 poles not 20. Clerk and allotment steward to investigate.

Still working on grazing plots, awaiting quote for clearance and extra fencing. Also need confirmation from current tenant that they're happy to give up the tenancy.

Completed National Allotment Society survey for MPC, with rough details for Maulden Charities.

Checking out an issue on boundaries between two plots.

Around half the allotment tenants have paid their rents due by October 1, £1,596.25 has been received of the £1,813.85 expected this year. Will be chasing the outstanding payments this week.

DEFIBRILLATORS

ACTIONS ARISING 50e Defibrillators: Organise defibs training with NUCO, offer places to Clophill PC and other PCs to share cost, then spare places to local people on condition they make themselves available for MPC events. Clerk
Defibs training to be organised.

Replacement pads have been bought, had to change suppliers as Community Heartbeat are no longer reliable. Defibs Supplies give free delivery so are cheaper, and arrived next day.

SUMMER PLAY EVENTS & YOUTH PROVISION

CORRESPONDENCE 30/07/26 Maulden Summer Event – parent asked for help attending MPC's summer play events as they're a single parent. Clerk organised booking for August 19 event.

CORRESPONDENCE 04/09/26 Audit of current and proposed youth activity – CBC form re youth provision, clerk completed with info on Summer Play Events, adding that anything for ages 12-16 would be welcome.

CORRESPONDENCE 06/09/26 Paint – Parent thanked MPC for the great summer play events but pointed out the paint in the arts & crafts sessions wasn't washable and has left clothes damaged, another parent had also previously reported this. Clerk raised with MKPA.

One parent requested the free place at the summer play events, which was organised. Around 40 attended each session, very well received although MKPA informed of issues with the paint used as it wasn't washable.

Completed CBC's form re youth provision, mentioned Summer Play Events, and that help with any provision for 12-16s would be welcome.

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS BOARD

CORRESPONDENCE 24/07/26 VH notice board – Maulden Walking Football Club asked if they can move their banner from outside the school to the VH board when it's not being used by anyone else, clerk confirmed this is ok. The Tractor Club does have a banner there at the moment, but that could be moved to the back.

CORRESPONDENCE 12/08/26 Booking display board for banner – The Art Club requested the VH board Sept 20-Oct 11, clerk confirmed and put them on the list.

Getting requests to use MPC's events board at the Village Hall

POLICE ENGAGEMENT

CORRESPONDENCE 04/08/26 Maulden Engagement Event : Sun 04 Oct 12:15 – police engagement in Village Hall car park.

Next police engagement is Sunday, October 4, 12.15pm at the Village Hall car park.

COMMUNITY ORCHARD

CORRESPONDENCE 05/08/26 Re. Communal ground hedges etc – Contractor advised orchard hedging needs cutting to allow newer plants to grow and bring height back to 5ft level which helps with sightlines and safety. Cost £150 including disposal of waste. Clerk and Chair approved works.

Hedges have been cut at the Orchard.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

CORRESPONDENCE 14/08/26 NALC Neighbourhood Planning Survey - Bedfordshire Councils Encouraged to Take Part – BATPC asking for responses by Sept 25. Clerk forwarded to Cllr Aston who leads the NHP Working Group, who will respond.

Cllr Aston to complete NALC's neighbourhood planning survey.

BOLLARD

CORRESPONDENCE 19/08/26 Your report has been logged_ Outside 44 Ampthill Road, MK45 DH - confirmation of report of broken safety bollard that's been stuck back upright with metal spikes sticking out at child's head height on the specific crossing point.

CORRESPONDENCE 19/08/26 New FixMyStreet updates on report_ 'Outside 44 Ampthill Road, MK45 DH' – CBC closed case saying it didn't qualify for repairs, clerk forwarded to Ward Cllrs to ask for help.

CORRESPONDENCE 21/08/26 Bollard Repair 44 Ampthill Road – Ward Cllr Clinch confirmed the bollard was replaced on the morning MPC made the report.

A damaged bollard by the Ampthill Road crossing point was replaced thanks to Ward Cllr Clinch – CBC initially refused the repair despite sharp metal sticking out at child's head height.

CLLR TRAINING

CORRESPONDENCE 25/08/26 Your Breakthrough Events Bulletin – training sessions including Data Protection for Cllrs, forwarded with this flagged as strongly recommended.

CORRESPONDENCE 02/09/26 Breakthrough Communications Training Programme from September 2026 – latest BATPC training including Cllrs' Data Protection, strongly recommended for all cllrs to attend.

Reminder that Cllrs' Data Protection Training is available, dates have been circulated – it is strongly recommended for all cllrs to attend.

CHAIR'S REPORT, AGENDA ITEM 64

Finance & General-Purpose Working Group
Proposal for discussion at Council Meeting, September 2026
Council Operational Resilience and Clerk Succession Planning

Contents

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Preamble

The Clerk has expressed no immediate intention to retire; however, good governance requires forward planning for continuity in this key role.

This report is produced, proactively, to ensure that the high standards, established by our current Clerk, are preserved and protected in the long term.

1 Purpose of this Proposal

To initiate discussion on long-term operational resilience within the Maulden Parish Council (MPC), specifically relating to the Clerk's role, an estimated retirement timeframe, and options for ensuring continuity of governance, financial management, and service delivery.

2 Background

The Clerk is the MPC's sole employee and is central to its effective functioning. All governance, compliance, financial administration, statutory duties, and day-to-day operations are undertaken by the Clerk or are passed through the Clerk either directly or by copy. Councillors can change frequently, but the Clerk provides continuity, professional expertise, and institutional memory.

The current Clerk is highly effective and has contributed significantly to the MPCs reputation among neighbouring councils. However, the Clerk is of retiring age, and it is reasonable to estimate a retirement within approximately 3 years, probably within 5 years.

The MPC's operations prior to the current Clerk were less efficient and less compliant. It is essential to avoid a regression in standards when the Clerk does retire.

3 Issue: Mission Critical, Single Point Of Failure

The Clerk's role encompasses a wide range of responsibilities, from routine administrative tasks to high-level governance and statutory functions. At present, all knowledge, processes, contacts, and workflows reside with the Clerk.

This creates a **mission critical, single point of failure**. If the Clerk were to retire, fall ill, or otherwise be unavailable, then MPC would face wide-ranging, significant operational risk, including:

- Disruption to statutory functions.
- Delays in financial administration.
- loss of institutional knowledge.
- Reduced governance compliance.
- Increased workload for councillors.
- Reputational damage.

It should be noted that this issue featured in the June 2026 job evaluation report on the role of the Clerk, by SLCC Associate Helen Symmons.

Given that it is foreseeable that the Clerk will retire in the future, MPC has a limited window to address this risk.

4 Need For Documentation And Process Mapping

To ensure continuity, the Clerk's work needs to be documented in a structured and accessible form. This should include:

- Process flow charts for routine and statutory tasks.
- Timelines for annual and cyclical obligations.
- Key contacts (internal, external, governmental, contractors).
- Templates, forms, and standard communications.
- Financial procedures and controls.
- Governance and compliance requirements.
- Risk and emergency procedures.

This documentation will form the basis of a handover pack for any future Clerk and will support resilience if temporary cover is ever required.

Producing this documentation requires having dedicated time, free from day-to-day operational pressures.

5 Options For Building Resilience

Option A: Increase Clerk's Hours

Increasing the Clerk's contracted hours would provide more time for documentation and process mapping.

Advantages:

- Minimal structural change.
- Clerk retains full control of quality.

Disadvantages:

- Does not reduce single-point-of-failure risk.
- Does not build operational redundancy.
- May not be financially sustainable.

Option B: Appoint a Part-Time Assistant

Recruiting a part-time assistant to undertake, with training, routine, lower-graded "clockwork" functions under the Clerk's supervision.

Advantages:

- Free the Clerk to focus on documentation and higher-level duties.
- Build redundancy and resilience.
- Provide a trained internal candidate capable of covering emergencies.
- Create a smoother transition when the Clerk eventually retires.
- Reduce the time for a future Clerk to become fully trained in operation matters.

Disadvantages:

- Financial implications.
- Recruitment and training required.
- Role definition needed.

Option C: Do Nothing

This option carries significant risk and is not recommended.

6 Financial Implications

Any decision to appoint an assistant or increase hours will have budgetary consequences. These have to be considered in the context of:

- Current financial constraints.
- The cost of operational failure.
- The value of continuity and compliance.
- The reputational risk of regression.

7 Risk Assessment

Failure to act within the next 3 years are likely to result in:

- Loss of governance continuity.
- Reduced compliance with statutory obligations.
- Operational disruption.
- Difficulty recruiting a new Clerk without adequate documentation.
- Reputational harm.
- Increased workload for councillors.

8 Recommendations To MPC

These recommendations are intended to support the Clerk and safeguard MPC's operational stability, not to imply any expectation of retirement.

It is recommended that MPC:

- Recognises the need for Clerk succession planning and operational resilience to avoid a mission critical, single point of failure of MPC's operations.
- Requests the Clerk to begin, as time permits, the structured documentation of processes, workflows, and contacts.
- Asks the F&GP Working Group to explore, with the Clerk, the feasibility of appointing a part-time Assistant, including role definition and recruitment timeline.
- Asks the F&GP Working Group to report to MPC before the 2026/27 budget discussion meeting, with recommendations and costings.

9 Action Required By F&GP Working Group

The Working Group is asked to consider the contents of this report and agree next steps for ensuring long-term resilience and continuity of MPC's operations.

Planning applications

Location: 9 Moores Close, Maulden, Bedford, MK45 2AJ

Planning Group Comment: This is a significant extension. The current building is a mirror image of its neighbour. The proposal is overdevelopment and will change the street scene of this close.

Location: Church View Farm, New Road, Maulden, Bedford, MK45 2BG

Proposal: Retrospective application for a manège and extension of hardstanding.

Location: 8 The Brache, Maulden, Bedford, MK45 2DR

Proposal: Conversion of garage into annex for ancillary usage to main dwelling with new roof light
Currently the garage is not physically connected to the main house, and the proposal does not change that.

Comment: The application states: The conversion is to provide accommodation for elderly relative. There is still carparking on the existing driveway for three cars. Cllr Phillips has no adverse comments.

Almost halfway into the financial year, MPC have spent £29,017.09, which is about a third of the £92,384 budget, well below the average monthly spend of £7,699, and there are no concerns as yet.

MPC have now received the second half of the precept, £46,192.

This means as of yesterday MPC had £100,000 in the Redwood savings account and £111,253.51 in the NatWest, a total of £211,253.51, of which around £50,000 is earmarked reserves for allotments, SIDs and safety, Christmas Lights, Village Hall grant, Pavillion refurbishment, Trilley Fields maintenance and Trilley Fields Play Equipment – it fluctuates as payments are made for Trilley Fields maintenance, and allotment rents are received.

Around half the allotment tenants have paid their rents due by October 1, £1,596.25 has been received of the £1,813.85 expected this year.

The internal auditor has previously expressed concerns over the annual honorariums paid to the Allotment Steward and for the bus shelter cleaning because honorariums are supposed to be one-off payments so an annual payment should not be made as a honorarium, it should either be paid against an invoice where the supplier pays their own tax etc, or the recipient needs to be an employee and paid through PAYE. This has been resolved for the Allotment Steward by reaching an agreement to reduce their rent as an allotment tenant in recognition of their steward duties. However, I don't know what to do for the bus shelter cleaning as I've never had any contact with the person and understand it's only for the Hall End bus shelter as the Rec Steward clears the brick one opposite the school. I'll speak with Cllr Woodward to see what can be done.

MPC have had confirmation that the signatories have been changed at the NatWest, and they finally decided the Business Account Review wasn't required although we don't know if they have changed MPC's status to being a parish council instead of a parish church.

The External Auditor has said they are working on getting the final AGAR, external auditor's report and completion letter, to councils by the Sept 30 deadline but will let councils know if it will be late. The Exercise Of Public Rights period ended on August 4 with no requests from members of the public to look at MPC's accounts.

Notification has been received from BATPC of the National Joint Council for Local Government Services' agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027. The new pay scales have been circulated.

Tracey Bearton, Clerk and responsible financial officer, Maulden Parish Council

A: Money SECURED AND RECEIVED

B: Money SECURED BUT NOT RECEIVED

Page in CBC Document	Case Reference	Address	Code Description of Requirement	Trigger	Amount Secured
Page 2 of 24	C8/22/06588/AUT	Land to the rear of 29-33 Clophill Road, Maulden.	L967 Abotments in Maulden	Prior to Occupation of 50% of dwellings	E4,097.00
Page 2 of 24	C8/22/06588/AUT	Land to the rear of 29-33 Clophill Road, Mba ston	L979 Childrens play Maulden	Prior to Occupation of 50% of dwellings	E44,000.00
Page 2 of 24	C8/22/06588/AUT	Land to the rear of 29-33 Clophill Road, Maulden	L958 Sport at Maulden Pavilion	Prior to Occupation of 50% of dwellings	E11,820.00
Page 4 of 24	C8/22/1434/FULL	Land adjacent to 144 Clophill Road, Maulden, Bedford MK45 2AE	L065 Brache Rec Ground + Maulden pavilion	Prior to Occupation of 50% of dwellings	E7,472.75
Page 5 of 24	C8/22/1434/FULL	Land adjacent to 144 Clophill Road, Maulden, Bedford MK45 2AE	L065 Brache Rec Ground + Maulden pavilion	Prior to occupation	E14,945.50
					E60,535.25

BANK RECONCILIATION		Amount
Year from 01 April 2026 to 31 March 2027		
Bank Reconciliation for the end of:		June 2026
Bank Accounts - Statements at end of Jun 2026		
Business Reserve	£47,184.33	
Redwood Savings	£100,000.00	
NS&I	£19,964.21	
Current account	£8,000.00	
Plus unrepresented receipts at end of Jun 2026		
Less unleared GROSS payments at end of Jun 2026		
Bank Accounts - Balance at end of Jun 2026	£175,148.54	
Balance as per MPC accounts		
Opening Balance at start of financial year 2026/27	£134,261.51	
Plus Receipts from 01 Apr 2026 to end of Jun 2026	£163,471.68	
Less GROSS Payments from 01 Apr 2026 to end of Jun 2026	£122,584.65	
MPC Accounts - Balance at end of Jun 2026	£175,148.54	
Difference: Bank Balance less MPC accounts Balance		
NOTES		
1: The above INCLUDES VAT paid, which will be reclaimed. To report date, VAT paid is:		£1,915.43
2: Current Account Receipts and Payments include those for Allotments and Projects		
Unrepresented Receipts - enter as positive values		
Details	Amount	
Total unrepresented Receipts		
Uncleared Gross Payments - enter as positive values		
Details	Gross Amount	
Total unleared Payments		
Prepared by:	Tracey Bearton, Clerk & RFO	
Approved by:	Russ Aston	

BANK RECONCILIATION		Amount
Year from 01 April 2026 to 31 March 2027		
Bank Reconciliation for the end of:		July 2026
Bank Accounts - Statements at end of Jul 2026		
Business Reserve	£63,275.93	
Redwood Savings	£100,000.00	
NS&I		
Current account	£8,000.00	
Plus unrepresented receipts at end of Jul 2026		
Less unleared GROSS payments at end of Jul 2026		
Bank Accounts - Balance at end of Jul 2026	£171,275.93	
Balance as per MPC accounts		
Opening Balance at start of financial year 2026/27	£134,261.51	
Plus Receipts from 01 Apr 2026 to end of Jul 2026	£184,390.69	
Less GROSS Payments from 01 Apr 2026 to end of Jul 2026	£147,376.27	
MPC Accounts - Balance at end of Jul 2026	£171,275.93	
Difference: Bank Balance less MPC accounts Balance		
NOTES		
1: The above INCLUDES VAT paid, which will be reclaimed. To report date, VAT paid is:		£2,289.31
2: Current Account Receipts and Payments include those for Allotments and Projects		
Unrepresented Receipts - enter as positive values		
Details	Amount	
Total unrepresented Receipts		
Uncleared Gross Payments - enter as positive values		
Details	Gross Amount	
Total unleared Payments		
Prepared by:	Tracey Bearton, Clerk & RFO	
Approved by:	Russ Aston	

BANK RECONCILIATION		Amount
Year from 01 April 2026 to 31 March 2027		
Bank Reconciliation for the end of:		August 2026
Bank Accounts - Statements at end of Aug 2026		
Business Reserve	£58,434.03	
Redwood Savings	£100,000.00	
NS&I		
Current account	£8,000.00	
Plus unrepresented receipts at end of Aug 2026		
Less unleared GROSS payments at end of Aug 2026		
Bank Accounts - Balance at end of Aug 2026	£166,434.03	
Balance as per MPC accounts		
Opening Balance at start of financial year 2026/27	£134,261.51	
Plus Receipts from 01 Apr 2026 to end of Aug 2026	£185,858.50	
Less GROSS Payments from 01 Apr 2026 to end of Aug 2026	£153,685.98	
MPC Accounts - Balance at end of Aug 2026	£166,434.03	
Difference: Bank Balance less MPC accounts Balance		
NOTES		
1: The above INCLUDES VAT paid, which will be reclaimed. To report date, VAT paid is:		£2,527.39
2: Current Account Receipts and Payments include those for Allotments and Projects		
Unrepresented Receipts - enter as positive values		
Details	Amount	
Total unrepresented Receipts		
Uncleared Gross Payments - enter as positive values		
Details	Gross Amount	
Total unleared Payments		
Prepared by:	Tracey Bearton, Clerk & RFO	
Approved by:	Russ Aston	

All Payments TO DATE, by Month tbl_AIPaymentsByMonth

Month	PAYMENTS NET	CUMULATIVE PAYMENTS NET	VAT	CUMULATIVE VAT	PAYMENTS INC VAT	CUMULATIVE PAYMENTS INC VAT
April	£8,422.52	£8,422.52	£781.87	£781.87	£7,204.39	£7,204.39
May	£106,050.79	£114,473.28	£358.08	£1,139.95	£106,408.84	£113,613.23
June	£8,199.94	£120,669.22	£775.48	£1,915.43	£8,971.42	£122,584.65
July	£24,417.74	£145,086.96	£373.86	£2,289.31	£24,791.62	£147,376.27
August	£6,071.63	£151,158.59	£238.08	£2,527.39	£6,309.71	£153,685.98
September	£1,343.35	£152,501.94	£162.81	£2,690.20	£1,506.16	£155,192.14
October		£152,501.94		£2,690.20		£155,192.14
November		£152,501.94		£2,690.20		£155,192.14
December		£152,501.94		£2,690.20		£155,192.14
January		£152,501.94		£2,690.20		£155,192.14
February		£152,501.94		£2,690.20		£155,192.14
March		£152,501.94		£2,690.20		£155,192.14
Total	£152,501.94		£2,690.20		£155,192.14	

Payments, EXCLUDING Externally Funded Projects and Allotments, TO DATE, by Month

Month	Net Payments	Cumulative Net Payments	VAT Paid	Cumulative VAT Paid	Payments Inc VAT	Cumulative Payments Inc VAT
April	£4,218.02	£4,218.02	£781.87	£781.87	£4,999.89	£4,999.89
May	£105,836.79	£110,076.78	£358.08	£1,139.95	£106,216.84	£111,216.73
June	£2,811.94	£112,888.72	£775.48	£1,915.43	£8,587.42	£119,804.15
July	£24,321.74	£137,210.46	£373.86	£2,289.31	£24,695.62	£144,499.77
August	£5,760.49	£142,970.95	£238.08	£2,527.39	£5,998.57	£150,498.34
September	£1,010.35	£143,981.30	£146.31	£2,673.70	£1,166.66	£151,665.00
October		£143,981.30		£2,673.70		£151,665.00
November		£143,981.30		£2,673.70		£151,665.00
December		£143,981.30		£2,673.70		£151,665.00
January		£143,981.30		£2,673.70		£151,665.00
February		£143,981.30		£2,673.70		£151,665.00
March		£143,981.30		£2,673.70		£151,665.00
Total	£143,981.30		£2,673.70		£151,665.00	

Payments , EXCLUDING Externally Funded Projects and Allotments, TO DATE, by Payment Class

Payment Class	Budget for year	NETT Spend	VAT Paid	Spend Inc VAT	Budget less Net Spend	Percent of Total NETT Spend
A-Staff Costs	£24,936.00	£11,290.60		£11,290.60	£13,645.40	39%
C-Subscriptions		£958.00			£958.00	3%
D-Audit		£125.00			£125.00	0%
E-General Admin Expenses	£3,550.00	£2,725.12	£144.06	£2,869.20	£824.88	9%
F-General Operating Fund	£528.00	£328.33	£440.19	£768.52	£199.67	1%
G-Green Spaces inc Rec Grnd	£31,650.00	£8,964.78	£1,547.86	£10,512.65	£22,685.21	31%
H-Street Lighting	£13,500.00	£2,151.38	£430.29	£2,581.67	£11,318.62	7%
I-Other Expenditure	£16,750.00	£2,573.87	£111.26	£2,685.15	£14,174.13	9%
M-Miscellany						0%
Total	£92,384.00	£29,017.09	£2,673.70	£31,690.79	£63,366.91	100%

ExFP: Receipts, Nett Payments & Remaining Funds, TO DATE. tbl_EFP_ReceiptsPaymentsByProject

Description	Code	Receipts	Net Payments	Receipts less Net Payments	Funds at start of Financial Year	Remaining Funds
S&S & Road Safety	PRD-01				£5,622.21	£5,622.21
Christmas Lights	PRD-02				£5,090.00	£5,090.00
S106	PRD-03					
Grants	PRD-04	£2,500.00		£2,500.00		£2,500.00
Sponsor A Poppy	PRD-05					
Village Hall	PRD-06				£8,090.00	£8,090.00
Pavillion Project	PRD-07		£987.00	£-987.00	£10,000.00	£9,013.00
Trilley Fields Play Area Maintenance	PRD-08		£1,066.00	£-1,066.00	£9,146.00	£8,130.00
Trilley Fields Play Area Play Equipment	PRD-09				£9,365.00	£9,365.00
Trilley Fields Play Area Tree Work	PRD-10					
Trilley Fields Play Area Fencing	PRD-11					
War Memorial Repairs Insurance	PRD-12					
Senior Citizens Xmas Party	PRD-13				£44.31	£44.31
Total		£2,500.00	£2,043.00	£457.00	£47,307.52	£47,764.52

ExFP: Receipts & Payments, BY MONTH. tbl_EFP_ReceiptsPayments_AIFProjectsByMonth

Month	Receipts	Cumulative Receipts	Payments NETT	Cumulative Payments NETT	Funds at start of year less Payments NETT plus Receipts
April			£942.00	£942.00	£46,365.52
May					£46,173.52
June	£2,500.00	£2,500.00	£364.00	£1,306.00	£46,289.52
July		£2,500.00	£96.00	£1,402.00	£46,193.52
August		£2,500.00	£86.00	£1,488.00	£46,097.52
September		£2,500.00	£333.00	£1,821.00	£45,764.52
October		£2,500.00		£1,821.00	£45,764.52
November		£2,500.00		£1,821.00	£45,764.52
December		£2,500.00		£1,821.00	£45,764.52
January		£2,500.00		£1,821.00	£45,764.52
February		£2,500.00		£1,821.00	£45,764.52
March		£2,500.00		£1,821.00	£45,764.52
Total	£2,500.00	£2,500.00	£2,043.00	£2,043.00	£47,764.52

Externally Funded Projects: any VAT due is paid by the Council from Council Funds, which retains the VAT when reclaimed.

Signed _____

Year from 01 April 2025 to 31 March 2027

PAYMENTS TO DATE, EXCLUDING Externally Funded Projects and Allotments. (tbl_PaymentAnalysis).

Payment Class	Payment Code	Payment Description	Budget for year	NETT Spend	VAT Paid	Spend inc VAT	Budget less Net Spend
A-Staff Costs	A01	Clerk's Gross Salary & Holiday Pay	£18,000.00	£8,369.73		£8,369.73	£9,630.27
	A02	Employer's National Insurance	£1,800.00	£942.71		£942.71	£857.29
	A03	Employer's Pension Contribution	£4,824.00	£1,848.16		£1,848.16	£2,975.84
	A04	Home Working Allowance (tax free)	£312.00	£130.00		£130.00	£182.00
C-Subscriptions	C01	Campaign to Protect Rural England	£45.00				£45.00
	C02	Beds Assoc of Town & Parish Councils	£800.00	£811.00		£811.00	-£11.00
	C03	Information Commissioner's Office	£50.00	£47.00		£47.00	£3.00
D-Audit	D01	Annual External Audit	£450.00				£450.00
	D02	Annual Internal Audit	£125.00	£125.00		£125.00	
E-General Admin Expenses	E01	General Expenses	£750.00	£569.57	£109.16	£678.75	£180.43
	E02	Computer Expenses	£350.00	£174.50	£34.90	£209.40	£175.50
	E03	Notice Board Expenses	£100.00				£100.00
	E04	Insurance Zurich	£1,800.00	£1,741.58		£1,741.58	£58.42
	E05	Council Meeting Room Hire	£400.00	£198.00		£198.00	£202.00
	E06	Bank Charges	£150.00	£41.47		£41.47	£108.53
F-General Operating Fund	F01	General Expenses	£250.00	£328.33	£199.69	£528.02	-£78.33
	F02	Right of Way Annual Charge (Bowls)	£3.00				£3.00
	F03	Village Show Grant					
	F04	Church Clock Service	£275.00				£275.00
	F05	General Reserves			£240.50	£240.50	
	F06						
G-Green Spaces inc Rec Gnd	G01	Pavilion Repairs & Projects	£2,000.00				£2,000.00
	G02	Equipment Repair & Maintenance	£8,000.00	£495.00	£158.00	£653.00	£5,505.00
	G03	New Equipment					
	G04	Mole / Pest Control	£450.00				£450.00
	G05	Grass Cutting / Garden Maintenance	£10,500.00	£5,786.80	£1,373.76	£7,140.56	£4,733.20
	G06	Hedge Cutting etc	£3,000.00	£46.00		£46.00	£2,954.00
	G07	Rec Ground Steward & Bins	£2,500.00	£1,063.94		£1,063.94	£1,436.06
	G08	Tree Maintenance	£3,000.00				£3,000.00
	G09	Memorial grass & flowers	£350.00				£350.00
	G10	Millennium Garden Maintenance	£1,200.00				£1,200.00
	G11	Community Orchard	£2,000.00	£1,350.00		£1,350.00	£650.00
	G12	Pavilion Utilities	£550.00	£243.05	£16.10	£259.15	£306.95
	G13	Bus shelter maintenance and cleaning	£100.00				£100.00
I-Street Lighting	I01	Repair / Maintenance	£4,500.00	£340.96	£68.20	£409.16	£4,159.04
	I02	Energy Charge	£9,000.00	£1,810.42	£362.09	£2,172.51	£7,189.58
L-Other Expenditure	L01	Councillor / Clerk Training	£750.00	£161.00		£161.00	£589.00
	L02	Emerging Projects	£3,000.00				£3,000.00
	L03	Donations & Grants	£3,000.00				£3,000.00
	L04	Xmas Tree / Bases / Gas Beacon etc	£2,000.00				£2,000.00
	L05	Neighbourhood Plan Costs	£4,000.00				£4,000.00
	L06	Defibrillators	£1,000.00	£234.20	£42.19	£276.39	£755.80
	L07	S137 Expenditure					
	L08	Community Events	£3,000.00	£1,833.22		£1,833.22	£1,166.78
	L09	War Memorial					
	L10	SDs & Traffic Calming					
	L11	Flagpole Maintenance		£345.45	£69.09	£414.54	-£345.45
N-Miscellany	N01	Payments in error to be reimbursed					
	N02	First Aid Training etc					
Total			£92,384.00	£29,017.09	£2,673.70	£31,690.79	£63,366.91

All Receipts TO DATE, by Month tbl_AllReceiptsByMonth

Month	Receipts	Cumulative Receipts
April	£46,404.76	£46,404.76
May	£100,066.97	£146,471.73
June	£16,999.95	£163,471.68
July	£20,919.01	£184,390.69
August	£1,467.81	£185,858.50
September	£46,350.35	£232,218.85
October		£232,218.85
November		£232,218.85
December		£232,218.85
January		£232,218.85
February		£232,218.85
March		£232,218.85
TOTAL		£232,218.85

Receipts EXCLUDING Externally Funded Projects and Allotments, TO DATE, by Month tbl_ReceiptsExclByMonth

Month	Receipts	Cumulative Receipts
April	£46,404.76	£46,404.76
May	£100,066.97	£146,471.73
June	£14,499.95	£160,971.68
July	£20,919.01	£181,890.69
August		£181,890.69
September	£46,192.00	£228,122.50
October		£228,122.50
November		£228,122.50
December		£228,122.50
January		£228,122.50
February		£228,122.50
March		£228,122.50
Total		£228,122.50

Receipts EXCLUDING Externally Funded Projects and Allotments, TO DATE, BY Receipt Code tbl_ReceiptsExclByCode

Receipt Code	Receipts	Receipts
RPT-01	Interest	£994.87
RPT-02	Precept	£92,384.00
RPT-03	Payments in error - reimbursed	
RPT-04	Donations	£10.00
RPT-05	EV Profit Share (CBC)	£362.98
RPT-06	First Aid Training etc	
RPT-07	Bowls Club	
RPT-08	Christmas Tree Event	
RPT-09	VAT Refund	£14,466.44
Total		£108,158.29

RECEIPTS INTO ALLOTMENTS (tbl_AllotReceipts)

Receipts into Allotments	Code	All Allotment Receipts
Allotment Rents	ALL-R01	£1,594.35
Allotment Deposits	ALL-R02	
Allotment Grants	ALL-R03	
Allotment Deposits Withheld	ALL-R04	
Allotment Other Receipts	ALL-R05	
Total		£1,594.35

PAYMENTS FROM ALLOTMENTS (tbl_AllotPayments)

Payments from Allotments	Code	All Allotment Payments
Allotment Maintenance	ALL-P01	£402.50
Allotment Returned Deposits	ALL-P02	£60.00
Allotment Steward Fee	ALL-P03	
Allotment Other Payments	ALL-P04	£1,015.14
Total		£1,477.64

NOTE: Withheld Deposits withheld are coded (ALL-R04) as a receipts into Allotment Funds.

ALLOTMENT RECEIPTS - SUMMARY (tbl_AllotReceiptSummary)

Receipts less Deposits	Deposits	Withheld Deposits	Total
£1,594.35			£1,594.35

ALLOTMENT PAYMENTS - SUMMARY (tbl_AllotPaymentSummary)

Payments less Returned Deposits	Returned Deposits	Total
£1,417.64	£60.00	£1,477.64

ALLOTMENT RECEIPTS & NET PAYMENTS BY MONTH (tbl_AllotReceiptsPaymentsByMonth)

Month	All Receipts	Cumulative All Receipts	All Payments NETT	Cumulative All Payments NETT
April			£1,262.50	£1,262.50
May				£1,262.50
June				£1,262.50
July				£1,262.50
August	£1,428.00	£1,428.00	£215.14	£1,477.64
September	£106.35	£1,534.35		£1,477.64
October		£1,534.35		£1,477.64
November		£1,534.35		£1,477.64
December		£1,534.35		£1,477.64
January		£1,534.35		£1,477.64
February		£1,534.35		£1,477.64
March		£1,534.35		£1,477.64
Total	£1,534.35	£1,534.35	£1,477.64	£1,477.64

ALLOTMENT DEPOSITS TO DATE (tbl_AllotDeposits)

Date	Amount
Deposits at start of year	£600.00
Deposits received to date	
Deposits returned to date	£60.00
Total Deposits	£640.00

ALLOTMENT FUNDS TO DATE EXCLUDING DEPOSITS (tbl_AllotFunds)

Date	Amount
Funds at start of year	£5,989.47
Receipts less Deposits to date	£1,594.35
Payments less Returned Deposits to date	-£1,417.64
Withheld Deposits to date	
Total Funds	£6,166.18

S106 FUNDING, AGENDA ITEM 67g

MPC's request re S106 planning levy rules

Maulden Parish Council are trying to understand the rules regarding how S106 funding is applied for from developers and allocated, and we've been pointed in your direction by the Ward Cllrs.

Can you please explain the process? Who decides the level of S106 funding for each development? What are the priorities? When does the wish list that CBC hold from Maulden Parish Council come into play?

The query has come about because there are some significant sums available for play equipment and pavilion improvements, which are MPC projects, but the needs of the village have changed since the monies were allocated yet the criteria is quite specific and cannot be altered.

For example, the pavilion funds include changing facilities, but it's taken so long for the funding to become available and the project to get off the ground that needs have changed and the sports teams which use the building and pitches have specified they don't use changing rooms any more as the youngsters arrive and depart in their kit. MPC asked if this criteria could be dropped and the funds used to refurbish the pavilion as a community hub with improved toilets, cafe and meeting space for sports clubs and groups but were told if changing facilities are not included, the monies would not be available and would be returned to the developer, so MPC are having to incorporate these into the refurbishment project even though no one wants them.

In addition, MPC have just discovered that a significant sum for further play equipment, which is much needed for the Trilley Fields play area at the far end of what is an extremely long village, has actually been allocated to the CBC-owned very small play area in Gardeners Close which isn't very far from The Rec where the main play area is already in place. Who would have decided that this funding would be taken by CBC for a small estate when it could have benefited a much wider section of the village?

There are also very large sums, in the hundreds of thousands, supposedly allocated to improve and expand Maulden Lower School, yet nothing ever seems to happen with that funding, when is it going to be used for this purpose?

And is there any hope of changing the S106 system to the Community Infrastructure Levy system which many district and unitary authorities utilise where the CIL funds are handed directly to the parish councils to hold for use as required on infrastructure needs that arise within the parish, rather than being directed by CBC and held by them on very narrow terms for projects which have become outdated?

Response from CBC

Thank you for your email, [here](#) is the link to our website which provides general information regarding S106 planning obligations which you may find useful

S106 contributions are identified during the planning application process where they meet the tests set out in Regulation 122 of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations. These contributions must be necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms. Once a Section 106 Agreement has been completed, any changes to the agreed obligations normally require a Deed of Variation. This is a further legal agreement that must be agreed and signed by all parties to the original agreement. Any alternative project proposed to receive the contribution would also need to satisfy the Regulation 122 tests. In addition, the preparation of a Deed of Variation would incur further legal costs.

During the planning application consultation process, Parish Councils may request S106 contributions for projects that they consider meet the Regulation 122 tests. These requests will be assessed by the Planning Officer and, where considered compliant, put forward to the developer for consideration. If there are projects that your Parish Council wishes to fund through S106 contributions, I would recommend engaging with the relevant S106 Spending Officers within CBC. For leisure-related projects, please contact Laura Badham, and for community facilities projects, please contact Sarah Hughes. They can secure contributions on your behalf. I would also suggest speaking to Spending Officers regarding how the specific contributions you are querying may be utilised

Please note that CBC is not a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charging authority and there is currently no proposal to implement this

I hope this answers the questions you have raised. However, if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

RoSPA REPORT REPAIRS QUOTE, AGENDA ITEM 68a

Following the RoSPA inspection report, the contractor quoted £4,705+vat for all the items mentioned, but MPC had only budgeted £2,000 having spent £5,455+vat last year on a number of similar repairs.

The report has no repairs flagged red for immediate response, most are green/low risk, a couple are amber/medium risk. Cllr Phillips and I have now inspected the play equipment against the list of quoted repairs - full report attached.

The recommendation is that only two repairs are actioned, stripping down and refitting the HipHop and Rotaweb at £285.00 each +vat - although both of these were done last year.

In addition, I have contacted the local jet wash company, who kindly cleaned off the graffiti on the slide, for a quote to clean moss and algae off the Toddler MultiUnit and the Slide Tower - and anything else he's willing to do.

For the ongoing issues with the wet pour shrinkage, we suggest trying a repair kit at around £60+vat.

For all other repairs the recommendation is to leave them until next year's inspection, which gives MPC the chance to carry forward any funding from this year's budget and properly budget for 2027-2028 to cover up to £5,000 in repairs - there is also the suggestion of looking to replace the wet pour surfaces with the same as that under the Slide Tower which is less prone to shrinkage and cracking.

Ref: Maulden Recreation Ground	Cost
Sign RPM to remove excess metal on the sign Low 5 David mended	£ 40.00
Senior Unit RPM to strip down pole spinner, lubricate and check parts for wear Med 8	£185.00
Please note if parts are worn we will need to quote Leave till next year (done last year at £185+vat)	
RPM to supply and spread soil and seed to eliminate trip hazard Low 6	£130.00
Leave till next year (done last year at £60+vat)	
Slide Tower RPM to sand down the deck where required to remove burns and algae Low 6	£140.00
Ask local chap to jetwash algae	
RPM to supply and spread soil and seed to eliminate trip hazard Low 6	£130.00
Leave till next year (done last year inc cleaning at £150+vat)	
2 Bay 4 Flat Seat Swing RPM to strip down the above item, check parts for wear, lubricate and re-fit item	£285.00
Please note if parts are worn we will need to quote Med 4 leave till next year	
(done last year at £300+vat)	
RPM to re-secure loose fixings on the seats Low 6 David done	£120.00
RPM to cut out 1 l/m of wet pour shrinkage and relay with new black rubber	
Low 4 Leave till next year/use wetpour repair kit (done last year at £510+vat)	
Bird Rocker RPM to smooth off rough edges. Low 6 leave (done last year at £40+vat)	£ 60.00
Toddler Multiunit RPM to jet wash the surface on the above item to remove moss and algae	£600.00
Med 9 Ask local chap to jetwash algae (done last year at £180+vat)	
RPM to rub down, prime and paint 1 No. handle using red colour lead free paint Low leave till next year	£185.00
Igloo RPM to cut out 2 No areas of cracked wet pour and relay with new black rubber	£260.00
Low 4 Leave till next year/use wetpour repair kit (done last year at £100+vat)	
Rocking Horse RPM to sand down footrest edges and stain with a preservative Low 6	£100.00
RPM to touch up red paint where required Low 2 Leave till next year (done last year at £85+vat)	£100.00
Hip Hop RPM to strip down the above item, check mechanism for wear, secure loose fixings and re-fit item	£285.00
Med 8 – RPM to action (done last year at £300+vat)	
Please note if parts are worn we will need to quote	
RPM to cut out 10 l/m of wet pour shrinkage and relay with new black rubber	£850.00
Med 4 fill with wetpour repair kit (Done last year at £850+vat)	
Rota Web RPM to strip down the above item, check mechanism for wear and re-fit item	£285.00
Please note if parts are worn we will need to quote Med 8 – RPM to action (done last year at £220+vat)	
Pod Swing RPM to re-position rubber bumpers on the seat as best we can Med 0 Leave (done last year at £30+vat)	£ 60.00
RPM to smooth off rough edge on the blue seat Med 8 Leave (done last year at £40+vat)	£ 40.00
Rodeo Board RPM to cut out 10 l/m of wet pour shrinkage and relay with new black rubber	£850.00
Low 6 fill with wetpour repair kit (done last year at £850+vat)	
All prices quoted are subject to VAT	£4705+vat

£570+vat

Plus wetpour repair kit, Black kit £34.50+vat, Base kit £24.00+vat

RECREATION GROUND PROJECT UPDATE, AGENDA ITEM 68b

Pavilion Working Group Cllrs Aston, Penniston, & Phillips, & Clerk

This continues to be progressed by Tracey, Pat, Peter and Russ. We last met on 20th August.

Pavilion

Option - Full refurbishment. Cost being refined as drawings progress but approx cost still expected to be c£120k

Structural survey – Complete. Building is structurally sound.

Architect – Design received and refined. Objective remains a multi purpose structure for sports events use, cafe use and also as office space. Main refinements around toilet use (to be accessible from inside and one also from the outside when there is a booked use of the playing area), and kitchen. Ongoing liaison continues to progress the next steps.

Fundraising – No update

Help – Ideas around involving local business/people eg MIDA being considered.

Existing money £15676.22

£14984.00

Signed _____

£ 7553.75
£ 7472.75 (Pig field)
£14945.50 (Pig field)
£60632.22

Total

Money following Hillson's development £11820. That may be some time but would make a total of £72452.22

Play Equipment

We've visited sites (Saffron Walden, Harrold, Barton, Poppy Drive, Ampthill Park, Ampthill Heights, Wrest Park and Meppersall); and considered equipment from Sovereign, Reids, Fawns, Proludic, Online Playgrounds, HAGS and Buglo. We are minded to HAGS and Buglo equipment as it looks a little more innovative, however Proludic our usual supplier are good value and get good reviews. To double check we'll visit a couple of HAGS sites to refine our choices. The prices are all within a relatively similar range as expected.

- Zip Line - Buglo as seen at Poppy Drive. It is at the expensive end.
- Roundabout/Carousel - We liked the HAGS equipment seen at Meppenshall.
- Trampoline –Not seen but would go HAGS to fit in with other purchases.
- Sensory - Not seen but would go HAGS to fit in with other purchases
- Goal End – To be located where the basket ball hoop is. HAGS have a good one that we liked when we saw it at Ampthill Heights.

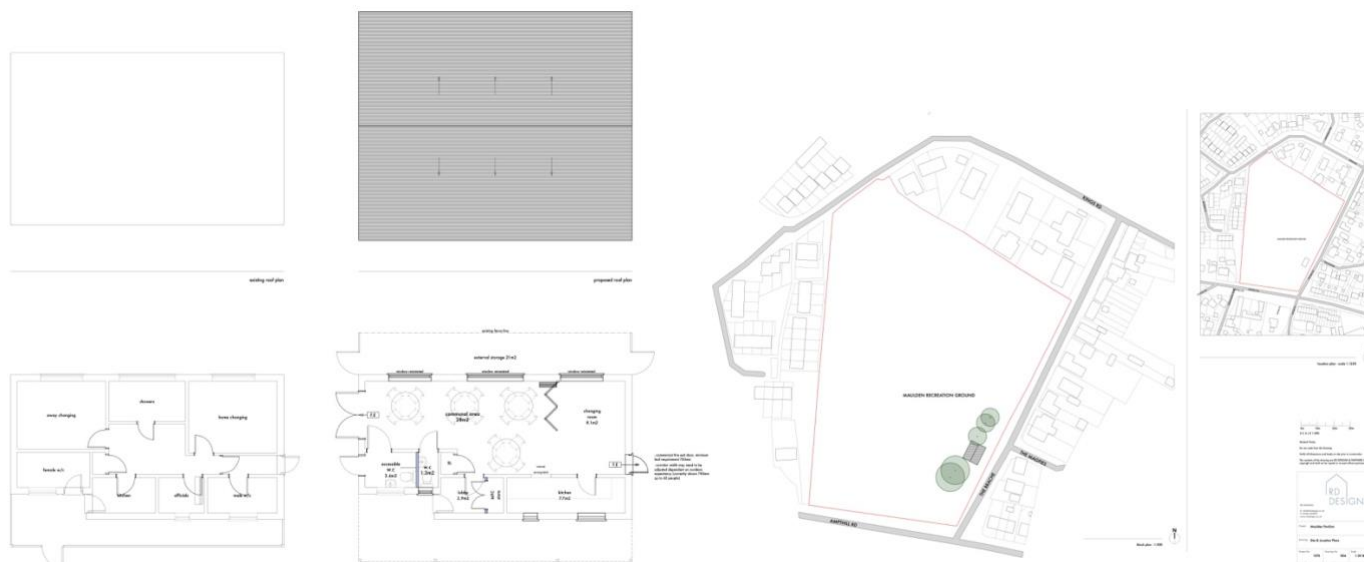
NB - There is £65590.90 available now - c£44k from the Hillson's development is for CBC's Gardeners Close site.

Summary of prices for information

Sovereign	Reids	Fawns	Proludic	Online Playgrounds	HAGS	Buglo
zip wire – £18820	25m Cableway £21095	£9922	zip line -.J512A £11536.40	25m £13,375.00	Mantis Zipwire £12,961 30m £13,777	22m £17121.00
Trampoline 3m x 2.25m £18800	2m £10740 Rectangle £21350.00	2m - £10969	1.5m x 1.5m £7443.40	2m x 2m £8,922.00	1.5m Square £5,344	Circular £7470.00
Roundabout 2.2m x 2.2m £16770 Rotat leaf £5500	Inclusive Roundabout - £8910	£11156	J2409A Inclusive Roundabout £9989.40	£15,560.00	Roundabout Orbit £8,288 Roty Inclusive Roundabout £3,675	Dutch disc type carousel £22534.00 carousel (handrails) £4594.00
Sensory - c£1500			Large Communication Panel £1,387	3 tuned bells £510.00 Bongo Tree £490.00 Rain Wheel £440.00 Drum £670.00 Play Panel £1,750	Tile Slide Frog Panel £560	
Goal and hoop £4273.07	Goal End - £6240.00	£8187	Goal end with 3m high panels £8,544.80	Goal End 3m high x 9m wide £8,990.00	Indiana (7m Goal Section) £8,656.61	

Trilley Fields – On hold until we've progressed the Rec but thinking a tractor themed childrens activity frame.





HIGHWAYS, AGENDA ITEM 50a, CLLR BROWNING

Highways Working Group Cllrs Browning, Jackson, & Phillips, & non-cllrs M Crawford, D Nevols & J Usher
The Highways Working Group have not met since the last MPC meeting in July.

CBC Draft Local Transport Plan Consultation 2027-2040

A reminder that if you want to contribute to the consultation, please follow the link below until the deadline of 20 September.
<https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations-list/local-transport-plan-2026-consultationhttps:>

Cameras on lampposts at the junctions of Church Road, Clophill Road and Silsoe Road

Cllr Browning has approached Ward Cllr Clinch about who has installed the cameras and their purpose. Cllr Clinch is requesting information from CBC and will report back.

Parish & Town Council Road Safety Partnership

The deadline for applying to CBC for minor road safety improvements is 30 September. MPC Highways Group has not identified any current requirements – does anyone have any suggestions?

The requests are limited to

- Vehicle activated signs (VAS) and posts.
- Speed indicating devices (SIDs), including maintenance.
- Fixed warning or advisory signs.
- Road markings and lining improvements.
- Bollards, edge markers, or verge protection measures.

SAFETY, AGENDA ITEM 69h – CLLR BROWNING

Crimes reported August 2026 (Information provided by Beds Police)

03/08/2026	ASSAULT WITH INJURY	Sandyacres
04/08/2026	STALKING	Undisclosed
05/08/2026	RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY-HOME	Wingfield Avenue
05/08/2026	THREAT INTENT TO COMMIT CRIMINAL DAMAGE	Moor Lane
11/08/2026	SHOPLIFTING	Amphill Road
16/08/2026	BLACKMAIL	Undisclosed
22/08/2026	ASSAULT WITH INJURY	Clophill Road
31/08/2026	MALICIOUS COMMUNICATIONS	Undisclosed
	TOTAL	8

Street Watch Patrols (awaiting information)

Reports from patrols & other media Cllr Smith attended a street watch patrol on the evening of 20 August.

Speed Watch (Information provided by M Crawford)

Sessions were conducted on 4 occasions across 3 different sites within Maulden in August, totalling 3.25 hours of roadside monitoring.

- A total of 20 vehicles were logged exceeding the 'reportable' speed limit attributed to that section of road.
- Included in that number were 5 commercial vehicles (25%) of assorted varieties & colours.
- 1 of the 20 vehicles had been logged for excessive speed on 2 previous occasions.
- Of the 20 vehicles logged, 6 (30%) were travelling at 40 mph or more in a 30 mph zone
- Highest individual speed recorded was 43 mph on Clophill Road (Green End), westbound at 09:15 on a Thursday morning.

Neighbourhood Watch

Signed _____

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Cllrs Browning and Smith met with R Williams, the lead for Neighbourhood Watch in Maulden, to find out more about the scheme and how to encourage residents to set up their own Neighbourhood Watch areas to bring communities together and make Maulden an even safer place to live

Police Engagement Event with PCSOs Carne and Jorgensen

Cllrs Browning met with two PCs from the Community Police Team and CBC ASB Team at the recreation ground on the evening of 19 August in response to reports of anti-social behaviours in that area.

We spoke with local residents about their experiences and gathered some useful information to help the police focus their resources. CBC ASB Team assisted some residents on the easiest way to report events.

The police stressed the importance of reporting every single event so that they can build up a picture of what is happening. If more than one person witnesses, they all need to report it. The more reports the police get, the bigger the chance of them addressing it. If anyone wants to report anonymously, they can do so via Crime Stoppers. No-one will be able to trace their call back to them, not even the police.

WARD COUNCILLORS' REPORT, AGENDA ITEM 69j

Changes to the NPPF came into law on 17th August 2026. These are very significant for how town and parish councils and Ward Councillors can engage with the planning system locally.

All planning applications are considered by planning officers, and usually decided by planning officers in line with national legislation and the Local Plan and other local policies. Previously, Ward Councillors could "call-in" an application to be considered by the CBC councillor planning committee (Development Management Committee). Ward Cllrs would do this if requested by town or parish councillors, and sometimes by residents or organisations. DMC would also consider applications where an objection from a town or parish council could not be overcome by conditions/agreements.

These routes to committee consideration will be closed from 31st October 2026. The new legislation separates planning applications into **Schedule 1** (all household applications, under 10 dwellings on a plot less than 0.5ha), commercial development under 1ha) and **Schedule 2** (everything else, including CBC own applications).

Schedule 1 applications will always be decided by planning officers ("*mandatory delegation*")

Schedule 2 applications will almost always be decided by planning officers, ("*presumption of delegation*") but some larger applications can be brought to DMC with agreement of the Chief Planning Officer and Chair of DMC (a councillor) – but only if certain criteria are met.

This does not mean that it is easier to get an application through – planning standards remain very stringent and applicants absolutely need to have every aspect of their application in order for it to be acceptable. However it does mean that opportunities for communities to have their say on applications have largely been removed, except through the consultation process for each application.

What can town and parish councils do about applications? Town and parish councils and Ward Councillors can still object to applications or ask for changes to applications to make them better. This can only be done through the consultation process by submitting responses to the application.

This means that consultation responses to applications need to say everything that you want to say, and everything you want to have changed. Requests for allocation of any S106 funding should be included in your response.

If the town or parish council wants Ward Cllrs to respond to an application to support their views, this needs to be communicated very promptly to Ward Councillors. As we are always informed of applications in ward, we would hopefully pick up on any problematic or larger applications and be talking with you about them, but we will not be examining every household application.

Is there a way for local applications to come to DMC? There is still a route for some bigger applications to come to DMC. DMC consideration of applications has been helpful for communities, because even though there is presumption in favour of permission, and there may not be substantive, defensible reasons for refusal that the committee can be persuaded of, it brings close examination of local issues and can apply conditions which improve the development and reduce its impacts. It was a channel for local knowledge into the planning system.

The new guidance states:

Schedule 2 application may only be referred to Planning Committee where:

(a) at least one of the statutory criteria is met; and

(b) both the nominated officer and nominated member agree that the application should be referred.

The statutory criteria are:

- *the application raises one or more economic, social or environmental issues of significance to the local area; or*
- *the application raises one or more significant planning matters having regard to the development plan and other material considerations.*

CBC are still considering whether a route can be created for Ward Councillors to indicate to the "nominated officer and nominated member" that an application raises an "economic, social or environmental" issue of local importance. Councillors have asked for guidance on what those issues could be.

Using language in responses to Schedule 2 planning consultations which indicates that the application raises an economic, social or environmental issue might help to get the application as far as consideration for being brought to DMC. This will be most effective if done together with Ward Cllrs.

Changes in town and parish council processes The need for more thorough and detailed consultation responses may conflict with the timescale of town and parish council meetings. Town, Parish and Ward Cllrs can't be expected to produce detailed responses at short notice, so if applications come in at the wrong point of the meeting cycle, it will be helpful to have a mechanism for "in principle" decisions, which then allows detailed responses to be brought to councils for approval or

amendment. It will also be helpful to mobilise local expertise to help produce more detailed responses when needed. Communicating about applications of concern with Ward Cllrs could be a specific delegated task for one council member. **Where do the old and new Local Plan fit in with this?** Significant conflict with Local Plan policies is one of the criteria for bringing an application to DMC and for planning officers to refuse an application or work with the applicant to make changes. As the next stages of Local Plan consultation come forward, getting policies in place which do what local people want them to, to protect historic and natural landscapes and insist on good planning and high quality developments with strong climate resilience, gives us a framework to reject poor speculative development. Engaging with Local Plan consultation processes is really important!

Full details of the NPPF Changes are here: [The Town and Country Planning \(Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions\) \(England\) Regulations 2026](#)

With a good summary list here:

[Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework \(NPPF\) and other changes to the planning system: August 2026 | Local Government Association](#)

Quiet Lanes Cllr Clinch has submitted proposals for Water End to be considered for designation as a “Quiet Lane” prioritising resident amenity and active travel. Please see separate report.

Devolution Over the next few years, an additional strategic tier of government will be established in all areas of England. Central Bedfordshire Council has voted to respond positively to the “Rewiring the State” proposals from government, notably expressing interest in proceeding directly to a Mayoral Strategic Authority rather than engaging with a phase of Foundation Strategic Authority, where decisions for the SA area would be made by the constituent councils. A Mayoral SA choice enables earlier access to significantly more funding for the SA area.

The extent of the Mayoral Strategic Authority is yet to be agreed. Whilst Bedford, Luton and Milton Keynes are currently interested in proceeding with Central Bedfordshire to be a Strategic Authority and this would be acceptable to government, CBC has voted to continue to look towards a wider area to have greater national leverage.

Cllr Susan Clinch 6th September 2026