

LITTLE BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13 July 2026 at 7.45pm in the Community Centre, Little Brickhill, Milton Keynes.

It was decided to proceed with this meeting, but no decisions were taken as we did not have a quorum.

Present:

Cllr K Morgan - Chair
Cllr L Walker
Cllr D Hopkins (Ward Councillor)
A Kemp (Parish Clerk)

In attendance:

A Moore (Bucks Fire & Rescue Service)
P Scanes (Bucks Fire & Rescue Service)
D Priestley (Resident)
C Till (Resident)
G Bailey (Resident)
P Simpson (Resident)
D Williams (Resident)
R Jones (Resident)
L Mawer (Resident)
B Conn (Resident)
S Conn (Resident)

Following the resignation of Cllr Emma Priestley at the last Parish Council meeting, Clerk advised that we have now received permission to co-opt someone to fill the vacancy and that he would place any advert on the notice boards and website.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr D Lewis, Ward Cllr J Luk and Ward Cllr V Hopkins.

It was noted that Cllr S Flowerdew had resigned as a Parish Councillor. Clerk to advise MKCC and display notices of the vacancy.

2. Public Open Session:

2.1 - Adam Moore & Paul Scanes attended the meeting from Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service to address any concerns where water supplies are insufficient when addressing any incidents. They provided assurance and guidance and answered any concerns satisfactorily.

The chair thanked Alan & Paul for attending the meeting tonight.

2.2 – Levante Gate Development Site – Residents raised concerns over this development that will be discussed in more detail – see item **10**.

2.3 – Car Parking – A resident raised concerns about the parking arrangements in MKCC near Stadium MK and shared a personal recent experience. Although this is not a Parish Council issue our Ward Councillor agreed to obtain the licensing rules from MKCC.

2.4 – Rave Incident – A resident raise concerns on a recent rave and asked for advice on who to contact when necessary. Our Ward Councillor agreed to try and obtain the information from MKCC.

2.5 – Fly Tipping – A resident advised that there is still fly tipping taking place in the village with at least 5 incidents recently reported to MKCC. To be included as an agenda item at the September 2026 Parish Council meeting.

ACTION

Cllr D
Hopkins

Cllr D
Hopkins

Clerk

2.6 - Damaged Barn – A resident advised that he had reported that the roof collapsed last month and that he had reported this to the landowners, Woburn Estates. <u>He asked at the meeting if this could be reported to the MKCC Conservation Team as it was thought that this was a listed building.</u> 2.7 – Pedestrian Crossing, Watling Street – A resident advised that one of the lights on this crossing was not working. <u>Clerk agreed to report this to MKCC.</u> 2.8 – 30 mph signs – A resident advised that you cannot see the 30 mph speed signs as you enter Little Brickhill from Woburn because of overhanging trees. <u>Clerk agreed to report this to MKCC.</u> 2.9 – National Speed Limit Signs – Although MKCC have reinstated these signs as you leave the village to the A5 northbound exit, a resident advised that they require overhanging trees to be cut back to ensure better visibility. <u>Clerk agreed to report this to MKCC.</u>	Cllr D Hopkins / Clerk Clerk Clerk Clerk
3. Declaration of Interest: None.	
4. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting held on 13 April 2026: 3680 Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 13 April 2026 was deferred to the next meeting on the 7 September 2026, as tonight's meeting was not quorate.	
5. To discuss and progress priority actions: 3681 2026/2027 Priority Actions. 1. The primary concern of Little Brickhill Parish Council for 2026/2027 is the proposed residential development at Levante Gate, as well as the additional development at South Bow Brickhill, on the opposite side of the A5. The Parish Council will have two priorities in 2026/27 regarding this development, as follows: • If and when planning permission is submitted for Levante Gate, the Parish Council will engage a professional to submit a comprehensive response representing the views of the village. A budget of £1,000 has been allocated for this. <u>Update - An outline planning application was received on the 3 July 2026 and will be discussed in item 10 of the agenda.</u> • The Parish Council will work with Milton Keynes Council, as well as developers, to represent the community and get the best benefit and least negative consequences and disruption for the village, once MK council's stance is known and any planning permission has been submitted. There will be an ongoing agenda item at each Parish Council meeting to discuss this, and residents are encouraged to attend and make their views known.	

2. Renovate and replace or add to play equipment on Watson's Field. We plan to get quotes plus ideas from suppliers. A budget of £5,000-7,000k has initially been allocated for this but we will be applying for a Community Infrastructure Grant to support this. If successful with the grant, we will consider spending up to £10,000.

Update – We will be applying for grants to progress this action - see item 8.2 for funding options.

3. Roundacre: a number of villagers have been interested in what could be done to make more use of Roundacre field on Great Brickhill Lane. Whilst there have been requests to spend money on fencing and infrastructure, it has initially been decided to minimise financial outlay, at least until usage and demand can be evaluated. In the meantime, the Parish Council will, in 2026, plant dense perimeter hedging around the edge of the field, plant two or three fruit trees for the benefit of users and purchase and install some benches. We will continue to maintain the grass cutting and consider allocating some wild flower patches of aesthetics and biodiversity. The Parish Council will apply to WREN for a grant for this work but has allocated a budget of £2,000 for this year. If successful with the grant application, 50% of this will be reclaimable.

Update - Clerk to obtain quotations for discussion / review at either the September 2026 or October 2026 Parish Council meeting.

4. The Parish Council is aware of the church's funding struggles and, whilst the congregation actively attending church is currently minimal, villagers value the church building for its history, looks and don't want to see it fall into disrepair or closure. Immediate requirements are understood to be a new boiler, repairs to the lightening conductor and repairs to the roof. There are many other repairs required to the fabric of the building, which the church committee is also working to fund in the longer term. The church committee feels that (with fundraising support this year) they will be able to purchase a new boiler. The Parish Council is proposing a grant of around £2,000 to fund the lightening conductor, which is very important to public and congregation safety, as well as insurance requirements of the building.

Update - It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay for the installation of Lighting Protection at a cost of £1,437.00 (not including VAT).

Thank you email received 10/06/2026 from the Church as noted below:

- I'd like to sincerely express my thanks to the Parish Council for their very generous offer to pay for the work that we've had to have done to the lightning conductor to bring it up to specification in order to satisfy the Church insurers.
- As you are aware, we were already facing huge costs to replace the broken boiler, so to have the financial burden of fixing the lightning conductor taken off us is truly very much appreciated. On behalf of everyone on the Church PCC will you thank each one of the councillors for their decision to help us with this.

5. The speed indication devices (SIDs) in the village need some additional support in the winter months (when there is less daylight and sunshine) to provide enough power from the solar panels to keep them operational 24 hours per day. The Parish Council is investigating upgrading to larger the solar panels to harvest more power and also increasing the capacity of the batteries. A budget of £1,500 has been allocated for this. <u>Update - Clerk has contacted our contractor (SWARCO) requesting options and quotation for consideration at a future Parish Council meeting.</u> 6. Whilst the refactoring works for safety on the southbound A5 slip road has been completed, there have still been reports of cars travelling the wrong way down that slip road. During a recent meeting with (MK Council Traffic & Transportation Manager), the Parish Council requested the installation of temporary traffic cameras to assess the severity of this problem and further highlight the dangers. The Parish Council will work with MKCC throughout 2026 on this. <u>Update - Clerk has contacted MKCC (Murray Woodburn) and received the following commitment.</u> <u><i>We have continued to mention this junction with Highways England at every opportunity, and we still think a more proactive signage solution would be far more effective here.</i></u> <u><i>Our cameras are currently fully deployed on data collection for our forthcoming school streets programme at the moment, but it is still our intention to re-locate one of those cameras to Little Brickhill to gather further evidence to help convince Highways England that a stronger solution is needed.</i></u> <u><i>Data collection around the schools will end at the end of this term (so quite soon) so we would hope to have a camera up to observe behaviour at the slip road in about a month or so.</i></u>	
6. Progress on matters from last Minutes: 3682 6.1 - (item 2.3 of minutes 06/03/23) - Street Lighting – A resident asked if consideration could be given to installing some more street lighting on Watling Street near the George / Community Centre. MKCC have agreed to this request to install one additional street light at the front of the George. <u><i>Still waiting date for when the work will be completed, Clerk contacted MKCC again on the 2 July 2026 to request an update and will follow up again.</i></u>	Clerk
6.2 - (item 7.6 of minutes 03/03/25) – Hall Honour Boards displayed in the Community Centre – These require updating. Clerk has contacted the contractor, and they still have the art work from when the boards were update last time. When we are ready to have the boards updated, they can provide a quotation. <u><i>No change.</i></u>	
6.3 - (item 2.3 of minutes 09/06/25) – Waste Bin Issue – A resident has contacted the Parish Council to report that the bin on Watsons Field is damaged and was overflowing with waste scatted near the play area. Clerk advised that MKCC have repaired this waste bin, saving the need to buy a replacement. <u><i>Item closed.</i></u>	

6.4 – (item 7.1 of minutes 02/02/26) - Email received 23/12/25 from a resident asking for consideration for a Library Box to be installed in the Village.  <u>Clerk advised that he had placed the order and we have paid a 50% deposit of £347.50 with a targetted completed date in August 2026. We need to obtain a quotation for installation and arrange collection following completion of the library box.</u> <u>We would need to agree a process for the regular management of this facility by volunteers?</u>	Clerk Clerk
6.5 – (item 19.1 of minutes 02/03/26) - It was noted that Cllr L Walker has made a planter for the village. Clerk advised that if the intention is to place it on any land that is under the control of MKCC, that we would need to obtain permission before installation. <u>Ongoing.</u>	Clerk
6.6 - (item 7 of minutes 13/04/26) - To discuss a response to the MK Local Transport Plan Consultation due to close in mid-April 2026. 3668 Clerk confirmed that he had responded to this consultation on the 14 May 2026 as agreed. <u>Item closed.</u>	
7. Correspondence: 3683 7.1 – Residents raised concerns about speeding traffic through the village at the AGM / Annual Village meeting on the 21 May 2026 and it was agreed to include this topic as an agenda item for this meeting. <u>This item was deferred to the next Parish Council meeting on the 7 September 2026.</u> 7.2 – Email received 26/05/26 from MKCC confirmed how to apply for a Community Infrastructure Grant for 2027/2028 by the 31 August 2026. <u>It was agreed to apply for grants to refresh the play equipment (to include replacing the slide) and include some exercise items.</u> 7.3 - Email received 03/06/26 from MKCC regarding changes to the publication of details of Councillor Register of Interests on their website. <u>This was noted; no actions are required.</u>	Clerk
8. Clerks Report / Local Issues: 3684 8.1 – Newsletter – <u>Clerk will ask for content by the 24 August 2026 for the next issue to ensure distribution in September 2026.</u> 8.2 – Overgrown Footpath – Residents have raised concerns about the footpath being overgrown from the derelict farm building off Woburn Road. Clerk has reported this twice to MKCC (Rights of Way team) who have contacted Woburn Estates for a date when they will undertake this work. <u>Ongoing.</u>	Clerk

8.3 – Roundacre Field – A resident has raised concerns over the lack of grass cutting. Usually, we only have undertaken 3 cuts per year in the past, however the Clerk has increased the grass cutting accordingly. An extra cut was completed on the 3 July 2026, and this additional expenditure is covered in the budget for 2026/2027. 8.4 – Other Village Issues: <u>No other issues were raised.</u>	
9 . Unitary Councillors’ Report: 3685 A copy of the Ward Councillor’s reports to Little Brickhill Parish Council for July 2026 <u>are available to view on the Parish Council website and are appended to these minutes.</u>	
10. To discuss / review if any updates are available on the Levante Gate Site: 3686 Planning application received 03/07/2026 - PLN/2026/1114 - Outline application (matters of access to be considered, with matters of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping reserved) for a phased residential-led mixed-use development comprising up to 1,250 new dwellings, including a 3FE primary school (up to 2.3ha) (Use Class F1), local centre (up to 0.8ha) (Use Class E and F2), mobility hub, communal heat hub, pumping station, formal and informal public open spaces, related landscaping, earthworks, drainage infrastructure and creation of new vehicular accesses off A4146 with associated infrastructure at Levante Gate, Watling Street, Little Brickhill, Milton Keynes. <u>Resident’s concerns were recognised. It was noted that we have until the 3 August 2026 to respond, but the Clerk will contact MKCC to ask for an extension.</u> <u>Clerk will now place the order to seek support from our consultant to enable the Parish Council to respond to this planning application at £1,250.00. This is £1,000.00 from Parish Council funding and £250.00 already received from the Residents Association.</u>	Clerk Clerk
11. Planning: 3687 11.1 – PLN/2026/0446 - The retention of 1.8m tall fence on the boundary of the land adjacent to a highway at Home Farm, Watling Street, Little Brickhill. <u>Clerk confirmed that he had sent a response to MKCC on the 17 April 2026 following discussion at the Parish Council meeting on the 13 April 2026.</u> 11.2 – PLN/2026/0160 - Conversion of garage at Chestnut Lodge, Woburn Road, Little Brickhill, MK17 9NA. <u>Notification received from MKCC 24/04/26 advising that Householder Planning Permission had been approved.</u> 11.3 - PLN/2026/0162 - Proposed erection of a free-standing single storey out-building at Chestnut Lodge, Woburn Road, Little Brickhill, MK17 9NA. <u>Notification received from MKCC 24/04/26 advising that Householder Planning Permission had been approved.</u>	

12. To discuss any Highway issues: 3688

12.1 – Great Brickhill Lane Road Defect – Clerk reported this problem to MKCC under reference number FS77216972 and was informed that it was on an unadopted highway. Following discussion with MKCC the Clerk was asked to report this to Bucks CC. Bucks CC say it is not their responsibility, so the Clerk has again requested further advice from MKCC.



MKCC will be carrying out some vegetation clearance on Great Brickhill Lane on 9 July 2026 so that they can assess the damage in this location and determine what repairs may be needed. Any repairs will be carried out at a later date.

To do the vegetation clearance, the road will need to be closed for one day to allow for the plant equipment and to create a safe working space for the crew.

12.2 - (item 6.9 of minutes 02/02/26) – National Speed Signs – A resident asked for an explanation of why these signs were removed by MKCC when the recent improvements were made.

MKCC have confirmed that the removal of the signs was to see whether it has any impact on vehicle speeds as motorists exit the village, as most drivers were accelerating as soon as they saw the national speed limit sign.

Clerk has received a response from MKCC as noted below:

- I have attached the most recent speed count we have undertaken – and the speeds aren't that high considering that the speed limit at this stretch is national. Copy of the results send out to all Parish Councillors prior to the Parish Council meeting.

Clerk to contact MKCC again about the re-installation of the signs.

Clerk

13. Financial: 3689

13.1 - Cheques presented for payment:

101081	£1,596.00	Goodfellers Ltd – Tree Work
101082	£240.00	RTM – Grass Cutting
S/O	£204.00	Clerk – Salary May 2026
101083	£140.00	HMRC – Tax for Clerk – May 2026
D/D	£47.00	Information Commissioner – Data Protection Fee
101084	£86.40	BALC – Annual Membership Fee
101085	£168.00	Goodfellers Ltd – Tree Work
101086	£390.00	RTM – Grass Cutting
S/O	£204.00	Clerk – Salary June 2026
101087	£70.00	HMRC – Tax for Clerk – June 2026

101088	£0.00	CHEQUE VOID
101089	£88.00	Clerk – Salary June 2026 - Shortfall
101090	£372.00	Auditing Solutions Ltd – Internal Audit
101091	£65.25	Councillor – Gift for former Councillor
101092	£322.00	XL Circondare Ltd - Newsletter
101093	£112.80	FAFS Ltd – Alarm service
101094	£247.50	Men in Sheds MK – 50% deposit for Library Box
101995	£1,724.40	Southern Lighting Engineers Ltd – Lightning Protection for a local facility
S/O	£204.00	Clerk – Salary July 2026
101096	£70.00	HMRC – Tax for Clerk – July 2026
101097	£163.76	Clerk – Replacement Defibrillator Pad, 16 x 2 nd Class Stamps and Salary Shortfall of £70.00
101098	£240.00	RTM – Grass Cutting
101099	£450.00	Re-payment of Ward Councillor grants (£200.00) and cost of Household Support Funding events (£250.00)

It was noted that the payments are from the last Parish Council meeting held on the 13 April 2026 to present day.

This expenditure was proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously.

13.2 – Payments received:

- £11,180.00 - Precept – April 2026
- £1,270.79 - HMRC – VAT recovery for 2025/2026

13.3 - It was noted that the **Bank Balance** following the payments made tonight and Cheques not cashed was **£39,885.64**

13.4 - Budget Review 2026/2027:
Budget / Forecast review emailed to Parish Councillors prior to the PC meeting.

13.5 - Bank Mandate:
Progress has been made with Barclays Bank with the only outstanding issue is for Cllr L Walker to contact the bank to confirm his details.

13.6 – IT Policy – To comply with Financial Regulations / Governance. Clerk will draft a policy for approval at the September 2026 Parish Council meeting.

13.7 – Bench in Wyness Avenue – This could do with repairing / replacing.

Quotation being sought. Ongoing.

14. To discuss the Clerks Position: 3690

Clerk advised that it was time for him to step down as Clerk and start the process of recruiting a replacement. The following actions are required.

- Need to prepare Job Specification – Action Clerk
- Agreed number of hours, pay and conditions and working from home allowance – Action Parish Councillors / Clerk
- Purchase Laptop and Office Software for a new Clerk – cost estimated up to £500 - Action Parish Councillors / Clerk
- Agree and place an advert on notices boards / website, MKCC website and BALC website - Action Parish Councillors / Clerk

Clerk

Who will interview for the position - Parish Councillors? <u>Clerk will stay in post until a replacement has been found. No change.</u> <u>To progress this task Clerk suggested that we should establish a working group of two Parish Councillors and the Clerk with the first meeting to be held in August 2026 to move this task forward to ensure that a replacement Clerk is appointed as soon as possible.</u>	Clerk
15. To receive reports on the Community Centre: 3691 <u>We need to appoint a Councillor to represent the Parish Council on this committee.</u>	
16. Councillors Report: 3692 <u>No topics were raised.</u>	
17. Items for the next / future agendas. - Risk Assessment Review – September 2026. - Consider inviting a representative from Anglian Water – September 2026 - Climate Change Review - TBA. - Others?	
18. Date of Next Meeting: <u>Clerk advised that he would be on Holiday from the 31 July 2026 to the 7 August 2026 but would still have access to emails during this period.</u> Future dates are noted below: - Monday 7 September 2026 - Monday 5 October 2026 - Monday 2 November 2026 - Monday 7 December 2026 <u>There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.02 pm.</u> Chair for Little Brickhill Parish Council	