

# Agenda

**A Meeting of Staploe Parish Council will be Held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2026 in the Village Hall at Wyboston Village Hall. Morris Walk, off The Lane, Wyboston MK44 3AU**

Apologies for absence

**2026/046. Declarations of interest (7.45-7.46)**

**2026/047. Vacancies (7.46-7.47)**

**2026/048. Open Forum (7.47-8.02)**

**2026/049. Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th May 2026. (8.02 – 8.04)**

**2026/050. Planning (8.04-8.06)**

Report from the Clerk: the Council did not respond to this planning application as the deadline could not be extended to this meeting and Councillors did not have any comments.

| Application number | Type                      | Description                                                                                                 | Location                      | Deadline       | Link                         |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| 26/01028/FUL       | Full Planning Application | Single storey rear extension, and new pitched roof to replace existing flat roof and new vehicle crossover. | 1, Duloe Lane, Duloe PE19 5HP | 30th June 2026 | <a href="#">26/01028/FUL</a> |

## **Little Barford outline planning application (not in our parish - report from the Clerk)**

**26/01227/EIA** Outline application (all matters reserved) for a mixed use phased and severable development, comprising residential (Use Class C2 and C3) development of up to 4,400 dwellings; commercial (Use Classes E, F1, F2, C1 and Sui Generis); public open space including sport and play facilities; education facilities comprising primary and secondary school provision (Use Class F1(a)); provision of Biodiversity Net Gain; transport and access infrastructure; a safeguarding zone for the delivery of East West Rail; retention, renovation and reuse of the on-site historic assets; and associated demolitions, parking, servicing, utilities, footpath and cycle links, drainage and other infrastructure.

Further information about this application is available on the Borough Council's planning portal: [edrms.bedford.gov.uk/SearchResults.aspx?appNumber=26/01227/EIA](https://edrms.bedford.gov.uk/SearchResults.aspx?appNumber=26/01227/EIA)

## **Bedford Borough Local Plan 2050**

- The Borough Council has launched a “Call for sites” which will run until midnight on 30 October 2026.
- They are inviting all key stakeholders – landowners, developers, businesses, community groups, parish councils and residents – to suggest sites and development opportunities that could help shape the Borough's future these may include:
  - housing and employment sites
  - leisure, recreation and community facilities
  - town centre and retail uses
  - open spaces and biodiversity enhancements
  - renewable energy and regeneration projects.

- A public consultation on what the plan should include and how the Borough should engage with you during its preparation will start in September 2026.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

- Staploe Parish Neighbourhood Plan has now been formally “made” and is available on Bedford Borough Council’s website. [Staploe Neighbourhood Plan | Bedford Borough Council](#)

### **2026/051. Borough Cllr. S. Sira’s Ward Report and Ward Fund (8.06-8.16)**

- An application has been made for a pop up gazebo for social events on the playing field (£204.17), a new battery for the speed sign (£58.99) and a new swing seat for the play area (£60.06). Total application is £323.22

### **2026/052. Eastpark Community Benefit Fund (8.16-8.30)**

A decision is expected on Eastpark solar farm by March 2027. However, the developer has commissioned an organisation called Community Energy Pathways (CEP) to discuss the proposed Community Benefit Fund with the communities which will potentially be affected.

3 options have been set out for how this fund could be distributed:

**OPTION A:** A lump sum of £2 million would be made available at the start of the operational phase. No annual fund would be provided.

**OPTION B:** A lump sum of £1 million would be made available at the start of the operational phase, along with an additional annual fund of £75,000 per year throughout the operational phase. Total £4m

**OPTION C:** An annual fund of £150,000 per year would be made available through the operational phase. No lump sum would be provided. Total £6.4m

Communities will need to set out their priorities for the local and strategic funds. This will then guide the future investment into projects. The priorities can come from existing community plans, neighbourhood plans or you can develop a new Community Action Plan with CEPs support.

Consider how to respond to questions from CEP regarding the fund:

- Identify parish champions in each of the council areas (Councillors) available to attend a meeting in the third week of July
- What role does your Local Authority see itself playing in relation to Community Benefit Contributions (CBC) negotiations with the developer and the shaping of the Local/Strategic funds?
- What role, if any, does your Local Authority see itself playing in the administration of the fund?
- Do you have a view on how community priorities should be shaped – for example, community action plans along the lines of best practice in Scotland, or are there particular community priorities that should be considered?
- Would we prefer Option A, B or C

### **2026/053. Social Events (8.30-8.35)**

- Report from the barbecue and rounders on the playing field on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June. .
- Fish and chip night on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Starting at 7pm in Colmworth Village Hall. Codswallop will attend at 7.30pm. Jasper Squire aka the Mandolin Minstrel to provide live music for the token cost of two portions of fish and chips.

**2026/054. SSE Contract Renewal (8.35-8.40)**

Consider contracts for electricity for street lights. Current contract with SSE is due to expire 30/9/2026. Options for low consumption on unmetered supplies are limited.

**2026/055. Village Hall, Community Cabins and Playing Field (8.40-8.55)**

- Key safe has been vandalised. Consider replacement options.
- Review the play area / playing field inspection checklist
- Review the cabin hire agreements
- Consider whether to permit hirers to use bouncy castles on the playing field if they have their own insurance and risk assessments.

**2026/056. Highways and Rights of Way (8.55-9.00)**

- Staploe speed sign – the grant application made to Awards for All has been refused. The reasons given were: “we understand the benefits of your project but would consider speeding prevention and speeding signs to be the responsibility of the Parish Council and Local Authority. The solar powered speed indicator sign may fall outside of statutory funding obligations. However projects which are more aligned with their expected activities are unlikely to be a priority for our funding.”
- As agreed at our meeting in May we have therefore proceeded with the purchase of a speed sign from Elan City at a cost of £ 2389,99 plus £34.10 for brackets for the sign. This will be purchased using our remaining Community Infrastructure Levy funds (£2655.17).
- Consider whether to purchase a spare pole mounting bracket for the existing mobile speed sign so that the direction can easily be reversed in Duloe.

**2026/057. Donation to St Neots Museum (9.00-9.05)**

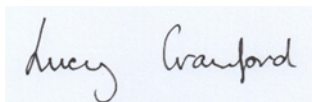
- St Neots Museum have requested a donation. We have £50 in our budget for this donation. Consider whether to make a donation.

**2026/058. Finances (9.05-9.20)**

- Performance against budget 2025-26
- VAT reclaim
- Receipts and payments, sign schedule of payments
- Check bank reconciliation

**2026/059. Policies (9.20-9.25)**

- Savings rates
- FSCS cover and fidelity guarantee
- Data Protection, GDPR and CCTV
- Complaints procedure
- Confirm required documents are published online as per transparency code



Lucy Crawford, Clerk to Staploe Parish Council, 33, Staploe, St. Neots PE19 5JA