



Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Full Parish Council held on Monday 2nd March 2026 at 7.00pm at The Village Barn, Eastern Way, Heath & Reach

Signed – S D Grierson-Hill

03.26.0 INTRODUCTION:

- a) Meeting attendees: *Cllrs. Reading (CR), Bevan (JB), Webb (JW), Ellis (TE) & White (SW).*
- b) Apologies for absence: *Cllrs. Inns & Smith.*
- c) Absentees: *None.*

03.26.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: *None.*

03.26.2 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL/COMMITTEE MINUTES:

- a) Approval of full Parish Council minutes for February 2026: *Approved and signed by Cllr. Reading.*

03.26.3 PUBLIC FORUM – members of the public have a cumulative 15 minutes to address the Parish Council. No resolutions other than those on the agenda can be resolved from items raised in the public Forum.

Two members of the public attended: one spectated. The other raised concerns about harassment from village resident. PC advised him to contact the Police.

03.26.4 PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS:

a) CBC Councillor Mark Versallion report:

MV attended and reported:

- i) *CBC have not been able to agree budget for 26/27. There will be a final chance this coming Thursday (5th March). If it is not agreed, it goes into emergency measures and CBC will be managed by central government.*
- ii) *MV continues to oppose the building of 3,600 houses on the Eastern Way/Checkleywood development. He does not see how this can go forward for traffic reasons alone.*
- iii) *AWE are also putting in plans for further housing by Southern bypass, Stanbridge side.*
- iv) *MV recommended that the PC does not go ahead with funding the feasibility design for a crossing but instead accept CBC's proposed cosmetic works. Or even holding out another 12 months when a change in administration at CBC might mean a look for actual physical traffic calming measures.*

MV asked if item 03.26.7c i) could be brought forward. With no objections, Cllr. Reading allowed this. Please see item for details.

b) Clerks report:

Emailed to all PC members prior to the meeting.

03.26.5 MATTERS ARISING (for info only):

a) Speed Watch:

Speed Watch currently has four volunteers. Two sessions have taken place recently. 24th February – 8.30am Woburn Road opposite The Heath Inn. Total number of vehicles, 322 with 10 exceeding 35mph, and the highest recorded 43mph.

26th February – 2.30pm Heath Green by the clock tower. Total number of vehicles 333 with 5 exceeding 35mph, and the highest recorded 41mph.

With increased daylight hours it is hoped to widen the time range.



b) Bryants Lane sports ground and car park lease agreements:

AWE has not yet replied to PC Solicitors about the requested clause concerning the restriction of PC objecting to future planning applications. As a result, the matter is still with the Solicitors.

03.26.6 Planning & Environment:

a) CB/26/00040/FULL. Trellis Cottage, Watling Street: Demolition of front porch, with erection of a two-storey rear extension, with roof lights and erection of front porch retrospective:
NO COMMENT.

b) CB/26/00338 MW. Eastern Way Quarry complex: Variation of conditions 1 and 37 planning permission CB/16/04588/MW: 'Consolidating planning application for the continued winning and working of silica sand from the Munday's Hill Quarry & Churchways Complex encompassing review of old mineral permissions within Eastern Way Complex and winning and working of silica sand from a western extension to Munday's Hill Quarry. Variation of hours for processing at Munday's Hill Processing Plant. Comprehensive restoration of Munday's Hill, Double Arches, Churchways Complex & Nine Acres to predominantly agricultural land and woodland with hedgerows, boundary vegetation and footpath/linkages to allow public access' to allow the importation of approximately 30,000 tonnes of reclaimed filter/sports sands for processing at the existing Eastern Way Floatex Plant:

NO OBJECTION SUBJECT TO A CONDITION STATING NO HGV's THROUGH THE VILLAGE.

c) CB/TCA/26/00052. 3 Lanes End: Fell apple tree (T2), and damson (T1). Replace with 2 x Acer Campestre and 1 x Amelanchier Grandiflora 'Ballerina' – *NO COMMENT.*

d) CB/26/03568/LB. 10 Lanes End: Addition of two stud walls and a door to create a cloakroom/WC to the 1st floor - *NO COMMENT.*

e) CB/26/00476PAAR. The Old Hay Barn, Gig Lane: Prior Approval for the Formation, alteration or maintenance of Private Ways for Agricultural or Forestry use: Creation of new access road across the site - *PC were not requested to comment on this application, therefore, no response was considered.*

f) CB/26/00332/MWS. Munday's Hill Quarry: Submission of details pursuant to conditions 18 (reinforcement planting), 31 (restoration scheme) and 35 (aftercare) of planning permission CB/24/03468/MW: (Variation of conditions 1, 4, 5, 6, 9, 16, 22, 23, 26, 31 and 35 of planning permission CB/19/02297/MW (importation of up 1,700,000m³ of inert fill to create finished contours and implementation of a restoration scheme post fill operations.(NB access arrangements subject to separate plg ref No. CB/19/02296/MW)). Variation sought to reflect the use of an alternative access and haul road and changes to the phasing scheme).

PC were not requested to comment on this application; therefore, no response was considered.

g) CB/26/00200/FULL. Vandyke Works, Miletree Road. Laying of hardstanding for the purpose of open storage in connection with operations at Vandyke Tile works – *NO COMMENT.*

h) CB/25/02223/FULL: Double Arches Mobile Home Park, Eastern Way, Heath and Reach, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 9TB. The application is scheduled for the next Development Management Committee on 11 March 2026.

PC have no further comment to make and will not be attending the DMC.

03.26.7 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION & RESOLUTION (where possible)

a) PC to ratify the appointment of Rory Brown as a Trustee of the United Charities Trust (Allotments) – *IT WAS AGREED.*



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b) AWE (Eastern Way Quarries) presentation:

To consider reaction to the presentation and decide on the next steps to be taken by the PC.
PC believe the presentation was well attended. The proposal will have a significant impact on the village, however, until a planning application comes through, there is very little that can be done at present. Clerk has requested on Facebook that anyone wishing to comment on the proposal should do so directly to EWQ (Arnold White) EWQengagement@awgroup.org.uk

c) Traffic calming information leaflet response:

Motion: to consider responses and:

- i) vote on whether PC should fund the feasibility design for a crossing on Woburn Road at a maximum cost of £20,000.
- ii) Consider next steps regarding CBC suggestions.
- iii) Use of money held in reserve.

PC received 48 responses, 7.75%, from the information leaflets that were hand delivered to all properties in Heath and Reach. Given that a crossing on Woburn Road is wanted, and that there was only a difference of one between the PC covering the cost of the feasibility design it was voted on. The result was four to one in favour; therefore, the PC will go ahead with the design. PC will await outcome of design statement before considering the responses from Q4. Overwhelmingly, the main response from Q4 was for money to be held for traffic calming in the future, however, all suggestions, including further Thrift Road Park equipment, parking improvements, enhancing village with flowers, Bryants Lane Sports Field improvements, SEN unit for school, EV charging points, funding part time police post to name but a few, will be considered.

Q1: Do you feel the cosmetic improvements suggested by CBC are a good idea and should be paid for by PC out of traffic calming money?

Q2: Do you feel better use of the money would be to pay for a crossing on Woburn Road?

Q3: Are you happy for Parish Council to fund the feasibility designs at a maximum £20,000?

Q4: If the money held in reserve is no longer to be used for traffic calming, how would you like to see the money used?

	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:
Yes:	5	15	14	0
No:	15	11	15	0
Yes*:	3	2	2	0
*/**/**	12	5	2	42
NC:	12	15	15	6
No*:	1	0	0	0
	48	48	48	48

NC – no comment.

*/**/** - other suggestions.

Cllr. Mark Versallion asked to be copied in to email between PC and CBC regarding the request for a crossing and the feasibility design. PC voted on this and the result was four to one against copying MV in. PC feel that Cllr, MV has had many opportunities to have moved things forward regarding traffic improvements in the village but, this has not been achieved, although, in fairness, they are very aware of funding and staffing issues at CBC.



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Once the PC have finished with the survey, it will be forwarded to Cllr. Versallion to share with CBC.

PC would like to thank all those that took the time to respond.

d) Millenium Gardens plants.

Motion: To approve the purchase and planting of 9 shrubs in accordance with the scheme set out in the paper presented at September's meeting.

PC hold £510 from Insurance claim for plants. TE will supply Clerk with recommended plants so that Clerk can obtain quote from Reynolds Landscapes – *IT WAS AGREED.*

e) Renewal of Microsoft 365: £104.99 – *IT WAS AGREED.*

f) Dog waste signs:

Motion: To agree to purchase new signs at Bryants Lane Sports Ground - £10.00 – *IT WAS AGREED.*

g) Litter picker (Bryants Lane):

Motion: To agree to renew contract for further year with increase in hourly rate - *IT WAS AGREED.*

03.26.8 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION:

a) Community account: £ 7,042.34 Savings: £ 384.12
32 day notice account: £ 67,936.92 Unity Bank: £ 48,241.51

b) Payments:

Markland Gardens	£ 400.00
Reynold Landscapes (Monthly grass cutting)	£ 345.60
Sue Grierson-Hill	£1,078.33
B Kent Electrical Ltd (Faulty lights at Bryants Lane & replace new flood light in car park)	£ 294.00
One Group	£ 144.00

c) Direct debits/Standing orders:

Bri Gas (Bryants Lane)	£ 128.27
Bri Gas (Clock tower)	£ 71.09
Litter picker (Bryants Lane)	£ 61.20
Anglian Water	£ 133.00
NEST Pension	£ 17.90
Waste Managed	£ 117.75

03.26.9 AOB/ Items to go on next agenda:

None.

03.2.10 Date of next meeting:

13th April 2026.

Meeting closed at: 7.54pm