

Article submitted to The Bridge magazine in May 2026

Highways matters

Still waiting... The parish council requested the borough council install double yellow lines on the High Street at the blind corner by The Oakley Arms due to ongoing safety concerns, including reduced visibility for drivers and vehicles parking on the pavement, which forces pedestrians into the carriageway. The parish council is still awaiting the borough council to programme and carry out the lining works and the reinstatement of the faded road markings through the rest of the village. At this stage, no date has been provided.

New items... Following site visits and a consultation with nearby residents, the parish council has supported making the experimental double yellow line restrictions at Mansion Lane and on the High Street, opposite the junction with Mansion Lane, permanent. A request has also been made to slightly extend the High Street markings to further improve visibility.

A new Speed Indicator Device has been ordered for the Church Walk/High Street junction to help raise driver awareness at this hidden junction. Installation will take place shortly.

Planning applications

Planning applications the parish council has received recently as a consultee – planning decisions rest with Bedford Borough Council:

App No.	Proposal	Location	PC Response	BBC Outcome
26/00349/LDE	Certificate to confirm lawful use for open storage, repair, maintenance, refurbishment and sale of construction site portacabin offices, modular buildings and amenity blocks	Grange Farm Dungee Road Odell	No comment	Awaiting
26/00460/LBC	Renovation of stonework to the Old School House, School Room and boundary walls including partial rebuilding of failed boundary wall, localised repairs to building stonework to replace weathered and damaged stones, works to repair the window hoods and replace failed hoods, repairs to the bay window roof and repointing of all stonework to replace cement ribbon pointing.	The Old School House 4 The Green	No comment	Awaiting
25/02496/FUL	One and two storey front and side extensions, garage conversion, detached carport and associated alterations.	Water Meadows School Lane	No comment	Permitted (CIL)
26/00012/FUL	Erection of 3-bedroom detached house and associated works (inc provision of new car parking spaces to existing property)	Land At 1 Wood Road	No comment	Awaiting
25/01835/FUL	Erection of a single self-build dwelling to form end-terrace with associated parking and new boundary treatment.	21 Wood Road	No comment	Awaiting
25/00910/FUL	Renovation works, single-storey infill side extension, and conversion of the former Chapel to create ancillary accommodation to the Old School House and a separate dwelling...	The Old School House 4 The Green	Conditional support	Awaiting

Neighbourhood Development Plan refresh

The parish council has agreed to proceed with a major refresh of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), alongside the minor update already underway, which is needed to keep the plan up to date with changes in national and local planning policy as it approaches five years old, at which point its weight in planning decisions can begin to reduce. The proposed major refresh would take a longer-term view, allowing the parish council to plan more proactively for future development in the village rather than reacting to proposals as they arise. No decisions have yet been made on the scope of the review or any potential changes to current site allocations.

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Next Council Meetings

Tuesday 19th May 2026 at 7.30pm – Annual Parish Council Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 16th June 2026 at 7.30pm – Ordinary Meeting

Tuesday 21st July 2026 at 7.30pm – Ordinary Meeting

All meetings are held at the Harrold Centre Main Hall. Residents are welcome to attend. Please check our website for confirmation.

David Brough

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