

TURVEY PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Meeting of Turvey Parish Council held on Thursday 29th January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs D Niblett, E Poll, A Bartoli, J Lynch, R Kirk, G Morris, J Ludlow, Mrs S Bottoms (Clerk), Borough Cllr Robert Rigby and 13 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs J Skippins, D Clarke, Borough Cllr Dylan Simmons.

2. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** None.

3. **Public Questions (15 mins):**

25/02555/MAO Land East of Newton Lane: Questions regarding this were taken under item 7.

4. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2025:** It was **agreed** that the minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting.

5. **Finance:**

i) **Bank Balances at 22nd January 2026:** £120,221.91

ii) **Monies received since the November meeting:**

Interest	£	222.84
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Cemetery	£	200.00
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iii) **Accounts to be settled:**

BACS 52	Tree People – Lancelots Piece	£ 1,680.00
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BACS 53	Village Hall – hall hire	£ 80.00
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BACS 54	K Cockings – Grass	£ 670.00
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BACS 55	Clerk's Salary (Dec)	£ 375.15
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BACS 56	P Anthony – Payroll	£ 270.00
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BACS 57	HMRC – PAYE (Dec)	£ 280.76
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BACS 58	K Cockings – Grass/FP13	£ 980.00
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BACS 59	HMRC – PAYE (Jan)	£ 280.76
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BACS 60	Clerk's Salary (Jan)	£ 375.15
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(Payments above have already been settled)

BACS 61	Wave – Water - Pavilion	£ 27.01
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BACS 62	S Bottoms – Expenses	£ 44.00
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(Monthly payments are made by direct debit to the following:

Rates £54)

iv) **To consider the budget for 2026-27 and agree action:** The Clerk had circulated a draft budget which following discussion was **agreed**.

v) **To agree the precept for 2026-27:** Following discussion, it was **agreed** to hold the Band D charge the same as in 25-26 (£58.93). As a result, the precept would increase to £37,662.

vi) **To agree the quotation for grass contract for 2026:** It was **agreed** to accept this.

vii) **To consider and agree the quotation to clear FP7:** It was **agreed** to accept a quotation of £120 to cut back the stile in Elmwood and path to the rear of Spinney House and the further quotation at an estimated cost of £2,500 to clear across the field behind Norfolk Road.

viii) **To consider and agree action re: grant request from Turvey Bloomers for £127:** This was **agreed**. The Clerk to arrange payment. **Action: the Clerk.**

ix) **To consider a grant for the Villager Bus:** The Clerk would write to the applicant requesting the grant application form is completed and submitted along with information as to how many Turvey residents use the service. This will be

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considered at the March meeting provided the requested information is supplied.

Action: the Clerk.

- x) To agree the appointment of the internal auditor for the accounts for 2025-26: It was **agreed** to re-appoint John Caves.
- 6. **Report by Bedford Borough Councillors:** The report from the Borough Cllrs had been circulated to members of the Parish Council. The Clerk had also put a copy on the website. Borough Cllr Rigby spoke to the report. Discussion took place regarding the waste bin which was removed from outside the Three Fyshes. There was concern that the Borough Council had claimed that this was a 'rogue' bin relocated from a neighbouring authority and as a result it has been removed from site. Borough Cllr Rigby agreed to contact the officer concerned to ask that it be restored. Concern was also expressed as to whether there was any co-ordination of road works across the Borough by the Borough Council. Borough Cllr Rigby agreed that he would try to get Borough Cllr Gribble who is portfolio holder for highways to attend the next parish council meeting. Cllr Niblett agreed to send a list of road/traffic issues including at the railway bridge end of Britannia Road to the Clerk to forward to Borough Cllr Rigby. Cllr Ludlow discussed inadequate flood diversion signs. Borough Cllr Rigby suggested Cllr Ludlow contact him direct. **Action: Cllrs Niblett, Ludlow and Borough Cllr Rigby.**
- 7. **Planning:**
 - i) Planning Report:
25/02555/MAO Land East of Newton Lane. Outline application with all matters reserved except access, for the erection of up to 100 dwellings, amenity space, areas for outdoor play, landscaping and all associated infrastructure.
 This is the fourth version submitted. The site is not in the Neighbourhood Development Plan and has been refused previously. The Parish Council will not support development of this site. Hopefully the NDP can be used to advantage here. The NDP reaches the end of its five year life in September but will still be applicable because this application has been submitted in advance of that date. Cllr Ludlow has been drafting a response which is based on that previously submitted as the application has not fundamentally changed since then. No effort has been made by the developers to address the issues which resulted in its previous refusal. There had only been a 3% response to the original consultation undertaken by the developer with the village which was held in August. All residents must respond with individual unique responses to the application on the Bedford Borough Council website as soon as possible. The Clerk will put a link to the location on the Borough Council portal on the front page of the parish council website. This is where responses need to be submitted. Cllr Poll has asked Borough Cllr Rigby to ensure that this is called in to be considered by the Planning Committee.
 Residents raised concerns around construction traffic and general extra vehicular traffic once building is finished, environmental concerns including flooding and also the damage which will be done to heritage setting of the village which must be preserved. As there was concern that the wider village would be unaware of this application, the parish council agreed to produce and fund a flyer for distribution across the village. The response to the application will be drafted by Cllrs Ludlow, Poll and Rigby and circulated for agreement amongst the wider parish council.
Action: Cllr Ludlow, Poll, Niblett, the wider parish council and Borough Cllr Rigby.

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25/02490/TCA The Old Chapel, Carlton Road, MK43 8EG. G1 - Goat willow and beech tree - goat willow to repollard to previous points and beech to reduce in height by approx 1-1.5m. This has been permitted by Bedford Borough Council. Turvey Parish Council did not respond.

8. **Open Spaces including Turvey Rec, Play Areas and Cemetery:**

- i) To receive any updates on works to tennis courts and play area: Cllr Morris reported that she and Cllr Kirk had a site meeting with a local representative from Be Active Beds. She has since shared the quotes received and once he has considered them he will come back with possible options. She had also contacted the LTA but unfortunately there are no grants currently available for court regeneration, the only funding option open at the moment is the Quick Access Loan scheme. Cllr Morris to investigate further. **Action: Cllr Morris.**

- a. To consider and agree action re: quote from RPM for new play equipment:
Following discussion, it was agreed to accept the quotation from RPM for the Avon Multiplay at a cost excluding VAT of £8,825 for the equipment and £3,770 for rubber mulch safety surface. Cllr Morris will place the order with RPM but will check how much more expensive wet pour would be as an alternative surface. If the additional charge is less than £500 then proceed with the revised surface. **Action: Cllr Morris.**

- ii) To receive any update re: landscaping works to Lancelot's Piece:

- a. State of the wall: This was revealed when the hedging was removed. Keith Cockings to take a look and report back.
b. To agree action re: Beech Tree: It was **agreed** to seek a second opinion at a cost of approximately £180.

9. **Highways, Parking and Maintenance:** Residents are encouraged to report any footway issues direct to Bedford Borough Council on its report it section on its website. The footpath opposite the post office was identified especially by Cllr Ludlow who has reported it already. The more residents who report issues and problems the better. The link is on the parish council website.

- i) Any update: re: request to change the average speed camera signage: Borough Cllr Rigby is chasing this.
ii) Speed camera data: Borough Cllr Rigby is still trying to access this.
iii) Litter bin – Station End: This has been installed.
iv) Overflowing litter bins: Dealt with.
v) Representative needed for Highways: A parish councillor is needed to fill this role. The Clerk will add to the March agenda. **Action: the Clerk.**

10. **Footpaths and Bridleways:** Cllr Bartolli noted that the quotation to clear FP7 had been agreed under 5vii. He has contacted the vendor regarding the fence which had collapsed on the footpath but to date no action. Cllr Bartolli agreed to forward the details to the Clerk who will forward to Borough Cllr Rigby. Before he did so he would check the current state. A standard letter to residents backing on to FP7 will be drafted and circulated to the parish council for approval. **Action: Cllr Bartolli.**

11. **Village Hall:**

Cllr Skippins provided a written report.

Update on Agreed Actions from 27th Nov Parish Council Meeting
Digitisation of Documents

Turvey History Society to digitise all documents – *currently in progress.*

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Archive Search

Cllr Skippins has checked Bedfordshire Archives for additional title documents – *none found*. Contact was also made with St. Albans Diocese (original sellers of the main buildings), but no records were located.

Guidance on Registration

The Clerk and Cllr Skippins consulted BAPTC/NALC regarding potential downsides and recommended approach for registering the Village Hall.

NALC advised that the Parish Council should only register the property if instructed by the Village Hall Committee, as the Council acts solely as Custodian Trustee.

No further guidance was provided to the Village Hall Committee as they are not NALC members.

Independent research indicates that cost and incomplete documentation are the main risks.

The Village Hall Committee will discuss whether to instruct registration at their meeting on 2nd February.

Property Registration

Engage Premier Solicitors to register the Village Hall with HM Land Registry, with Turvey Parish Council as Custodian Trustees. Ensure Title Indemnity Insurance is included – *currently on hold*.

Document Publication

Turvey History Society may publish documents not protected by copyright once the title is registered.

Archiving

Send all documents to Bedfordshire Archives for cataloguing and secure storage.

Copyright Permissions

Seek consent from drafting solicitors before publishing documents still under copyright protection.

Report from Village Hall Committee Meeting on Dec 2nd

Maintenance

Electrical report and PAT testing completed. CCTV has been repaired. Porch has been upgraded. Hand dryer in ladies toilets replaced. New wine glasses have been purchased. Quote for £450 to replace the window in the gents toilets was approved by the committee and will be arranged .

Usage

The hall continues to be well used.

Finance

Quiz night raised over £300. Village Hall finances remain healthy with a balance of £39.4k on 2/12/25.

Governance

The committee is working through the governance checklist. Progress to date:- Health & Safety Policy updated. Safeguarding policy being updated. Governance document is being updated. All hall users are being asked to have representatives join the village hall committee and a post has been put out on Facebook to ask for more members. Two people have come forward and will attend the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The date for the next Village Hall Committee meeting will be Tuesday 3rd Feb 2026 at 6.30 pm.

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- i) Trees/Turvey Bridge: The Clerk had sent the relevant information from the Borough Council to the resident and asked they liaise directly.
- ii) Possible cleaning of bus shelter, lionhead pumps and painting benches: The cleaning of bus shelters is the responsibility of the Borough Council. Could the resident identify the location of the benches.
- iii) Letter from Fishergerman: Acknowledged.
- iv) Cottoneaster- opposite Church Terrace: Cllr Bartolli to ask a local tree surgeon to take a look. Action: Cllr Bartolli.

13. Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday 26th March 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.