

MINUTES OF MILLBROOK ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, 6 May 2026

Present: James Simpson (Opening Chair); Chris Shrimpton (Chair); Blake Stephenson, MP; CBC Councillor Susan Clinch; CBC Councillor Mark Smith; Kirsty Andrew (UTAC); Julie Todd (Clerk) + 16 Members of the Public

528. Blake Stephenson, MP

Discussions included:

- HGVs through the village and who is responsible – CBC/Police. Both have resourcing and budgeting issues.
- New Homes – CBC is 4th fastest growing Local Authority
- EW Rail/Marston Valley/Universal Studios – important that there is communication and collective thinking between the three parties especially with regard to infrastructure/ Three projects and each had their own traffic survey. Remodelling of J13 – Blake Stephenson agreed this needs to be pushed up Government's priority list.
- Universal Studios – in process of hiring Community Officer who will be responsible for meeting local communities.
- Marston Valley – 5,000 new homes. Flitwick station and roads will be severely impacted. Possibility of ANPR for Sandhill Close. Blake Stephenson offered his support and that of his office.
- 20 mph Speed Petition – Blake Stephenson supported.

529. Kirsty Andrew, Vice President – UK, UTAC

- HGVs – if military vehicles, the DoT are responsible for routes.
- Millbrook Fete – will offer tours of Proving Ground
- EW Rail – UTAC will be objecting to proposed closure of Millbrook crossing
- Environment – have installed bat/owl boxes; 5 acres of wildflowers; planted 300,000 trees.
- Universal Studios – have approached Universal.
- Event Vehicles – the problem of large vehicles using Sandhill Close is particularly during set up and take down

530. Nomination of Chair

Aeone Shrimpton proposed Lee Kelsey. Chris Shrimpton seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

531. Nomination of Vice Chair

Aeone Shrimpton proposed Chris Shrimpton and this was seconded by Alyson Smith and passed unanimously. Chris Shrimpton took the Chair.

532. Apologies

Ward Cllr Gary Summerfield, Lee Kelsey and Helen Northall.

533. Vital Energi – Rookery South Heating Project

Report from Cameron Wood, Project Development Manager, Vital Energi:

We are yet to receive a decision from Central Bedfordshire Council (Local Planning Authority) on the two planning applications for the district heating scheme: one for the pipework and another for a new Energy Centre at Rookery South ErF. We have continued to provide supplementary information on our proposals at the request of the planning officer and statutory consultees including, but not limited to, East West Rail and the CBC Ecologist. We hope to receive a decision on the applications in the next few weeks.

In parallel, we're making good progress exploring opportunities for connections to the network and engaging with potential heat and electricity off-takers.

Subject to planning approval, we still aim to mobilise and begin works during 2026. Subject to planning permission being secured, we will update you with a more specific target date for the start of construction. Prior to the commencement of any works, there will be a period dedicated to discharging planning conditions and finalising road closure plans with highways authorities. We will also hold further engagement sessions with the community before any work begins.

534. Minutes of LST Meeting – 19 November 2025

Amendments: Date – Wednesday, 19 November 2025; 516. Apologies – delete James Simpson. With these amendments it was proposed by Aeone Shrimpton and seconded by Mike Edwards that the minutes from the meetings be signed as a true record with all in agreement.

535. Matters Arising

513. Dustcarts – Biffa lorry early in the mornings.

Action: Clerk

513. Sandhill Close Hedges – have not been cut by Bedford Estates. It was agreed to ask Neil Gates to cut the hedges as they are a safety issue.

Action: Clerk

536. CB Councillor's Report

Ward Cllr Mark Smith reported:

- CBC 26/27 budget – no Ward Councillor Grant
- Integrated Care Board - Restructuring and will include Peterborough, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire
- Adult Social Care – Red Kyte Meadows is now open.

Ward Cllr Susan Clinch reported:

- Marston Valley - next stages: strategy and phasing documents. Project will last 20-25 years. 1st phase 400 houses by Marston Mortaine church. Brogborough/Lidlington phase will include doctors surgery and shops. Traffic management infrastructure is being brought forward. It will be 15 years before building is near Millbrook.
- Implications on Millbrook – DMC sympathetic towards implications for/impact on the village. Condition of application to include improved facilities/conditions for pedestrians before building begins. Impact of EW Rail proposed crossing closure.
- Marston Valley Stakeholders Group to have input on the project going forward.
- Chair thanked Jennie Thomas for her work with the Stakeholders Group

537. Reports/Updates

I. Planning Update – currently no new applications.

Dellfield Farm:

- Car sales ad on A507 – plot 14? Residents were urged to report any activity to Cllr Clinch who will contact Enforcement.

Action: SC

Warren Farm :

- Units 12 + 13 - enforcement case on these plots remains open and a site visit took place last week. Goods Vehicle Licence has been applied for.
- Units 10/11 have been cleared recently and Planning Enforcement are aware of this and are monitoring the situation.

II Highways – Traffic Petition

It was agreed this should be presented to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 11/06/26. It was suggested UTAC should be contacted as employees are walkers/pedestrians.

Action: Hugh South

III. Recreation Ground

• Play Equipment

- Jet Washed in March 2026
- Inspections:
 - Lee Kelsey wife will inspect weekly
 - Annual safety inspection in June
 - Quarterly reports – it was agreed to appoint CPM Playgrounds to undertake quarterly safety inspection with written report @ a cost of £130. **Action: Clerk**
 - Hawk bird scarer to be investigated. **Action: Clerk**

• Village Planters – A budget of £75 was set for the village planters.

• Tree survey due – quotes to be obtained.

Action: Clerk

IV. East/West Rail

Proposing to close crossing. 12 trains ph which would mean crossings closed 20-30 minutes in every hour. Consultation meeting: 14/05/26 @ Lidlington Village Hall.

V. Marston Vale New Villages

See 528 and 536 above.

VI. Rookery South ERF

Application for 3 more stacks.

538. Finance

2025/26 Annual Return

- I. Accounts y/e 31 March 2026 carrying forward £16,646.
- II. Internal Audit Report – received and noted.
- III. Annual Governance Statement – was approved – proposed by Aeone Shrimpton and seconded by Mike Edwards and unanimously agreed. Chris Shrimpton duly signed.
- IV. Accounting Statements – were approved - proposed by proposed by Aeone Shrimpton and seconded by Alyson Smith and unanimously agreed. Chris Shrimpton duly signed.
- V. Certificate of Exemption – was approved - proposed by Aeone Shrimpton and seconded by Mike Edwards and unanimously agreed. Chris Shrimpton duly signed.
- VI. 2026/27 Finances – Earmarked reserves: £8,000 play equipment; £2,000 tree survey + works; £1,000 fencing.

Bank Mandate – it was agreed Chris Shrimpton should be added and Clair Drury and Aeone Shrimpton removed.

Action: Clerk

539. Clerk's Pay

The Clerk left the room. Liam Payne proposing raising the clerk's pay to SCP 28 £20.29 ph. Hugh South seconded and it was unanimously agreed. The Clerk returned to the room and thanked the meeting.

540. Correspondence

Circulated prior to the meeting.

541. Open Forum

Nothing raised.

542. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 4 November 2026. The meeting closed at 2137.

Signed Date