

Cotton End Parish Council

To: All Parish Councillors

I, the Council's Proper Officer, hereby summons you to attend a meeting of Cotton End Parish Council to be held at the **Village Hall Social Club** on **Thursday, 13 August 2026 commencing at 7.30pm** for the purpose of transacting the following business:

(Members of the Public and Press are invited to attend.)

Date: 4 August 2026



V W Hislop
Clerk to the Council

A G E N D A

26/098 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

- i. To receive apologies.
- ii. To consider approval of the reason(s) for absence.

26/099 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- i. To receive any declaration of interests not already declared under the Council's Code of Conduct or Members' Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
- ii. To receive, consider and decide upon any application for dispensation.

(Members should disclose any interest in the business to be discussed and are reminded that, unless granted a dispensation (the request for which has been submitted in writing), the disclosure of an interest will require them to withdraw from the meeting during discussion of that item.)

26/100 MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2026 as a true and accurate record (distributed previously).

26/101 PUBLIC SESSION

Members of the public are invited to ask questions, make statements or present a petition on any matter on the agenda for this meeting, or on any matter that falls within the Council's powers, subject to procedures set out in the Council's Standing Orders. The session will last for a maximum of 15 minutes, with any individual contribution last-

ing a maximum of 3 minutes.

26/102 UNITARY AUTHORITY REPORT

To receive any report from the Principal Council's Ward Elected Member(s).

26/103 PLANNING

- i. New applications: none.
- ii. Applications decided by Bedford Borough Council: 23 Wood Lane - front extension, and front and side extension to form annex - Refused.
- iii. Applications notified to the planning authority, where it has no determining powers: outside 101 and 121 High Road - 9 metre light wooden poles (electronic communications).

26/104 FINANCE AND RELATED MATTERS:

- i. To receive the bank reconciliation (attached).
- ii. To approve the accounts to be settled (attached).

26/105 CRIME STATISTICS AND SPEED CAMERA DATA

To note crime and any speed camera data released since the last meeting (latest crime statistics distributed previously).

26/106 REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS, AND PLAYING FIELD AND VILLAGE HALL MATTERS

- i. To note the completion of fencing repairs to the Trow Close play area.
- ii. To consider funding a one-off cut of the public footpath from the High Road to Shocott Spring (see Item 26/108 below) (Cllr Stimson).
- iii. To consider a proposal to pave/infill the former flower border on the village hall boundary with Meeting Close (Cllr Stimson).

26/107 HIGHWAYS RELATED MATTERS

To consider the purchase and installation of a second speed indicator sign, noting a proposed donation by a resident of £1,500 towards it (Cllr Stimson).

26/108 CORRESPONDENCE

- i. Email from Harriet Falconer, Bedford Borough Council to Parish Clerk dated 15 July, agreeing to add Shocott Spring to annual vegetation cut (attached).
- ii. Email from a resident to Parish Clerk dated 18 July 2026 re. donation towards speed sign (attached).
- iii. Email from Iain Booth, Bedford Borough Council to Parish Clerk dated 27 July, confirming ownership of Bunkers Drive alleyway (distributed previously).
- iv. Email from resident to Cllr Stimson dated 27 July, gifting £350 for replacement flower pots (distributed previously).
- v. Email correspondence between the Clerk and Paradigm Housing re. Harrows Close, most recent dated 30 July (attached).

- 26/109 REGISTER OF PARISH LAND, ETC. OWNERSHIP**
To consider establishing and maintaining a register of who owns what (Cllr Murray).
- 26/110 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
(For the exchange of information only; no decision making is permitted.)
- 26/111 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
9 September 2026.
- 26/112 NEED FOR EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**
Pursuant to s.1(2) of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, The Council is asked to consider whether in respect of **Agenda Item 26/113** the public, including the press, should be excluded from the meeting on the basis that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if a member of the public were present during the item there would be publicity prejudicial to the public interest by reason of its confidential nature.
- 26/113 GENERAL RESERVES POLICY AND ANY EARMARKING OF RESERVES**
i. To note the explanation provided to the external auditor by the Responsible Financial Officer due to the Authority's 31 March 2026 year-end General Reserves otherwise exceeding more than twelve months of net revenue expenditure (attached).
ii. To approve or amend the Earmarked Reserves submitted.