

Houghton Regis Town Council
Community Safety Sub-Committee
Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday 15th July 2026 at 11.00am

Present: Councillors: M Herber (Chair)
E Cooper
T McMahon
C Slough

Police: PCSO Bogdan Bimbirica Bedfordshire Police

Also present Lisa Scott Central Bedfordshir Council
Jodie Tripcony Community Safety Team

Officers: Ian Haynes
Bianca Nagle Head of Environmental & Community Services
Project Manager

Apologies: Cllr Farrell

CS51 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Members were invited to elect a Chair for the Community Safety Sub-Committee for 2026-2027.

Nominee:	Cllr Slough	Proposed by:	Cllr Cooper
		Seconded by:	Cllr Slough
Nominee:	Cllr Herber	Proposed by:	Cllr McMahon
		Seconded by:	Cllr Herber

On being put to the vote the nominees received the following votes:

Cllr Slough	in favour: 2	Abstentions: 2
Cllr Herber	in favour: 2	Abstentions: 2

Members were requested to nominate and vote again. After repeating the process the results remained the same.

In order for the meeting to proceed, the Head of Environmental and Community Services proposed that Members voted to elect a Chair for the meeting rather than the municipal year.

Nominee:	Cllr Slough	Proposed by:	Cllr Cooper
		Seconded by:	Cllr Slough

Nominee:	Cllr Herber	Proposed by:	Cllr McMahon
		Seconded by:	Cllr Herber

On being put to the vote each nominee

Cllr Slough	in favour: 2	Against: 2
Cllr Herber	in favour: 2	Against: 2

Cllr Slough offered to withdraw his nomination for Chair of the meeting.

Following this withdrawal, Members were invited to vote once more.

Nominee:	Cllr Herber	Proposed by:	Cllr Slough
		Seconded by:	Cllr McMahon

On being put to the vote, Members were unanimous in voting Cllr Herber to chair the meeting.

CS52 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Members agreed to defer this item until a Chair for the municipal year had been elected.

Proposed by:	Cllr McMahon	Seconded by:	Cllr Herber
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On being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of deferring the election of Vice-Chair.

CS53 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Farrell.

CS54 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Confirmation had been requested regarding the number of volunteers for the Speed Watch scheme. The Project Manager confirmed that two members of the public were due to start in September

CS55 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CS56 MINUTES

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2026.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meetings held on 20th May 2026 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

CS57 COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS & TERMS OF REFERENCE

In accordance with Standing Order 4.j.iv. Council was required to review its delegation arrangements to committees and sub-committees.

These arrangements were set out in the Committee Functions & Terms of Reference. This document set out the system of delegation to the Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Groups of the Council.

Members were provided with the extract from the approved Committee Functions & Terms of Reference which related to this sub-committee.

CS58 CCTV PRESENTATION

Colleagues from CBC's Community Safety Team gave a presentation on the work and processes of the CCTV team and how they could help identify hotspot locations using police crime and ASB data.

The CCTV team requested that they were kept informed of installations that might impact CCTV footage, e.g. Christmas lights.

Beds Police had enquired whether a further redeployable camera could be installed at Linmere. There were no suitable CBC columns available; however, Beds Police confirmed that they were in contact with the developers who were ready to co-operate with an installation. CBC representative requested that contact details were shared and a meeting arranged to progress the issue.

The Community Safety representative at Linmere had also expressed willingness to assist the council and Beds Police. An email had been sent to the Linmere representative but a response was still awaited. It was suggested that the email should be re-sent.

With regard to Parkside drive, it would be necessary to establish with Beds Police where cameras would be most beneficial. Liaison with the CBC Safety Team would also be required in order to carry out a site assessment.

CS59 REDEPLOYABLE CAMERA LOCATIONS

Members were provided with a schedule of redeployable camera locations.

In light of the police report, members were invited to consider if there was a need to move the redeployable cameras to different locations, or whether they should remain in situ.

Members agreed to defer this item until it was closed session and the report on Operation Hana had been received.

Resolved: To agree, on the advice of the police or other reliable information, on the location of the redeployable cameras.

CS60 “WATCH” SCHEMES UPDATE

To receive a verbal update in respect of the "Watch" schemes within the Parish, and to discuss the best ways to promote and engage with them.

Cllr Herber had attended the Bedfordshire Police Priority Setting Meeting where the new Chief Inspector had been introduced. There were several ongoing operations relating to ASB, e-bikes and e-scooters.

It was suggested that this item was discussed in greater detail in closed session.

Cllr Herber had attended a number of Street Watch patrols around Bedford Square and spoken with all the retailers. While businesses reported incidents through Shop Watch they did not always report to the police.

In response to questions from Members, the Project Manager confirmed that there were six volunteers for Speed Watch. The Project Manager confirmed they would follow up on when training would be taking place.

Resolved: To agree on the best ways to engage with “Watch” schemes within the Parish.

CS61 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members voted on the exclusion of the press and public:

Proposed by: Cllr Seconded by: Cllr

Votes in favour:

Resolved: In accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the item set out below on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the general interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

CS62 POLICE REPORT

Members received a report regarding Operation Hana and were invited to:

- share local concerns in light of the report
- discuss any instructions to Bedfordshire Police under Operation Hana

Members were updated on incident figures for the previous month.

The Chairman closed the meeting at XX.XXam/pm

Dated this 16th day of September 2026

Chairman

DRAFT