

Pavenham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 13th July 2022
at 7.30pm

Those present –Councillor: Cllr. Thomas Beazley (TB - Chair); Cllr. James Russell (JR – vice chair); Cllr. Katie Sharpe (KS); Cllr. Andrew Senior (AS); Cllr. Brian Greenwood (Acting Administrative Clerk).

Eight members of the public were in attendance

1. Welcome.

TB as Chair, welcomed the councillors and thanked those members of the public who had managed to find time to attend the meeting. TB emphasised that all members of the public attending are encouraged to participate in proceedings and to assist in any debate, although they will appreciate that debate has to be controlled in the context of the business of the Council.

2. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. John Abbott.

3.Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Parish Council held on 25.05.22

The Minutes were agreed without amendment.

4.Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-pecuniary Interests.

No declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest were made apart from those already recorded at previous meetings.

5. Consideration of applications from Councillors for a dispensation to enable them to participate in consideration of items on the agenda in which they have declared an interest.

No applications were made.

6.Discussion Period (limited to 15 minutes)

Councillors and Parishioners may raise any relevant issues they wish under this item which are not on the agenda – no decisions will be taken during this meeting on matters raised which are not on the agenda.

a) The topic of wildflowers in the highway borders was discussed – reference being made to the fact that Sharnbrook deliberately made arrangements for the protection of wildflowers at the rear of the highway verges. It was pointed out that the verges are owned by the Highway Authority which may complicate matters.

- b) Concern was expressed that the entrance to Orchard Close an area of wildflowers and bulbs had been planted but was mown before they had flowered
- c) Concerns were expressed at the proposed road closures in Oakley and the length of the closure of Oakley Bridge.
- d) Concern was also expressed regarding the works that have been undertaken at Close Road around the turning area and the failure to mow the grass. It was pointed out that it is thought the Borough Council own the tarmac, BHPA own the grass verges. Needs to be confirmed.

7.Review and confirmation of Standing Orders, Code of Conduct and Financial Risk Assessment.

Councillors considered and confirmed the Council's extant Standing Orders, Code of Conduct and the Financial Risk Assessment.

8.Correspondence.

- a) Closure of Highfield Rd. Oakley. 25/7/22 - 2/9/22 – Weekdays, 8am to 5pm, full closure. 5pm to 8am, single file traffic. Open weekends.
- b) Giant Hogweed email – Clare Woodward -it was reported that this has been removed.
- c) Section 106 Property in Pavenham – House Swap – formal notification had been received and noted.
- d) Bulky Waste Collection – 10/9/22, The Bury. 10.30am until 12.00 -some concern was expressed at the location but it was explained that in terms of loading, waiting, this had been identified as the best central location.

9.Planning Applications Received:

- a) 22/01568/LBC – Alterations to Existing Dwelling as per application – Dunelm Cottage, High Street.

The parish council had no objection to the proposal.

10.Accounts for approval:

- a) Chris Horne Garden Services – Mandate requested to pay this account and any others agreed by prior quotation, to be confirmed by future agenda item - £676.80
- b) Agriplant – 2nd/3rd Cuts. Mandate requested to pay this account as per agreed quote confirmed by future agenda item - £720.00.
- c) Mr Roy Bates. - Confirmation of settlement of account/discussion of possible payment increase. £84.00.
- d) Mrs Bet Scoley – Summer Planting of War Memorial - £25.00.

e) BHIB Insurance Brokers - £329.92.

f) Julie Betts, internal audit - £145.

All of the above payments were approved.

**11. Confirmation of end of year accounts. Update of AGAR.
Election expenses - necessary budget review against actual.**

A copy of the AGAR was circulated - the Chair acknowledged that there had been a slight delay in finalising the figures, one problem being the need to “track down” all accounts but figures have been confirmed and fully reported at the Annual Meeting held on 25 May.

12. Parish Council Vacancy and Election.

The Chair expressed his disappointment that pressure had been brought to bear by 10 members of the Parish to hold an election for the vacant place on the Parish Council bearing in mind that a full election of the whole Council was just around the corner and the Parish Council did have the ability to co-opt individuals to the Council which would have meant that an election could have been avoided. Co-option would have saved the Parish a further invoice from the Borough Council in excess of £2,000 which the Parish could ill-afford.

Nevertheless, acknowledging the importance of democratic proceedings, the Chair formally confirmed that he had been notified of a pending election – the date of which was still awaited.

13. Local Plan Submission – Deadline 29/7/22

Cllr. Greenwood summarised the provisions of the emerging Bedford Local Plan. BG emphasised the critical importance of the Borough Council’s Local Plan in terms of the protections afforded to the Parish, and in taking the meeting through key draft policies, he pointed out that as presently drafted, the Parish of Pavenham retained the protections against damaging development.

BG pointed out that the new town settlements proposed by the Borough Council a few years ago in the context of the extant Local Plan, namely Twinwoods and Sharnbrook, were no longer being promoted. Instead, the Borough Council were now proposing new town development along the east-west corridor at Little Barford (4,000 new homes) and growth locations at Stewartby Hardwick, Wixams (with a new station) and Kempston Hardwick.

Additional policies include a “Vision” for the Borough to “become a greener, more sustainable, more attractive and prosperous place to live and work.”

BG advised that he should respond to the Borough Council as part of the Borough Council’s consultation period, confirming that it had no objections to the draft Local Plan as currently published for consultation.

This recommendation was agreed.

14. Neighbourhood Plan Update.

Cllr. Greenwood informed members that the draft Plan was entering its final stages – but a considerable amount of work was still required. He indicated that he would have to amend the text of the current draft to recognise the policies in the emerging Bedford Local Plan, but the Plan was also lacking detailed information regarding the flora and fauna/designated nature conservation sites in the Parish, there would be a need to circulate a Questionnaire to the entire Parish – one for everyone of voting age – on-line or in hard copy – and the need to arrange a final exhibition.

15. East West Rail Link.

Cllr. Greenwood explained that he had been in contact with the Action Group, and subject to the wishes of the Parish Council, would be prepared to offer his assistance to that Group although before any decision could be made, further information about the options, timing etc would need to be presented to the Parish Council.

16. Parish Clerk Appointment/Website Management.

The Chair indicated that the Council had received three applications for the position of clerk. All of the candidates were extremely strong, and he anticipated that making a final decision would be difficult. It was agreed that Cllrs Russell, Sharpe and Greenwood would conduct the interviews, with the Chair in attendance.

17. A.O.B.

The only item of business raised as AOB concerned the state of the roads in the Parish and the increasing number of potholes. It was agreed that this should be raised with the Borough Council.

In closing the meeting, the Chair noted that the date of the next meeting of the Parish Council was Wednesday 14th September 2022.

The meeting closed at 21.13 pm.

Cllr B J Greenwood
Acting Administrative Clerk.