

PAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL



Meeting: Pavenham Parish Council
19th July 2023 at 7.30pm

Council Cllr Jon Abbott (JA)
Members in Cllr. Sara Darlow (SD)
attendance: Cllr. Caroline O'Neill (CO)
Cllr. Katie Sharpe (KS)
Cllr. David Smith (DS)

Apologies Cllr. Gareth D'Cruze (GDC)
received: Cllr. Thomas Beazley (TB)

Non-attendance:

Borough Council Cllr Doug McMurdo (DMM)
Member:

Clerk to the Rosemary Plum (RP)
Council:

Public 5 x residents
Attendance

MINUTES OF MEETING

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was chaired by Vice Chair, Cllr Sara Darlow

a) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr. Gareth D'Cruze (GDC)
- Cllr. Thomas Beazley (TB)

b) Declarations of Pecuniary & Non-pecuniary Interests

- None reported

c) Open Forum *(limited to 15 mins)*

- a) Pavenham Village Neighbourhood Watch coordinator works with 13 parishioners.
- He receives the North Bedford Crime Report from the Police.
 - Total of approx.600 to 800 crimes in the North Bedfordshire area in the month.
 - Between 1st to 16th July there were 2 entries for Pavenham. The last major incident was in December 2021.

- Crime Report will be added as a Standing Order to future future Parish Council Agendas. RP

- b) Church Lane – hedges growing into road and need trimming. RP

- c) The Bury – huge willow tree overhanging onto carriageway at car height outside number 52. RP

- d) Parking opposite pub in Walnut Close still a problem. Continue to monitor and report back to Parish Council.

- e) Land and property ownership in Walnut Close to be clarified as neither BPHA nor Borough are claiming ownership. Was Borough housing stock transferred to BPHA? A resident tripped on the pavement in December 2022 and matter still not clarified. DMM to follow up. RP/DMM

- f) Escalation dog fouling on the Village Hall playing fields.
 - Numerous complaints from parishioners about continuing nuisance around the whole village, particularly the walkway behind the houses on The Bury.
 - Dogs not allowed on the playing field and should only be allowed on a lead on the footpath.
 - PSPO in place for the Playing Field. Enforceable but advisory signage needs to be in place first.
 - RP to follow up on Borough PSPO and how this can be enforced.
 - Add feature in The Villager magazine and on the Facebook page. RP

- g) Bulk waste collection notification to residents.
 - Complaint from parishioner that notification of dates inadequate and they also felt that using Facebook didn't serve all parishioners. RP
 - Collections have been reduced from 3 to 1, can this be increased again?

- h) Phone digital voice switchover
 - Can the Parish Council offer any support for parishioners?
 - Switchover to be completed by end of 2025 and is required for home phones only. In the event of a powercut landline phones won't work and battery backup will be required also for home and personal alarm. DS has written a page for The Villager magazine and will provide to RP for inclusion on website. DMM

- i) Formal thanks given to Stephen Jarvis for his commitment to management of the village litter pick group and activities.

d) Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

PROPOSED BY: Cllr David Smith

SECONDED BY: Cllr Katie Sharpe

e) Matters Arising from Minutes of previous meeting (*for information only*)

- I. Maintenance from Kissing Gate to the War Memorial - Hedgerow maintenance has been completed.
- II. Thanks given to Parish Council for arranging the removal of the dead sycamore tree opposite the The Knoll
- III. Maintenance completed on silver birch reported to tree officer notified about Silver birch
- IV. BPHA have not maintained lawns nor have they made progress with the planned building in Close Road. This is impacting on the private residents in the road. RP to engage and request details of their grass cutting policy and also their intentions with regard to Close Road. RP
- V. Tree clearance required around the 30mph sign on Church Lane when coming from Felmersham as sign cannot be seen by drivers. RP

f) Clerk's Report (*for information only*)

All matters included on Agenda

g) Borough Council Report

- Colworth Science Park submitting planning application. This will increase traffic further considering the Sharnbrook 500 house development and another development near the Rushden bypass. Cumulative impact on A6 South between Rushden and Bedford will worsen.
- DMM will be writing to John McFarlane to raise concerns about the junction on Paula Radcliffe Way which was never designed for these levels of traffic.
- Local Plan is progressing to stage 2 – this offers protection for North Bedfordshire when the Local Plan 2040 is agreed.
- BPHA grass cutting is a problem in all rural villages. DMM has escalated the matter to the Director of Finance at BPHA.
- Close Road – contaminated land issue has now been discharged so DMM is asking what is happening with the BPHA development going forward.

- Digital Connectivity 2025 – DMM will raise the matter within the Borough Council. DMM will look into the availability of other service providers in Pavenham in addition to BT.

h) Planning Update

a) Recent planning applications, Consents & Approvals

A list of current applications was reviewed at the meeting. These are available online at Bedford Borough website.

b) Access opposite Blakemores Farm

- This will be added to the September Agenda.

i) Highways Maintenance

a) Highways & Pavements Update – Cllr Abbott & Sharpe

- JA has been JA chasing the Borough regarding The Bury pavements. It appears there is ‘nothing major planned’ at the current time.
- RP to report trees in The Bury overhanging the road. RP

b) Time scale for moving speed indicator?

- This has now been moved by TB. DMM

c) Delivery of new indicator from Borough – update

- DMM will follow up with Borough Highways department. DMM

d) Repainting of 30mph roundels

- 30mph roundels to need to be repainted throughout the village. RP
Borough had promised the lines would be renewed free of charge when worn out. Either side of the 30mph sign no longer visible. RP to speak with Borough Highways.

e) AWA traffic lights

- DMM will report back to AWA that traffic lights are often left behind and in action at the site of roadworks for 2-3 days after the work has been completed. DMM

f) Flooding at The Leys

- The Leys is still flooding – JA will chase up with the Borough to investigate what is planned to mitigate further flooding. JA

j) Traffic Management & Speedwatch Group

a) Update from Cllr David Smith

- Marked increase in speeding lately. 4 speed tickets given in Pavenham in March, 1 ticket in April and 1 in May under 39mph
- DS has checked SID and there is a blue tooth connection so we should be able to get data. JA to provide contact. JA
- We're still owed the indicator – we have been waiting over 2 years. DMM will follow up with Borough Highways. DMM
- Consider changing the position before new SID is installed
Following further discussion, it was agreed that the device needs to be near the bus stop where there are children and elderly crossing for bus.
- Borough supposed to be fixing additional poles so SIDs could be moved in future. JA bought one and PC was considering buying another. DMM
- DS met with the Group Lead of the Stevington Traffic Action Group (STAG). They have a group of about 60-70 people involved in safety of road users. Seems to be a good model and quite useful for Pavenham.
- DS also met with Oakley lead and good discussions were held.
- In Pavenham must ensure it makes best use of tools already available i.e. speed cameras. We need data to understand the scale of the problem in the village and then report to parish residents.
- Need to make sure everybody steps up to plate including police prosecuting and making sure they make use of data acquired. Then we can follow up with a Speedwatch group in the parish. Only police can prosecute based on data from the cameras. They have to monitor the camera. RP to ask Borough Highways manager for speed camera data including historic data.

b) Solar panel update

Deferred to September meeting.

k) Environment

a) Spinney & Trees – Update Cllr D’Cruze

- GDC sent apologies for this meeting.

b) Footpaths update – Cllr O’Neill

- Footpath issues reported by a resident have been noted.

c) Path Clearing – update

- Overgrown areas from War Memorial to High Street were cleared this month. Original plan was to carry on further down the High Street to Golf Course but due to heat, work was finished early. Another clearing day will be agreed at September Parish Council meeting.

RP

d) Water safety in local rivers

- Continue to add information to the Parish website, Facebook page and Village News. Consider inviting water safety charity group to talk to children in the holidays.

RP

- Should safety signs be put up at the bottom of Mill Lane?

- RP to engage with Environment Agency for advice which applies to adults as well as children.

RP

e) Damage to new gravestone Pavenham Church – update

- Deferred to next meeting. TB will speak with interested parties in the meantime.

TB

Other

- TB has confirmed the Parish has received the necessary authority to move the footpath to divert around the SSSI route, as requested by the Parish Council.

TB

• **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

a) Update

- RP advised the updated Questionnaire has now been drafted and is due to be distributed by the end of July subject to any further amendments.
- EWR objection will not affect the NDP for Pavenham village.

13. Community Matters

a) Good Neighbour Scheme – update

- A good response has been received for the scheme from both volunteers and people in need of help.

b) Local buses - update

- SD has met with managers of all local bus services operating in Pavenham to discuss key issue of reliability.
- Several people use the Grant Palmer service and it is shocking how many cancellations there are for the no.25 service.
- This is a fully subsidised route by the Borough, however a poorly run service.
- Information and timetables will be added to the Parish Council website.

RP

c) Phone Box - update

- TB preparing paperwork and will submit.
- Defibrillator to be added to next Agenda

RP

a) **Financial Update**

b) Payment of Accounts for Approval

The following payments were presented for payment:

- 14/5/23 – ICO – Annual renewal £35
- 5/7/23 – Agriplant – June/July grass cutting - £480.00
- 7/7/23 – BHIB - Parish Insurance - £383.26
- 12/7/23 – Agriplant – August grass cutting £240.00
- 19/7/23 – David Cox – Bench maintenance - £60.00
- 19/7/23 – CPRE – Membership renewal - £36.00
- 19/7/23 – R A Plum – Clerks Salary
- Website – D Smith Village Website £120

PROPOSED: Cllr Jon Abbott

SECONDED: Cllr Katie Sharpe

c) AGAR update

RP confirmed all necessary documentation is being redacted and will be sent to internal audit in August 2023.

d) Online banking – update

Nothing report.

14. Correspondence

Nothing to report not already on the Agenda

15. Date of next Meetings

- 20th September 2023
- 15th November 2023
- 17th January 2024
- 13th March 2024

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 9:00pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
Dated	

Chair