

Meeting:	Pavenham Parish Council 17 th January 2024 at 7.30pm
Council Members in attendance:	Cllr. Thomas Beazley (TB) Cllr. Gareth D'Cruze (GDC) Cllr. Caroline O'Neill (CO) arrive 19:41 Cllr. Katie Sharpe (KS) Cllr. David Smith (DS)
Apologies Received	Cllr Sara Darlow (SD) Cllr. Doug McMurdo (DM) Cllr. Jon Abbott (JA)
Borough Council Member:	
Clerk to the Council:	Rosemary Plum (RP)
Public Attendance	Cllr. Phillipa Simms, Chair Clapham Parish Council (PS) Inspector Russell Goldsmith, North Rural Community Team, Riseley Police Station (RG)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Welcome

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr Sara Darlow
- Cllr. Jon Abbott
- Cllr. Doug McMurdo

2. Declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interest

a) Completion of Declarations for Register of Interests

- I. Cllr. David Smith declared interest as Chair of the Village Hall Committee.
- II. Cllr. Thomas Beazley – Item 14 and any other matters relating to Neighbourhood Plan.

3. Open Forum *(limited to 15 mins)*

a) EWR Update – Cllr. Phillipa Simms, Chair of Clapham Parish Council

- Thanks given to Chair of Pavenham Parish Council for sterling efforts in supporting Clapham Parish Council with a Xmas tree and help with putting up lights.
- Recognition and thanks given to Pavenham PC for its verbal

support for Clapham in matters regarding EWR.

- TB called for Pavenham PC to consider supporting Clapham in getting the best route for EWR because of the effect it will have on all our parishes.
- There is particular concern at lack of transparency from EWR. They have not been able to provide a business case and there is a lack of engineering reports or they just haven't been made public.
- Particular concern with increased flooding with movement of such large quantities of earth.
- EWR have provided little substantial paperwork that can be reviewed and there is no evidence for their reasoning at this stage.
- Overall the as yet, unseen, business case doesn't seem watertight.

b) Inspector Russell Goldsmith

- RG brings 20 years police experience to the Riseley Team made up of 3 Officers and 2PCSO's. He outlined his role which covers 54 Parish Councils.
- Keen to support Pavenham with speed issues.
- DS advised the Parish is looking to set up a Speedwatch group but we need to get everything else in place first to avoid wasting peoples time.
- Training will be required in order to manage corporate liability.
- Councillors raised their frustration at having raised money for an average speed camera which is not monitored as much as possible to be effective.
- Request made for speed controls with a police vehicle along the straight.
- RG said speeding can be a priority in Parish Councils and will not be ignored as police want to show tangible results. Scope to look at some things possibly dedicating certain amounts of police time to support the Parish but need to be realistic about how much time can be dedicated to individual parishes. Activity could be supplemented with special constables and officers from other departments.
- There is no longer a traffic enforcement department and most monitoring is done through local authority.
- Never discourage anyone from calling the police in an Emergency using 999.
- PC207 Mark Hancock 207 is local officer for Pavenham.
- No plans to close Riseley Police Station which operates from 7am to 11pm. There is pressure from central Government to return to community policing including the formation of a

Rural and Wildlife Team to deal with issues such as hare coursing that are of growing concern.

- Riseley Police Team currently trying to secure funding for a drone for farm watch and horse watch to be used by licensed officers. This will enable coverage of large areas much more quickly than driving.

c) Other Business

- I. Residents from Pavenham Park and Close Road have asked why the paths have not been cleared of leaves from the Bury Path on High Street going towards Oakley. Residents have complained the paths are extremely slippery due to the fallen leaves. TB confirmed this was due to be done with last working party day but team was beaten by the weather.
- II. It has been suggested by the residents who arrange publication of The Villager that we move our meetings back a week before 14th of the month to ensure the most recent information from Parish council meetings is printed in The Villager. RP explained that the annual calendar of Parish Council meetings is set by legislation and cannot be changed.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

PROPOSED: Cllr. David Smith

SECONDED: Cllr. Katie Sharpe

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes (*for information only*)

Sign for Monks Row – need to investigate who owns land. We have allowed nominal figure in the precept for cost of signs.

6. Clerk's Report (*for information only*)

- I. Bedford Borough Council is asking for input from public transport users, residents, businesses, and visitors within the Borough regarding local bus services and other public transport alternatives. The consultation closes at midnight on 31 January 2024.
- II. Bedford Borough Council encourages off-grid residents to apply for home upgrade grant for energy-saving improvements.
- III. £1,750 ward funding allocated by DM for new notice board in centre of Village. RP

7. Borough Council Report

- a) Update - Cllr Doug McMurdo
DM was not in attendance.

8. Financial Update

- a) Setting of Precept

PROPOSAL: To ratify Annual Precept 2024-25 increased to 15% with a grant to the Village Hall of £4k within this figure. RP

PROPOSED: Cllr. Thomas Beazley

SECONDED: Cllr. Gareth D'Cruze

b) Financial report

Report circulated prior to meeting.

c) Payments to be ratified

Accounts to be ratified were circulated to members prior to the meeting.

PROPOSED: Cllr. David Smith

SECONDED: Cllr. Katie Sharpe

d) Online banking update / Proposal to change Bank

PROPOSAL: to leave £0.99 in National Westminster bank to keep account open and continue receiving statement statements. Transfer balance to new online bank account to opened with Unity Bank.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Thomas Beazley

SECONDED: Cllr. David Smith

RP

e) Call for grass cutting tenders

RP will request quotes from Agriplant, Chris Horne and Bedford Borough Council for future consideration.

RP

9. Planning Update

As circulated to members prior to the meeting.

10. Highways Maintenance

RP to follow up with DM for AWA contact.

RP

11. Traffic Management & Speedwatch Group

a) Update – Cllr Smith

I. See points discussed with RG in Open Forum.

RP

II. Add traffic data to website. Latest update from JA shows 3 prosecutions from average speed cameras.

b) Police Inspector

Item discussed in open forum

12. Environment

a) Spinney & Trees – Update Cllr D'Cruze

Report circulated to members prior to meeting.

b) Footpaths update – Cllr O'Neill

I. Harrold Country Park have been undertaking maintenance in Spinney but communications not great. They need to let the

RP

Parish Council know what's going on. They have been clearing undergrowth to try and let light in and populate with native species and possibly bulbs.

- II. The weather has been extremely mild but very wet with extensive flooding. Footpaths throughout the village and surrounding areas are accessible but very muddy and slippery.
- III. Vegetation on most paths kindly managed by the landowners or farmers and therefore most paths are clear and usable.
- IV. Dog fouling doesn't seem to be a big problem on the footpaths but ongoing monitoring will carry on.
- V. CO attempting to contact owner of land with narrow path behind The Retreat but have not yet solved this issue.
- VI. Resident comment since the flood has gone down about 'unbearable stench'. Follow up with AWA.
- VII. Thanks given to Beazley, Tandy and other landowner families for maintaining footpaths.

a) Path Clearing – update/set date

- I. Set date at March meeting and add to website and FB.

RP

b) Fly tipping & litter

- I. The Parish Council has been asked whether it could stop people parking on the area by the layby and bridleway entrance at Carlton Hill. Spoken to Borough Footpaths Officer who said unlikely to put bollards as would be deemed to be hazard to cars.
- II. Vehicle fly tipped at the bottom of Carlton Hill – been driven through the hedge. Removed without landowners consent – police phone recovery firms who pull out cars which then fall apart in the process.
- III. The Parish Council will look into installing prevention signage to stop cars going through hedge at Carlton Hill. Discuss on next village walk round with highways.

RP

c) Installation of litter signage

- II. Already discussed – work in progress.

13. Community Matters

a) Good Neighbour Scheme – update Cllr Darlow

- I. Committee has been formed, GNS in the process of setting up the bank account and will then be able to apply for the initial grant from BRCC.
- II. Debra has been working on the checks needed for people who will be supporting the group, we will continue this over January.

- III. We have asked the parish council to include funding in the precept for continued funding going forward.

b) Local bus services – update Cllr Darlow

- Bus services have continued to be an issue due to the bypass and flooding.
- I would suggest that the response to Bedford Borough about the bus services is open and honest about the diabolical service that not only Pavenham but the rural villages have been experiencing under Grant Palmer.
- Whilst Grant Palmer may have plenty of reasons for it, we aren't seeing a significant improvement in the services and villagers continued to be frustrated with the poor service we are being provided.
- Add to FB and website

14. Neighbourhood Development Plan

a) Update

RP, as the administrative person for the NDP Group which was appointed by the Parish Council to deliver the Plan, reported as follows:

- I. Questionnaire distributed was distributed in December.
- II. Feedback on principle issues:
 - Only single site proposed compared to more in the original draft
 - Issues with responding online and choices available which can be rectified
 - Found survey biased towards new development, either private or business
- III. I have had to answer a question in a way that does not represent my views because of the lack of options or free-typing areas.
- IV. Draft plan then needs to be reviewed, taking into account the questionnaire responses and a new "Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023" that has just come into force (523 pages).
- V. There are a number of possible implications for the Village, including some amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan process possibly including the introduction of "Street Vote Development Orders" (a street can get together and grant itself planning permission (following a referendum) and a change in the enforcement rule, replacing the four year period with an extended 10 year period).
- VI. and changes on section 106 agreements (introduction of an "Infrastructure Levy" – effectively a tax on development profit).
- VII. Not all the Act is in effect with a large number of transitional provisions pending.
- VIII. Next step is print and distribute questionnaire.
- IX. Website will be updated accordingly.

b) Appointment of PC representative

- I. Former Cllr. Brian Greenwood has created an updated draft plan but is unable to continue leading the group as he is no longer a Councillor.
- II. The Parish Council now urgently needs the Group to reconvene and continue the work as outlined above.
- III. Thanks given to DS for stepping in on distribution.
- IV. Thanks to RP who's in a difficult position as cannot ask TB for advice or response. One of the preferred sites is in Beazley family ownership and therefore cannot bring to bear any involvement in the NDP group and, as such, has declared an interest in this matter.
- V. RP will attempt to reconvene group and DS and CO will attend to gain an understanding of the work still to be done.

RP

RP

c) Phone Box – update

No update – work in progress.

15. Correspondence

- Complaint about building work at 9 The Bury passed to Inspector

16. Any other business

6) Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday, 13th March 2024

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 10:25pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
Dated	13 th March 2024

Chair