

Meeting: Pavenham Annual Meeting of Electors
15th May 2024 at 7.00pm

Council Members in attendance: Cllr. Thomas Beazley, Chair (TB)
Cllr. Sara Darlow, Vice Chair (SD)
Cllr. Katie Sharpe (KS)
Cllr. Jon Abbott (JA)

Apologies received: Cllr. David Smith (DS)
Cllr. Gareth D'Cruze (GDC)
Cllr. Caroline O'Neill (CON)
Cllr. Doug McMurdo (DMM)

Non-attendance: None

Borough Council Members Present: None

Clerk to the Council: Rosemary Plum (RP)

Public Attendance: 16 residents

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Apologies for Absence
Apologies were received from:
 - Cllr. David Smith
 - Cllr. Gareth D'Cruze
 - Cllr. Caroline O'Neill
 - Cllr. Doug McMurdo
2. Declarations of Interest
Nothing was declared
3. Minutes & Matters Arising from Minutes of 2023 Meeting
The minutes were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting and signed by the Chair.
PROPOSED: Cllr. Sara Darlow
SECONDED: Cllr. Jon Abbott
4. Chairman's Report
 - a) Cllr. Thomas Beazley
The Chair read out the report attached to these minutes.

5. Parish Council Finances
 - a) Parish Clerk, Rosemary Plum
The Clerk outlined the Parish Finances attached to these minutes.
6. Borough Council Report
 - a) Cllr Doug McMurdo
DMM sent apologies.
7. Village Hall
 - a) Annual Report
The Clerk read the reports provided by DS in his absence and attached to these minutes. Main points raised in the report are:
 - 1) Roof repair – this was paid for using accumulated Covid grants from central government. It was more costly than originally thought as the original roof construction was inadequate and required reinforcing.
 - 2) Increase in cost of playing field upkeep because of wetter and warmer winter requiring more grass cuts.
 - 3) Drop in feed-in income and increase in electricity cost as solar panels out of action while roof repair under way. Predicted to improve in 2024.
 - 4) Letting income increase through greater external hire use (e.g. Ouse Valley Arts Society, religious groups etc.) and village organisation use of hall – fuller detail in the extra analysis.
 - 5) Fall in cricket club income because of one-off water bill correction payment in 2022.
 - 6) Fall in water cost because of one-off water bill correction payment in 2022.
 - b) Financial Report
Attached to these minutes.
8. Questions from the Floor
n.b. For items not covered by the Agenda for the Parish Council meeting to follow
9. Date of Next Meeting

May 2025 – date to be announced in due course.

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 7.58pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:



Signed	Chair
Dated	May 2024

Chairs' End of Year Report

Following on from last years' local elections the new Parish Councillors have settled into their roles with great enthusiasm, along with bringing some fresh ideas into meeting debates.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for all their help and assistance over the last year - I think we are developing into quite a formidable team!

At the same election we had a new Borough Councillor appointed to represent us following the local boundaries review which moved Pavenham into the Sharnbrook ward. Doug McMurdo has embraced Pavenham into his portfolio and we thank him for all his help in representing us at a Borough level.

Rosemary Plum has continued to define her role as our Parish Clerk, she is also clerk to both Stevington and Clapham councils and as a result a much broader appreciation of local issues are highlighted to all three councils. This enables us to offer support to each other. Rosemary has updated the village website and embraced all forms of communication with the village.

I would personally like to thank her for all the help and assistance that she has given me over the last year, keeping the Chairman in line. Unfortunately she has had to undergo surgery recently which has meant she has been out of action over the last couple of months but it is great to see her up and about again and I would like to wish her well in her continuing recovery to full health.

It is a real pleasure to be back in the role of Chairman with the full support of an effective clerk along with a supportive team of Councillors.

It would be remiss of me whilst thanking people not to thank Bet and Bob for their continuing care of the war memorial, Roy Bates for keeping an eye on the bus shelters, Steven Jarvis and his dedicated team of village litter pickers and all the villagers who have helped with the various village path and hedge clearing over the last twelve months.

Finally we should recognise all the hard work and dedication that Dave Smith and his committee put into running and maintaining this hall and

playing field, such a valuable and vital asset to village life. Without all of the above, this village would be a much poorer place to live.

Many of you will have hopefully noticed the works that the team from Harrold Country Park and their volunteers have carried out in the spinney at the bottom of The Bury. Hopefully with continued further management this will greatly enhance and strengthen this woodland plantation ensuring its long-term future for the benefit of the village.

The Parish Council has discussed this over a number of years as we have seen the woodland deteriorate and it is encouraging to see the Borough recognise this and implement a restoration plan. Thank you to all those involved.

The Clerk has been looking into possible grant funding opportunities to enable the PC to renew the dilapidated boundary fence and hedge. If successful it may be necessary to raise the village precept for a short time to fund any shortfall in grant funding, similar to how we raised funds for the average speed cameras.

On the subject of speeding I am indebted to Dave Smith who has taken on the ongoing monitoring of the speed detection devices that the PC had purchased in the past but failed to effectively use. The data collated will be passed onto the police and hopefully result in further police presence, acting as a deterrent to the offending motorists. In the last batch of data there is a vehicle passes our monitor along the straight in excess of 100mph -admittedly at 5 o'clock in the morning -but even at that hour they are unlikely to have the road to themselves!

The average speed cameras do prosecute on a monthly basis and continue to prove their worth with a substantial drop in the speed through the centre of the village.

We had a visit from Inspector Russell Goldsmith the newly appointed Inspector for our North Rural Community Team based at Riseley Police Station at our January PC meeting. He has a refreshing approach to rural policing and has promised to review all the data that Dave is able to supply and hopefully then act upon it. We look forward to working with him over the coming years.

During the last year the Council has monitored numerous planning applications affecting the village, mainly concerning minor alterations,

listed building consents and tree works. We have had a couple of extensive refurbishments and modernisation to properties in The Bury which we have commented on and continue to monitor. Obviously in a close knit environment such as Pavenham there are always the two issues with any proposed development, that of the actual permission itself but once granted the whole process of implementation of the construction process itself with the minimum of disruption to the surrounding area.

This is a topic of continued aggravation for the clerk as we struggle to get any meaningful response following up issues raised with the relevant department within the planning system. If any parishioner has reason to write to the planning department on any subject please always copy in the PC Clerk otherwise your Parish Council is unaware of your concerns and can only act upon information it has received.

One area of strategic planning that we continue to offer support to Clapham Parish Council on is the ongoing saga of East West Rail. A common misconception is that Pavenham will not directly be affected by the proposed - in my opinion crazy - route north of Bedford. Clearly if it comes to fruition then it is going to have a massive effect on all village residents during the enormous construction process but the detrimental damage it will inflict on one of the few remaining truly rural areas of the Borough is unimaginable. Anyone who thinks in the long term it will not affect Pavenham and the other rural parishes blighted by its construction is very short sighted. The whole project appears to me to be ill conceived and heading towards an unmitigated disaster. I attended the recent public engagement exercise held at the Swan Hotel, which told me absolutely nothing concerning the project, only the process consultation will take. What we need to see is a business case for its justification, costings for all the proposed routes [although sighting HS2 these will apparently be meaningless] and a comprehensive environmental report as to its impact on the overall area. If there is any justification for the whole project at all, surely if the impending theme park is going to happen at Stewartby it must be logical to link any new railway line in with the planned new station at Wixhams . What is proposed is Bedfordshires normal half cocked approach to strategic planning. Personally as I watch the carve up of the countryside between the BlackCat and Caxton Gibbet I question the need for the project at all , but I am certain as proposed it will offer little if any gain for the Borough of Bedford. I have asked Rosemary to write again demanding that Pavenham is included in any

further consultations as our initial request was rejected as EastWest rails view is we were not effected. Clearly this will not be the case.

We have over the years fostered quite a good relationship with various parties within the highways department resulting in an improvement in the service we receive from the Borough . Obviously there are finance constraints but several long standing issues within the parish are starting to be addressed such as the flooding during recent months effecting Mill and Church Lane. A special thanks in this respect should go to Ricky Dawkes from highways for all his efforts on our behalf. As with planning issues if any parishioner has reason to correspond with highways please copy in the clerk so your council is aware.

Thank you to all those village residents that took the time to complete the latest Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire. Since the election, when Brian Greenwood was not re-elected to the Parish Council, the driving force behind the NP has been somewhat lacking, Rosemary has admirably pushed the process as far she is able but it requires leadership from a Councillor. Following numerous discussions at recent PC meetings, Sara Darlow has agreed to take on the role.. Sara is currently analysing and collating the answers to the questionnaires and will be calling a meeting of the NP group to take it forward. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brian for the enormous amount of time and expertise that he has put into getting the NP to the position we are at to date. There is still a lot of work to do but the Parish Council is already making great use of the policies implemented in the draft Neighbourhood plan

The Parish Council finances have taken a severe hit in the last few years as we have had to bear the costs of three elections in the last four years . Rosemary successfully challenged the Borough over the costs to the parish of one of the elections but still it has resulted in depletion of virtually all your councils financial reserves. As a result we have had to implement a ? percentage increase in the village precept to put your parish council back on a sound financial footing, which I am afraid will take numerous years to rectify . As I mentioned earlier with regard to the spinney fence if we are going to carry out any capital works within the parish over the next few years this will have to be funded by outside sources or by further increases to the village precept. The Parish Council in the past has always resisted the need to amass a massive war chest and indeed historically this has helped in gaining grant monies from elsewhere, but going forward from now on I am afraid the council will have to be more prudent and hold a larger reserve.

I would like to finish this report paying tribute to two village stalwarts who have sadly passed away in the last few weeks. Colonel Robbie Robinson who married Kelly, a Pavenham girl, died recently 2 weeks away from his hundredth birthday. Robbie could always be called upon to read out the names on the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday with great reverence. He could also be relied upon to attend meetings such as tonight and would always have an opinion to be voiced. Often this would be an odds with the mass of the meeting but was always eloquently and fairly versed and a great asset to any debate. He created the Pavenham Village Charity after Kelly passed away so we as a village will be indebted to them for years to come.

Colin Humphries sadly lost his long time battle with cancer last week. Colin was a long term member of the village hall committee, former president of the cricket club and was actively involved in many of the former village activities such as the tug of war, fetes etc and was influential in helping Robbie set up and acting as a trustee to the Pavenham charity. Both of these village residents have been stalwarts of village life over many years and the village will be a much poorer place without their influence and support.

Thomas Beazley -Chairman

PAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The following accounts are presented for approval for payment for the period from

14th March to 15th May 2024

Any interested parties to declare such interest

Accounts presented for payment 14/5/2024

Date	Payee	Work Carried out	Total incl VAT	
02/05/2024	Mrs R A Plum	Clerks Salary & phone/laptop	£	964.08
02/05/2024	Mrs R A Plum	Litter picking bags	£	34.98
15/05/2024	Mrs B Scoley	War Memorial upkeep	£	56.00
15/05/2024	Mr R Bates	Bus shelter maintenance Oct 2023 - March 2024	£	70.00
TOTAL			£	1,125.06

Accounts already paid at 15/5/24

TOTAL

£ -

Accounts not yet presented for payment at 15/5/24

TOTAL

£ -

Income 13/3/24 to 15/5/24 (for information only)

Bedford Borough Council (Precept)	£	6,907.00
	£	6,907.00

Statement of Account at 15/5/24

Balance at Bank 30/4/24	£	19,488.88
Less Expenditure (including presented for payment 15/5/24)	£	1,125.06
Less uncleared cheques	£	-
Plus income	£	-
Available Funds at 13/03/24	£	18,363.82



Pavenham Good Neighbours

Monday 25th March 2024

Business Case for an S137 donation from the Pavenham Parish Council

Pavenham Good Neighbours scheme has been set up based on the response from parishioners through a survey completed in Autumn 2023. We had responses from nearly 50 residents offering support and requesting help with a variety of jobs.

As a result in January 2024 we convened a committee and have started the process of completing volunteer checks with a launch date agreed of the 22nd April 2024. We have applied and been granted a £300 start up grant from BRCC which will be used to cover the first years public and employee liability insurance, launch advertising materials, a phone and monthly phone contract and other start-up costs such as storage for GDPR related information.

At the committee meeting in March 2024, the BRCC representative (Debra Aitken) advised that BRCC will no longer be funding the DBS checks for volunteers and that each good neighbour scheme would now be responsible for setting up their individual schemes and the DBS checks for volunteers.

We have since reviewed how many DBS checks are still to be completed for our volunteers and this is likely to be a maximum of 15 which will cost £15 each, this is alongside the £60 fee to set up Pavenham Good Neighbours as an organisation for DBS checks to be completed against.

Overall these DBS checks will cost £285.00 in the coming weeks and months as we progress volunteers, based on the remaining 15 volunteers putting through their DBS checks, this doesn't account for any new volunteers.

We have included fundraising on our next committee agenda as we look forward to funding the future insurance costs and ongoing phone costs and will look to include further DBS checks however would appreciate some funding from the parish council to support this new service for the village.

Overall funding request as detail above, £285.00.

Kind regards

Sara Darlow

Pavenham Good Neighbours Secretary

Pavenham Village Hall

Income/Expenditure breakdown 2023

Row Labels	Sum of cr	Sum of dr	Net	Hires	Other inc	Op Costs	Oth Costs
CLEANING		-£ 2,125.27	£ -			-£ 2,125.27	
DONATION	£ 75.00				£ 75.00		
ELECTRICITY		-£ 1,922.75				-£ 1,922.75	
EXH	£ 6,560.00	-£ 3,525.00		£ 3,035.00			
EXH HDFDP	£ 975.00			£ 975.00			
EXH LA	£ 250.00			£ 250.00			
EXH OVAS	£ 720.00			£ 720.00			
FIELD		-£ 4,000.00				-£ 4,000.00	
FIT	£ 1,652.46				£ 1,652.46		
HS ELEC		-£ 475.00				-£ 475.00	
HS FIRE		-£ 1,267.77				-£ 1,267.77	
HS PLAY		-£ 111.00				-£ 111.00	
INSURANCE		-£ 1,843.16				-£ 1,843.16	
LICENCES		-£ 327.70				-£ 327.70	
MISC		-£ 30.00				-£ 30.00	
REFUSE		-£ 365.16				-£ 365.16	
REPAIRS		-£ 910.35				-£ 910.35	
REPAIRS ROOF		-£ 19,498.40					-£ 19,498.40
TRANSFER	£ 15,000.00				£ 15,000.00		
VH	£ 2,322.00	-£ 1,405.00		£ 917.00			
VOCC	£ 991.46			£ 991.46			
VOF	£ 72.00			£ 72.00			
VOFS	£ 75.00			£ 75.00			
VOG	£ 424.00			£ 424.00			
VOPC	£ 96.00			£ 96.00			
VOPPRA	£ 54.00			£ 54.00			
VOPQ	£ 500.00			£ 500.00			
VOTC	£ 506.90			£ 506.90			
VOTT	£ 812.00			£ 812.00			
VOWD	£ 288.00			£ 288.00			
VOWI	£ 472.00			£ 472.00			
WATER		-£ 573.60				-£ 573.60	
(blank)	£ 31,845.82	-£ 44,914.50					
Grand Total	£ 63,691.64	-£ 83,294.66		£ 10,188.36	£ 16,727.46	-£ 13,951.76	-£ 19,498.40

Income/Expenditure breakdown 2022

Row Labels	Sum of cr	Sum of dr	Net	Hires	Other inc	Op Costs
200 CLUB	£ 3,005.00				£ 3,005.00	
CLEANING		-£ 1,908.59				-£ 1,908.59
COVID GRANT	£ 2,667.00				£ 2,667.00	
ELECTRICITY		-£ 1,294.59				-£ 1,294.59
EXH	£ 3,710.00	-£ 1,000.00		£ 2,710.00		
FIELD		-£ 3,525.00				-£ 3,525.00
FIT	£ 2,689.93				£ 2,689.93	
HS ELEC		-£ 100.00				-£ 100.00
HS FIRE		-£ 694.92				-£ 694.92
HS GAS		-£ 85.00				-£ 85.00
HS PLAY		-£ 105.00				-£ 105.00
INSURANCE		-£ 1,751.98				-£ 1,751.98
LICENCES		-£ 312.00				-£ 312.00
REFUSE		-£ 429.09				-£ 429.09
REPAIRS	£ 168.80	-£ 1,348.16				-£ 1,179.36
VH	£ 2,579.00	-£ 910.00		£ 1,669.00		
VOCC	£ 1,640.00			£ 1,640.00		
VOF	£ 64.00			£ 64.00		
VOFOSP	£ 60.00			£ 60.00		
VOFS	£ 75.00			£ 75.00		
VOG	£ 432.00			£ 432.00		
VOPC	£ 204.00			£ 204.00		
VOTC	£ 506.90			£ 506.90		
VOTT	£ 720.00			£ 720.00		
VOWD	£ 156.00			£ 156.00		
VOWI	£ 458.00			£ 458.00		
WATER		-£ 1,406.86				-£ 1,406.86
(blank)						
SFC	£ 300.00	-£ 250.00		£ 50.00		
MISC	£ 1,781.09	-£ 1,781.09				
Grand Total	£ 21,216.72	-£ 16,902.28		£ 8,744.90	£ 8,361.93	-£ 12,792.39

Types	Meaning
200 CLUB	
AFCO	AFC Oakley
CLEANING	
COVID GRANT	
DONATION	
ELECTRICITY	
EXH	External Hire
EXH OVAS	Ouse Valley Arts Society
EXH HDFDP	Hearing Dogs for Deaf People
EXH LA	Local Authority Hire
FIELD	Playing Field Groundskeeping
GAS	Propane Gas Supply
FIT	
HS ELEC	Health & Safety - Electrical
HS FIRE	Health & Safety - Fire
HS GAS	Health & Safety - Gas
HS PEST	Health & Safety - Pest Control
HS PLAY	Health & Safety - Play Equipment
INSURANCE	
KEYS	
LICENCES	
MARKETING	
MISC	Miscellaneous
PC GRANT	
RATES	
REFUSE	BBC Bins
REPAIRS	
REPAIRS ROOF	
STATUTORY	
TRANSFER	
VH	Villager hire
VOCC	Cricket Club (Pavenham and Felmersham)
VOCHOIR	Village Choir
VOF	Fellowship
VOFC	Football Club (Stevington)
VOFOSP	Friends of St. Peter's
VOFS	Flower Show
VOG	Games Club
VOH	Village Organisation Hire
VOPC	Parish Council
VOPQ	Pavenham Quilters
VOPPRA	Pavenham Park Residents Association
VOTC	Tennis Club
VOTT	Table Tennis
VOWD	Whist Drive
VOWI	Womens Institute
WATER	

Pavenham Village Hall

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