

Meeting: Pavenham Parish Council
17th July 2024 at 7.30pm

Council Members in attendance: Cllr. Thomas Beazley, Chair (TB)
Cllr. Sara Darlow, Vice Chair (SD)
Cllr. Jon Abbott (JA)
Cllr. David Smith (DS)
Cllr. Caroline O'Neill (CON)
Cllr. Katie Sharpe (KS) – late arrival 7.43pm

Apologies received: Cllr. Doug McMurdo (DMM)

Non-attendance: Gareth D'Cruze

Borough Council Members Present: None

Clerk to the Council: Rosemary Plum (RP)

Public Attendance: 6 x local residents
Mayor of Bedford, Cllr. Tom Wootton

Welcome	
1. Apologies for Absence Apologies received from • Cllr. Katie Sharpe (late arrival) • Cllr. Doug McMurdo	
2. Declarations of Interest Declarations were received from: • Cllr. Thomas Beazley for matters regarding Neighbourhood Development Plan and Item 9a – Planning • Cllr. Jon Abbott for anything relating to Planning matters	

3. Open Forum (limited to 15 mins) • TB advised application for planning permission for Bury Farm has been re-submitted and not appealed. • Resident raised concerns about noise issues and maintenance of road, straw, fire hazard near railway. TB advised Network Rail already have right of access who have maintained it in good condition at the request of TB. • Resident enquired on the latest situation with the BPHA development in Close Road. The resident pointed out that 75% of homes in Close Road are privately owned and residents don't want to be pushed into accepting more social housing. Residents maintain they are opposed to the type of housing, saying the Parish needs affordable housing and not more social housing. • JA confirmed BPHA retains revenue for maintenance of housing built. They receive no income from garages so could possibly be looking to release income to build houses and spend on the rest of the estate. JA will look into this further. Very unlikely the houses will simply be made available for rental. • RP will circulate to Councillors the report made available report by CON on the recent burglary incident at her home. CON confirmed police have been very good in dealing with the matter and in apprehending suspects.	JA
4. Minutes of Previous 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	
5. Matters Arising from the Minutes (for information only) a) RP has approached three fencing contractors for quotes to replace fencing along the Spinney. Hoping to submit funding application but will probably need further grant for match funding. b) Highways, particularly The Bury – covered under DMM report. c) DMM made a site visit to footpaths in The Bury and is awaiting confirmation of actions to be taken, by Borough Highways.	RP
6. Clerk's Report (for information only) • Main focus since last meeting has been completion and submission of AGAR of Mazars Accounts in accordance with regulations. • Contacted BPHA for latest plans on the Close Road development. Automated response said they will respond within 7 working days	

7. Borough Council Matters Cllr. McMurdo sent apologies for this meeting and provided the following update to RP: I. Close Road, BPHA land and garage area, still awaiting update and DMM will chase again. II. DMM was alerted to potholes at the West End of the village but on inspection he believes these have been dealt with. III. Pavenham Holiday Park - this is under new ownership since 24th March 2024. Concerns have been raised by local residents regarding significant site clearance already carried out. DMM has visited site to understand the issues. This is an ongoing enquiry and DMM has alerted relevant Borough departments to concerns. DMM welcomes information from parishioners and in particular landowners of adjoining the Park boundaries about any concerns. RESERVED MATTERS [REDACTED]	
8. Neighbourhood Development Plan a) <u>Update – Cllr. Sara Darlow</u> I. NDP surveys have now been fully reviewed and evaluated. II. NDP committee needs to be reconvened if possible during August. III. Flora and fauna survey still to be completed. Costs will be requested from local consultants who have worked on other local NDP's. IV. Hope to hold exhibition of outcomes end of this year/beginning of next 2025. V. Thanks given to SD for her efforts in getting the NDP back on the Agenda as it is of value to the village.	SD/RP

9. Planning Matters a) <u>Validations:</u> I. Hardstanding At East End, Pavenham: Retrospective change of use of land from Network Rail compound to hard standing for agricultural storage purposes to the existing farming unit. Awaiting decision. II. 6 East End, Pavenham: Certificate to confirm lawful existing residential occupation of an annex flat. Awaiting decision. III. The Cottage, High Steet, Pavenham: Repair roof structure removing rotten timbers. Awaiting decision. b) <u>Decisions</u> I. 50 The Bury, Pavenham: Cherry tree in front garden - Remove and grind out stump – Status: Consent granted 10/7/24 II. 41 The Bury, Pavenham: Single storey rear/side extension and two storey infill to the front of the property. Status: Permitted III. Land at 5 Weavers Lane, Pavenham: Change of use from agricultural to residential garden and erection of a storage barn. Status: Refused IV. White House, High street, Pavenham: Creation of new drop kerb and crossover for parking including removal of hedge. Status: Refused	
10. Highways Maintenance a) <u>Walk round with Borough Highways Officer</u> See update at Item 7. b) <u>Walnut Close – issue raised by resident</u> DMM confirmed he is handling this matter directly with the resident. RP to ask Borough to clear the drain. DMM to check ownership with Land Registry and investigate further. c) Any other matters Nothing to report.	RP
11. Traffic Management & Speedwatch Group a) <u>Update – Cllr Smith</u> I. DS has been working on the speed sensors as not convinced they were accurate. Geometry issues corrected. He has since compared data from two devices and the information is as accurate as he can get. He has also done further data extraction on traffic passing at 47mph or greater by the hour of day and day or week. Worst day is Thursday and time, 6-7am in the morning. II. Next step is get someone with authority to do speed checks. DS will now ask police to come out with hand-held speeding device and they will be able to make best use of their time.	

III. There's a disconnect between Oakley and Pavenham cameras between the villages and the Borough says this cannot be resolved. Need to implement 40mph from Pavenham to Oakley which is currently 60mph. Need to get police on side of road as a deterrent. IV. DS reluctant to waste peoples time doing Speedwatch as he doesn't think there's enough follow up for the efforts of the group. V. A challenge was posed to the Mayor of Bedford as Pavenham purchased 2 Speed Indicator Devices (SID) almost 5 years ago. One never worked very well and the other was taken away for repair by the Borough and we were without it for 18mnths. 2-3wks after reinstallation it was demolished by RTA. We were assured by the Borough it will be replaced but we still only have 1 of our 2 devices. There is no SID at the end of Close Road and after 5 years, we are still waiting for the return of the unit being repaired.	
12. Crime Report a) <u>Riseley Police Team – update</u> I. RP to ask police to come to the village to do a drop-in session on security. II. Councillors commended the work of Riseley police station in recent events in the Parish. III. DS will be attending the PCC Priority Setting Meeting on 26/7/24. b) <u>Crime Report</u> I. A burglary in Church Lane was reported to have taken place on Thursday 16 May and about the same date the contents of a van at Plaiters Close were taken .Apparently security arrangements were reasonable and entry to the premises was gained by force. II. These are the first major incidents for two and a half years. III. A local resident will write an article for the Villager reminding villagers of the need to check their security. IV. CON has agreed her burglary report can be added to the Parish Council website and would encourage residents to look at their home security.	RP RP
1. Environment a) <u>Spinney & Trees – Update Cllr D'Cruze</u> I. GDC was not present at the meeting. II. Silver birch, corner of Close Road – the Borough put a notice on it saying it would be dealt with but nothing has been done. RP to write to Borough Tree Officer to advise this tree ow presents a serious danger to pedestrians and traffic and the Parish Council cannot be held responsible for the irresponsibility of the Borough.	RP

III. A further 3 trees are also in very poor condition in the same area. RP to write to Borough and Cc Mayor. b) <u>Footpaths update – Cllr O’Neill</u> I. Footpaths muddy and slippery with complaints about them overgrowth. CON will try to identify landowners regarding maintenance. II. Accessibility not great in footpaths across fields. III. Dog faeces in field behind the pub and constant problem in the playing field. RP to request formal signs from Borough dog warden and investigate availability of Dogs Trust waste bags.	RP CON RP
2. Community Matters a) <u>Good Neighbour Scheme – update Cllr O’Neill</u> I. Scheme going really well with excellent communication between volunteers and committee. First update to BRCC to be given in the coming days. II. Excellent feedback from weekly catchups with people in the village with limited mobility. Team have been receiving compliments for the service and thanks given to all involved. b) <u>Local bus services – update Cllr. Doug McMurdo</u> I. Cllr. McMurdo not present at this meeting. II. SD seeing Grant Palmer on Friday 19/7/24. III. The 4pm bus back from town has been cancelled on the day on numerous occasions recently. IV. Grant Palmer will cease operating rural bus service on 31/7/24 and the route will be run by Stage Coach from 1/8/24 with a seamless takeover planned. V. RP to add new timetables to Parish website.	
3. War Memorial a) <u>Hedge maintenance – update</u> I. Hedge at rear of Memorial is dead and needs removing and replacing. The whole area needs trimming and replanting. II. Consider Japanese holly (Ilex Crenata) which is slow growing and small leaved. RP talk to Borough Tree Officer about options. III. We will need min. 40 plants to form a hedge and we need to ask for Ward Funding or financial support from the Pavenham Charity to cover the cost of planting.	RP
b) BPHA c) <u>Update</u> Cllr. McMurdo not present at this meeting.	

4. Financial Update a) <u>AGAR – Ratify</u> AGAR to be ratified were circulated to members prior to the meeting. PROPOSED: Cllr. Sara Darlow SECONDED: Cllr. Dave Smith b) <u>Financial report</u> Discussion about cost of grass cutting and delay due to daffodil growth and how this impinges on the cost of grass cutting in the Parish. c) Accounts presented for payment: • Clear Councils Insurance £414.46 • Agriplant Grass Cutting £300.00 • Pavenham Village Hall hire Jan-July 2024 £110.00 • J Betts, Statutory Audit • R Plum, Clerks Salary June & July 2024 • R Plum, Clerks Expenses-Litter picking bags £34.98 Accounts to be ratified and financial statement circulated to members prior to the meeting. PROPOSED: Cllr. Jon Abbott SECONDED: Cllr. Katie Sharpe d) <u>Villager Bus – Grant request</u> PROPOSAL: to accept the application for a £100 grant from The Villager PROPOSED: Cllr. Jon Abbott SECONDED: Cllr. Sara Darlow e) <u>Directory of Social Change –ratify purchase (33% share of cost)</u> PROPOSAL” To contribute 33% of the cost of the purchase of the Directory of Social Change. Total cost approx. £110+VAT to be shared with Clapham and Stevington Parish Councils. PROPOSED: Cllr. Thomas Beazley SECONDED: Cllr. Dave Smith f) <u>Online banking update</u> RP has submitted an online application to open a current account with Unity Bank.	RP RP RP RP RP
5. Correspondence Nothing to report.	
6. Date of Next Meeting 18th September 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall	

<u>2024-25 Schedule:</u> 20 th November 2024 at 7.30pm 15 th January 2025 at 7.30pm 19 th March 2025 at 7.30pm	
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The meeting was closed by the Chair at 9.35pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
	<i>Chair</i>
Dated	18 th September 2024