

Meeting:	Pavenham Parish Council – CLOSED MEETING (Precept) 15 th January 2025 at 7.30pm
Council Members in attendance:	Cllr. Thomas Beazley (TB) Cllr. David Smith (DS) Cllr. Sara Darlow (SD) Cllr. Jon Abbott (JA) Cllr. Katie Sharpe (KS) Cllr. Abbie Furr (AF)
Apologies Received	Cllr. Caroline O'Neill (CO) Cllr. Jon Abbott (JA)
Borough Council Member:	Cllr. Doug McMurdo (DM) (not present)
Clerk to the Council:	Rosemary Plum (RP)
Public Attendance	2 residents

MINUTES OF CLOSED MEETING

Welcome

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from:

- Cllr. Caroline O'Neill (CO)
- Cllr. Jon Abbott (JA)

2. Declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interest

The following declarations were received:

- Cllr. David Smith as Chair of Village Hall Management Committee
- Cllr. Sara Darlow as Chair of Neighbourhood Plan Committee and Chair of Good Neighbours Scheme Committee
- Thomas Beazley for any discussions relating to Neighbourhood Plan

3. Setting of Precept 2025/26

Budget discussions have been redacted for the purpose of the public minutes.

PROPOSAL: Following extended discussions with Parish Councillors, the Parish Precept should be set at 14.9% for the Financial Year 2025-26.

PROPOSED: Cllr. David Smith

SECONDED: Cllr. Katie Sharpe

4. East West Rail (EWR)

a) Consultation 24 Response

The follow opinions were put forward in relation to the Parish Council response to the non-statutory EWR consultation closing 24th January 2025:

- I. Anything that interferes with the flood plain between Clapham and Bedford will require flood mitigation in North Bedfordshire villages.
- II. TB has been in contact with a local resident with legal and planning expertise who can provide the necessary skillset to support the response from the Parish Council.
- III. TB has had sight of the draft of draft response buy Clapham Parish Council which is very detailed. Pavenham response should be more generic.
- IV. Councillors were asked whether they are in favour of an Oxford to Cambridge line. Unanimous response was NO.
- V. Our response needs to consider disruption caused to infrastructure, effect of any further disruption on demographics upstream and the requirement for mitigating actions.
- VI. Behaviour of River Ouse is idiosyncratic and facts are not well documented.
- VII. Councillors want to know whether spoil and aggregates will be recycled materials.
- VIII. Concerns were raised around net zero issues if trains are to be diesel only.
- IX. It was unanimously agreed that TB can discuss the Parish Council response with a suitably qualified practitioner resident in the Parish. The draft response will be distributed to councillors by email.

TB

5. Any other Business *(for information only)*

- I. Dog bins at entrance to playing field urgently need emptying.
- II. SSSI footpath across The Marshes has been closed for 3 months from 25th December 2024.
- III. TB/SD had meeting at Borough Council who took on board comments. Borough Council presented history of the path but no real conclusion was reached as budget of £485k is required to resolve issues permanently.
- IV. Next steps:
 - a) It's unlikely the footpath will be redirected as consent from all landowners would be required.
 - b) Plans to walk a diversionary route as a temporary measure but this would still need a bridge to cover one of the ditches.
 - c) Consider trying to achieve a permissive path agreement landowners.

RP

- d) Borough Council would pass any charges incurred in relation to the SSI onto landowners.
- e) SD to continue engagement with Chair of Stevington Parish Council.

6. Date of Next Meeting:

19th March 2025 at 7.30pm

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 9.47pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
Dated	19 th March 2025

Chair