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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Meeting:                             | Pavenham Parish Council<br>20 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.30pm                                                                                                                       |
| Council<br>Members in<br>attendance: | Cllr. Thomas Beazley (TB)<br>Cllr. Caroline O'Neill (CO)<br>Cllr. David Smith (DS)<br>Cllr. Sara Darlow (SD)<br>Cllr. Jon Abbott (JA)<br>Cllr. Katie Sharpe (KS)<br>Cllr. Abbie Furr (AF) |
| Apologies<br>Received                | None                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Borough Council<br>Member:           | Cllr. Doug McMurdo (DM)                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Clerk to the<br>Council:             | Rosemary Plum (RP)                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Public<br>Attendance                 | Cllr Janet Day – Stevington PC Chair<br>Roger Day – Stevington PC Chair<br>5 Residents                                                                                                    |

## MINUTES OF MEETING

### Welcome

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

- DMM - late arrival due to Borough Executive Meeting

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

Declarations were received from:

Cllr. Sara Darlow – items relating to planning at 39 The Bury  
Cllr. David Smith – Chair of Village Hall Management Committee

#### 3. Co-Option of new Councillor

Introduction to Abbie Furr who put her name forward at the last election and is happy to take up role of councillor.

Proposal: To co-opt Abbie Furr as a Pavenham Councillor.

Proposer: Cllr. Sara Darlow

Seconder: Cllr. David Smith

#### 4. Open Forum (*limited to 15 mins*)

- A resident enquired whether the Parish Council be advised of any work by AWA to the pumping station. Rumour circulating that it's due to be replaced. The Parish Council don't expect to be advised of any works by Anglian Water Authority.

#### Pavenham Marshes SSSI

- SSSI at The Marshes - Pavenham has discussed for years and lot history around it. It's extremely difficult dealing with English Nature. Members of Ramblers Association have applied for lottery funding without success so far.
- Cllr. Janet Day chairs Stevington Parish Council and Mr Roger Day is part of the Stevington Environmental Group (SEG). Stevington PC has raised the Issue of footpaths connected with the Bunyan Trail and Oakley/Stevington circuit through Pavenham that are popular with walkers.
- Issues around hedgerows getting overgrown and this will be taken up separately.
- SSSI has become dangerous, impassable, impossible to use.
- A detailed report has been compiled by Stevington with proposal for diversions which was sent to Borough Rights of Way Officer and Team Leader. At the time, Cllr Day felt they were pushing against an open door with a feeling the Borough wants to resolve the situation.
- Parish Councillor in Stevington have talked to both landowners involved in their Parish about the diversion proposal. Both have copies of the report and both are willing to consider proposals. Borough Council wants to convene a meeting to discuss.
- TB declared an interest in this discussion as he holds an annual grazing licence in the area for cows.
- TB advised he has in the past persuaded English Nature to allow a small deviation where all are walking. They weren't prepared to put signage up on the route. However, progress came to a halt when talking to any landowner about the SSSI footpath because of liability they would incur.
- It's now up to Bedford Borough to look at what they're prepared to do. Borough Rights of Way Officer came out end of last week to possibly walk proposed route and other areas.
- Our Parish Councils don't believe a footpath can be imposed on anyone and would have to be a permissive footpath for a time specific period.
- Need to identify all landowners in Pavenham and Stevington.
- Pavenham Parish Councils looking for a solution as it's getting more dangerous, becoming a liability and getting close to needing to be shut. Need signage to warn people of the danger as it's very unpredictable land with walkers getting stuck in the mud.
- It may be an advantage to close the SSSI as schools want to use it for Duke of Edinburgh scheme and it may be unfit for them if left open in winter.
- Need to be clear what Natural England what we are looking to achieve. Cannot take any mechanical equipment to site, any work must be done by hand and there are issues in getting professional indemnity.
- Next steps – engage with Borough and escalate closure asap.
- Consider obtaining permissive path for 10 years. Community is helping with care of the footpath and we will need to remind ramblers and Duke of Edinburgh scheme to leave only footprints

and not litter.

- Investigate availability of other funding sources such as DEFRA.
- SD and TB available for meeting proposed by Bedford Borough on 11<sup>th</sup> December. RP to confirm to Borough.

RP

## **5. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The following corrections have been made to the September minutes:

- I. DS is Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee and a Tennis Club committee member.
- II. Item 6 – SD will attend as our Councillor.
- III. 13b)iv) – wording corrected to doing a great job overall

Subject to the above amendments, the minutes were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Sara Darlow

SECONDED: Cllr. Jon Abbott

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

Nothing to report.

## **7. Clerk's Report (*for information only*)**

- I. Summary of Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils AGM was given.
- II. Noticeboard – Delay in completed as polycarbonate for doors scratched on delivery.
- III. Grass cutting regulations reminder sent to contractors.
- IV. Positive responses received to all letters to residents about overgrown hedges and trees.
- V. Article for November Village Magazine written.
- VI. Bedford Borough Council Flood Forum Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October cancelled – CPC to host a similar event for N Beds villages 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 involving a number of agencies and stakeholders.
- VII. EWR – Non statutory consultation started 14/11/24 and ends 24/1/25.
- VIII. EWR holding number of events locally, but not in Clapham. Virtual consultation room with considerable detail can be viewed online.
- IX. Huge issues predicted due to the sheer size of the proposed development.
- X. Wide range of views across for and against EWR. Pavenham residents should be aware of the massive disruption they will face for many years due to the construction works.

- XI. Pavenham councillors felt they should be supporting Clapham Parish Council in their endeavors.
- XII. The primary focus at the present time of all Bedford Borough agencies is the safety of the public and responders at Cleat Hill. Residents still evacuated from and being supported by the Borough Council and other agencies. Once the results from the assessment are available, agencies will create a plan of action and the next steps to bring us back to a normal situation including the opening of the B660.
- XIII. Borough Rights of Way Officer is retiring in December. RP to write to Alison to thank for work over years. RP
- XIV. Government consultation on whether to allow remote and hybrid attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings in England, is currently open. There is continued support for councils to have the maximum possible flexibility. Issues and challenges include technical capability and capacity, guidance and sharing of good practice, predetermination and confidentiality, and ensuring effective meetings, mainly when held hybrid.

## **8. Borough Council Matters**

### **a) Update – Cllr. Doug McMurdo**

- I. Pavenham bus service on Agenda of next Borough Executive meeting. DMM will advise of any developments.
- II. Borough Sport & Leisure strategy 2024 – assets in a bad state. Recommendation to close Oasis permanently due to cost of repairs.
- III. Borough Council tax increases not yet published. Expecting more cuts to services.
- IV. Ward Funding still open for applications
- V. Flooding event September – disappointed it's been postponed and DMM has resigned his position on Environment Agency after 20 years.
- VI. Local Plan – Will have to find more allocation for housing when Universal Studios is signed off.
- VII. SSSI – DMM doesn't have any information it but happy to assist.
- VIII. DMM gave apologies to SD for missing Bus Services meeting in June 2024. He will re-engage.
- IX. Mayor has been asked to publish details of where the Borough is looking to build new homes in 2025.

## **9. Neighbourhood Development Plan**

### **Update – Cllr. Sara Darlow**

- I. The NDP committee met on the 29th October.
- II. Two people with relevant experience have been engaged to support the Committee with the flora and fauna survey. Work has since commenced on this.

- III. Support has been offered to review Pavenham NDP.
- IV. SD and RP met to review Pavenham parishioners' emails relating to the NDP survey. SD has contacted all to provide updates.
- V. SD has contacted Bury Farm developer to introduce herself and they have confirmed they can provide support and further details when available on the proposed development.
- VI. Aim to present NDP to the village late Feb 2025. A Considerable number of documents will be presented and these need to be finalised, including the Flora and Fauna Survey and feedback from Bedford Borough Council on the draft NDP prior to the public presentation. This may result in the presentation being delayed until March 2025.
- VII. NDP Committee meets again mid-December 2024.

## 10. Planning Matters

### a) Validations

Circulated to members prior to the meeting.

New application 39, The Bury submitted for validation 20/11/24.

### b) Decisions

Circulated to members prior to the meeting.

## 11. Highways Maintenance

### a) Updates – Cllr. Sara Darlow

- I. Thanks to residents put on record for their assistance in maintaining the clearance on the pavements. All the requests sent to residents have been resolved.
- II. We ask that residents continue to report any Highways issues to the clerk.
- III. SD to do walk round village with DMM and Highways Officer to identify issues. DMM
- IV. Pothole developing outside entrance to mobile home Park

### b) Gulleys & Drains – update

- I. RP asked for updates from Borough Highways including for The Leys. No further information available.
- II. Borough cleared 100m from The High Street towards the river which was clear at that point. Found evidence of tree root ingress and were going to file report to get it dealt with. RP to ask for update. RP
- III. Broken drain in trees at the bottom of The Bury. Resident paid to have drains cleared. Drain was found to be broken and dispersing into the ground. Borough possibly digging it out. RP to ask for updates and enquire whether a map of drains is available. RP

c) Cars in ditches

- I. Two cars gone off The Causeway in the last 2 weeks. RP contacted police who came out immediately. RP
- II. Nobody can idiot-proof roads but chevrons coming from Pavenham towards Oakley near Stafford Doors entrance might help. RP to enquire if Borough have any solutions. RP
- III. RP to enquire if Borough intend to replace fencing along this stretch.

**12. Traffic Management & Speedwatch Group**

a) Update – Cllr David Smith

- I. Speed camera moved to outside Bury entrance In response to number of vehicles reported to be driving at high speed along Church Lane. The level of speeding is greater here than outside the Village Hall.
- II. Forwarded report to police office at Riseley.
- III. DS now able to capture detailed data from cameras.
- IV. Next area to be monitored will be Close Road.

**13. Crime Report**

a) Updates

Nothing to report however there was verbal report of an assault in East at end of October.

b) Commissioning and Funding Strategy Launch Event

The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner has announced a Funding Strategy Launch event on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Police HQ in Bedfordshire. This is to unveil new strategy to support innovative projects and initiatives in the community. Learn about our commissioning ambitions and how Parishes can get involved.

**14. Environment**

a) Spinney & Trees - Fencing update

- I. RP started getting quotes for fencing to apply for grant but rural funds now closed until March 2025 due to funds having all been allocated.

b) Footpaths update – Cllr O’Neill

- I. The footpaths north of the village are all accessible but muddy. Footpaths around the river are all clear.
- II. Circular route through Stevington is accessible but the SSSI is very boggy and challenging to walk through.

- III. Thanks put on record to all the landowners for path maintenance. Routes are now fairly clear of vegetation but slippery.
- IV. RP to engage with Barry Ingram of the Long Distance Walkers Association. RP

c) Dog waste bin

- I. Bin at end of holiday park road just inside on left needs emptying. RP has reported to Borough for clearance. RP

## 15. Community Matters

a) Good Neighbour Scheme – update Cllr. Darlow

- II. Scheme has been in effect for 6 months and more than 60 jobs for village residents have been completed. These include transport, befriending, dog walking.
- III. Teamed up with Charity Small Acts of Kindness / Stay Warm this winter.
- IV. Coffee/cake afternoon at pub 1-3pm Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Opportunity for residents to enjoy social event. Committee providing cakes and pub providing teas and coffees.

## 16. War Memorial

a) Hedge maintenance – update

- I. Diseased hedge to be replaced with yew but wrong time of year to get plants for Remembrance Sunday. RP
- II. TB will remove box hedge and plant small height yew hedging when available.
- III. Parish will need access to water next summer. Local resident has agreed to provide water and Parish Council will recompense accordingly.

## 17. Financial Update

a) Financial report

Accounts to be ratified and financial statement circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Accounts presented for payment

PROPOSED: Cllr. Sara Darlow

SECONDED: Cllr. Jon Abbott

b) Ratify NALC pay settlement for Clerk

PROPOSAL: To accept new hourly rate of pay for Clerk as established by NALC.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Katie Sharpe

SECONDED: Cllr. Sara Darlow

It was noted that:

- I. the Parish Council is funded by Bedford Borough Council and is allocated a tight budget that hasn't increased considerably for some time. DMM to pick up with Borough.
- II. Parish Council contractors will be paying increased NI from April 2025 which will be an additional cost to the Parish.

DMM

### 18. Correspondence

- I. From a resident: Concerns about cars temporarily parked on agricultural land. If future planning permission is granted for parking, it is going to affect the beauty of the area permanently?

The Parish Council will ask the Rights of Way team to look into the situation where is being used for parking. Unfortunately, no individual 'owns the view' in terms of planning. We understand the resident is in contact with DDM who will deal further with the matter.

- II. From a resident: Disappointment with the War Memorial this year as hedge has died and yet to be replaced and it looks a mess.

This matter was dealt with at 16a) above.

### 19. Date of Next Meeting

15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

#### 2025 Schedule:

19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.30pm

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 9.38pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

|        |                             |
|--------|-----------------------------|
| Signed |                             |
| Dated  | 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 |

*Chair*