

Meeting: Pavenham Parish Council
19th March 2025 at 7.30pm

Council Cllr. Thomas Beazley (TB)
Members in Cllr. Caroline O'Neill (CO)
attendance: Cllr. David Smith (DS)
Cllr. Sara Darlow (SD)
Cllr. Katie Sharpe (KS)
Cllr. Abbie Furr (AF)

Apologies Cllr. Jon Abbott (JA)
Received Cllr. Doug McMurdo (DM)

Borough Council
Member:

Clerk to the Rosemary Plum (RP)
Council:

Public 5 Residents
Attendance

MINUTES OF MEETING

Welcome

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from:

- Cllr. Jon Abbott (JA)
- Cllr. Doug McMurdo (DM)

2. Declarations of Interest

Declarations received from:

- Cllr. Sara Darlow, Items 8a), 9a), 14a)
- Cllr. David Smith, Chair of Village Hall Cttee

3. Open Forum (limited to 15 mins)

a) Pavenham WI – Defibrillator donation

1. Committee Representative from Pavenham WI advised the Institute in Pavenham is coming to an end 31 March 2025. The WI Committee would to make a donation towards the installation of a defibrillator in the village. The donation must be made to the Parish Council by 31/3/25. Further discussions will ensure with regard to the installation site. The disused phone box in the centre of the village is a listed building in a conservation area. and the Parish Council is still in negotiation

with BT to purchase the phone box. The landlord of The Cock Public House would be happy to have the defibrillator installed on the outside of the property. RP to contact the owner of the property for permission to do this and also suggest further fundraising to contribute towards the cost of the installation.

RP

PROPOSAL: To ringfence £500 of Parish Council budget to add to the WI donation for the purpose of purchasing, siting and installing a defibrillator in the Parish.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Thomas Beazley

SECONDED: Cllr. Sara Darlo

VOTE: Unanimous

2. RP to pick up planning application from TB and investigate options for future use of phone box as a book exchange. RP
3. Resident asked for more daffodils to be planted along The Straight. RP to ask Bedford Borough for bulbs and also speak to DMM about ward funding to purchase 25kg of daffodil bulbs. RP
4. Resident advised The Bury sign is hanging off its posts. SD has already reported and will chase up. SD
5. Resident reported gas cylinders dumped between Stafford Bridge and slip road to A6 towards Bedford.
6. SD has taken over portfolio for trees until 2025 AGM. SD
7. Pavenham Tennis club would like to move forward with floodlight replacement and have asked the Parish Council to apply for funding for the project. RP to work with DS to identify grant funding and Mayors Climate Change funds. RP/DS
8. Bus Update from SD:
 - Stagecoach runs 5 services from Pavenham to Rushden and 4 from Pavenham to Bedford Monday to Saturday each week. From the 31st of March, this is due to reduce to 1 from Pavenham to Bedford (8:11 am at Weavers Lane).
 - Grant Palmer will now pick up hourly throughout the day between Harrold and Bedford, with advanced drop-offs in Clapham and Oakley, running Monday to Saturday.
 - Grant Palmer has also held their prices at £2 for a single and £4 for a return. They have seen good patronage growth and want to continue to see growth, so they have reduced weekly tickets to £20 and monthly tickets to £80.
 - SD to ask Grant Palmer to promote their services and Parish Council will put up timetables in bus shelters. SD
9. EWR Meeting Update from SD:
 - 13 parish councils and one community group attended online meeting organized by Clapham Parish Council so it was a fantastic turnout.

- We plan to meet once a month going forward.
- We highlighted the views from the parish based on the recent response we submitted.
- We will keep people updated on future meetings. Does anyone else want to attend on behalf of or as well for the parish council?
- TB gave thanks to SD for attending on behalf of the Parish Council.

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. David Smith

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

Nothing to report.

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

- RP will be attending external auditors briefing session on this year's Annual Accounts & Accountability Report. The meeting will cover external audit arrangements, process, changes this year. RP
- RP has written update for The Villager magazine.
- Website updated
- 2 x grit bins ordered RP
- Bulbs from Bedford Borough displays can be ordered at the end of July 2025. RP

7. Borough Council Matters

a) Update – Cllr. Doug McMurdo

No report available – apologies received.

Complaints from Close Road and East End residents regarding development at East End have been referred to DMM who is monitoring the situation.

8. Neighbourhood Development Plan

a) Update – Cllr. Sara Darlow

- I. Recently contacted Bedford Borough Council to request draft NDP review in consideration of recent changes in Government Bedford Borough planning legislation.
- II. Over 120 comments requiring amendments and/or re-writes received back from Bedford Borough Council due to conflicts with latest Bedford Borough plan.
- III. Village consultation has been delayed until re-write is complete. Village Hall booking postponed until updated local plan is ready for presentation to residents.
- IV. RP to engage with the original author of the draft NDP. RP

- V. NDP committee is small with regular engagement from only one member other than SD and RP. More volunteers urgently required. RP/SD
- VI. Thanks given to SD for her time and commitment.

9. Planning Matters

a) Planning application 39, The Bury – update

- I. Parish Council doesn't have any objection to the extension and refurbishment outlined in the planning application. It is however concerned about emphasis on the aspect from the rear with planned large panoramic window and balcony. Parish Council feels this is an infringement of privacy without any landscaping put in place to mitigate.
- II. TB attended the planning committee meeting on behalf of the Parish Council and DMM put forward a very good case. The Parish Council called for a site visit that took place 17th March 2025 and the application will go back to planning meeting on 24th March 2025.

b) Borough Notifications

c) Validations

Superstructure repairs to interior and exterior right flank and front elevation.

Garden Cottage Church Lane Pavenham Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7PU

Ref. No: 25/00147/LBC | Received: Thu 23 Jan 2025 | Validated: Thu 23 Jan 2025 | Status: Pending Consideration

T1 - Lime Tree - 8-10m reduction in height. Removal of deadwood throughout canopy
T2 - Sycamore - To be re-monolithed. T3 - Horse chestnut - To be re-monolithed.

53 The Bury Pavenham Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7PY

Ref. No: 25/00138/TPO | Received: Wed 22 Jan 2025 | Validated: Wed 22 Jan 2025 | Status: Pending Consideration

T4 - Elm. Fell.

Rivermead Mill Lane Pavenham Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7NL

Ref. No: 25/00244/TCA | Received: Tue 04 Feb 2025 | Validated: Tue 04 Feb 2025 | Status: No Tree Preservation Order Served

Installation of an electric car charger.

Dunelm Cottage High Street Pavenham Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7NJ

Ref. No: 25/00210/LBC | Received: Fri 31 Jan 2025 | Validated: Mon 03 Feb 2025 | Status: Pending Consideration

1A The Bury Pavenham Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7PX

T1 Lime - Heavily shading front of property. Crown reduce 2.5 metres in height and reduce lower

lateral limbs 1-1.5 metres to balance.

T2 Lime - Heavily shading front of property. Crown reduce 2.5 metres in height and reduce lower

lateral limbs 1 1.5 metres to balance.

d) Decisions

T1 Yew - Crown reduce all round 1-1.5 metres. Thin remainder 15% and lift to 3 metres. T1 is heavily shading front of property and lower branches which are obstructing vehicles.

1A The Bury Pavenham Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7PX

Ref. No: 24/02184/TPO | Received: Thu 14 Nov 2024 | Validated: Thu 14 Nov 2024 | Status: Granted Consent

T1 - Large Blue Cedar - Reduce height and spread by approximately 2m to secondary growth points. To manage the shape and size of the crown. Remove any major dead wood from the canopy. Crown lift lowest growth to approximately 2.5m from ground level.

The Old Bakery High Street Pavenham Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7NJ

Ref. No: 24/01986/TPO | Received: Wed 16 Oct 2024 | Validated: Wed 16 Oct 2024 | Status: Granted Consent

Remove three fraxinus excelsior (ash) trees showing signs of ash die back shown as trees 2,3 and 4. Thinning of the remaining acer pseudoplatanus (sycamore) and singel Ash by 30% and a reduction of 4 metres in the height.

Land For Tree Preservation Order Adjoining The Elms Bedford Road Pavenham Bedfordshire

Ref. No: 24/01952/TPO | Received: Wed 09 Oct 2024 | Validated: Wed 09 Oct 2024 | Status: Granted Consent

T1 Corsican Pine - Remove due to subsidence issues

Hill Farm House High Street Pavenham Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7NJ

Ref. No: 24/00002/TPO | Received: Tue 02 Jan 2024 | Validated: Tue 02 Jan 2024 | Status: Granted Consent

T4 - Elm. Fell.

Rivermead Mill Lane Pavenham Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7NL

Ref. No: 25/00244/TCA | Received: Tue 04 Feb 2025 | Validated: Tue 04 Feb 2025 | Status: No Tree Preservation Order Served

T1 - Prunus - Significantly reduce due to proximity to building and glass roofing. To crown pollard by approx 50%.

Clerestory Mill Lane Pavenham Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7NL

10. Highways Maintenance

a) Updates – Cllr. Sara Darlow

- I. Awaiting date from DMM for walk round with Borough Highways officer.
- II. Church Lane closed for carriage works between Pavenham and Felmersham. Thanks given to residents for their patience during this necessary maintenance work.
- III. Chestnut Fencing along The Causeway – Borough has advised fencing was installed by the County Council following the Easter floods in 1998. Borough Highways team to determine what action is required to make good the fencing.

RP

b) Erosion of bank Long Row to The Retreat

- I. TB has been approached by resident regarding erosion of verge and bank on approach from Carlton causing damage to hedges. RP contact Borough and ask for their opinion. Same issue on Church Lane with trucks causing road damage.

RP

c) Cyclist race signage

- II. Councillors are 'offended' by blight of constant cycle and running races with signs erected months in advance. By the time event happens, people ignore them. Pavenham is a conservation area and these signs are tied to a council structure which is not permissible. Parish Council wants to see signs erected no more than a week in advance and the courtesy of advising the Parish Council when the races are due to take place. The Parish Council acknowledges the signs are always taken down quickly and litter cleared on departure. RP to follow up with race organisers.

RP

11. Traffic Management & Speedwatch Group

a) Update – Cllr David Smith

- I. Delivery of average speed camera data is erratic. 1 prosecution recorded for January and w for February 2025.
- II. 688 vehicles exceeded 40mph in January 2025.
- III. 17 vehicles exceeded 60mph in January 2025.
- IV. 647 vehicles were recorded above 40mph in February 2025 with the highest recorded speed of 77mph compared to 100mph at the end of 2024.
- V. Thanks given to our Rural Police force for supporting speed checks in the Parish.
- VI. RP to investigate another repeater sign for speed limit.
- VII. Thanks given to DS for his efforts and for engaging with the police in these activities.

RP

12. Crime Report

a) Updates

- I. Heating oil stolen from Pavenham
- II. The Police & Crime Commissioners will be hosting his next 'Meet and Challenge' event in Putnoe Heights Church and Church Centre, 16th April 2025 from 6.30pm - 8pm. This is a community event for Residents, retailers, rural businesses to discuss the biggest worries about policing and crime where you live or work.
- III. For second time in a week and fourth time in 2-3 weeks, privately owned domestic dogs that escaped from a private garden have been worrying farm animals. Police and dog warden attended in the High Street and The Bury.
- IV. Custodial sentences were passed for burglars who committed 30 thefts in North Bedfordshire last year. Thanks given to the excellent police work and victim support.

13. Environment

a) Spinney & Trees - Fencing update

- I. RP written to Borough who are looking into the condition in which the Spinney was left following Borough land works. RP
- II. Fence posts from The Bury to The Spinney are loose. RP

b) SSSI update

- I. Footpath still closed and very wet.
- II. SD/TB to meet with land owners. SD/TB
- III. Stevington Parish Council advocating alternative path but Pavenham Parish Council feels this solution will not work.
- IV. TB will try to encourage Mayor to come and have a look at the path. TB
- V. Pavenham Parish Council is working with Stevington Parish Council to resolve the issues but diplomacy is required and there is no easy solution.

c) Footpaths update – Cllr O'Neill

- I. Footpaths less slippery and more accessible as weather improves.
- II. Footpaths by river still very muddy at the gates.
- III. Footpaths north of village towards Carlton and Harrold clear and accessible. Several trees across path in small spinney at the foot of Tandy's fields.
- IV. All signs and maps in place and in good order.
- V. Thanks to the landowners who allow access across their land and maintain the paths.

d) Dog waste bin – update

Problem fixed.

14. Community Matters

- a) Good Neighbour Scheme – update Cllr Darlow
 - I. Approaching first anniversary of scheme launch with 100 jobs completed.
 - II. Ward fund grant used to purchase new phone.
 - III. Changed bank accounts as monthly charge not acceptable to the committee for a community non-profit organisation.
 - IV. Additional committee members required.
 - V. Plan for first anniversary celebration in April.
 - VI. Thanks given to SD and all involved – their commitment is greatly appreciated.

15. War Memorial

- a) Hedge planting – update
 - I. Old hedging will be removed and replaced in the next week. TB

16. Finance

- a) Financial report
Circulated to members prior to the meeting.
- b) Payment of Accounts
Accounts to be ratified and financial statement circulated to members prior to the meeting.
Accounts presented for payment
PROPOSED: Cllr. Sara Darlow
SECONDED: Cllr. Katie Sharpe
- c) Proposal to open new bank account RP
PROPOSAL: RP as Responsible Financial Officer to open an online Parish Council bank account with Metro Bank.
PROPOSED: Cllr. Sara Darlow
SECONDED: Cllr. David Smith

17. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

18. Date of Next Meeting

- a) 2025-26 Meeting schedule
For the 2025-26 year, Parish Council meetings will be held every two months on the first Thursday of the month.

2025-26 Calendar of Parish Council Meetings

- 24th April 2025 – Annual Parish Meeting from 7pm
- 3rd July 2025 – Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm
- 4th September – Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm
- 6th November – Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm
- 8th January – Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm
- 5th March – Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 9.38pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
Dated	24 th April 2025

Chair