

Meeting:	Pavenham Parish Council – CLOSED MEETING (Precept) 1 st May at 8.00pm
Council Members in attendance:	Cllr. Thomas Beazley (TB) Cllr. David Smith (DS) Cllr. Sara Darlow (SD) Cllr. Jon Abbott (JA) Cllr. Abbie Furr (AF)
Apologies Received	Cllr. Katie Sharpe (KS) Cllr. Caroline O'Neill for late arrival Cllr. Doug McMurdo
Borough Council Member:	Cllr. Doug McMurdo (DM) (not present)
Clerk to the Council:	Rosemary Plum (RP)
Public Attendance	8 residents

MINUTES OF MEETING

Welcome and Introductions

1. Election of Officers for 2025/26

a) Chair of the Council

PROPOSAL: Cllr Thomas Beazley to continue as Chair of Parish Council.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Jon Abbott

SECONDED: Cllr. Sara Darlow

VOTE: Unanimous

b) Vice Chair of the Council

PROPOSAL: Cllr Sara Darlow to continue as Chair of Parish Council.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Jon Abbott

SECONDED: Cllr. Thomas Beazley

VOTE: Unanimous

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr. Katie Sharpe
- Cllr. Caroline O'Neill for late arrival
- Cllr. Doug McMurdo

Local resident Jenny Evans was remembered by all Councillors for her support of the Committee over many years and condolences to David Evans noted.

3. Declarations of Pecuniary & Non-pecuniary Interests

The following interests were declared for the Parish year 2025-26:

- Cllr. David Smith – Chair Village Hall Cttee
- Cllr. Thomas Beazley – for Item 6b) on this Agenda as he is neighbour on 3 sides of the land in question.
- any matters relating to the NDP but is available to answer any questions asked of him.
- Cllr. Jon Abbott – Chair of Bedford Borough Planning Cttee
- Cllr. Sara Darlow – Chair of NDP Group, Secretary of Good Neighbours Scheme, Pavenham Ladies Club

4. Consideration of applications from Councillors for dispensation

To enable Councillors to participate in the consideration of items on the Agenda in which they have declared an interest.

The following requests for dispensation were received:

- Cllr. David Smith – Chair Village Hall Cttee
- Cllr. Thomas Beazley – any matters relating to the NDP but is available to answer any questions asked of him.

5. Open Forum (limited to 15 mins)

- | | | |
|------|--|-------|
| I. | Upper Leys homeowner moved to Pavenham mid-February 2025. They have submitted an application to develop their property and the Borough Planning Officer is doing site visit 2/5/25. Detail from planning application was outlined to Parish Council. TB and SD to visit the property prior to formal response by Parish as consultee. | TB/SD |
| II. | A resident enquired about the status of the decommissioned phone box. Parish Councillors advised that it is not suitable for housing the additional defibrillator due to lack of power supply as originally suggested. Phone box is a listed building, cannot be removed and currently belongs to BT Open Reach. If the Parish Council is to take on responsibility for its future maintenance and alternative use, a change of use application needs to be submitted. The Parish Council will also have to allow for costs in a future budget. RP to follow up. | RP |
| III. | Councillors agreed defibrillator is better located outside The Clock public house. RP to follow up. | RP |

6. Planning Update

a) Upper Leys – planning application

- I. Plans previously circulated to Councillors. Resident wants to keep the character of the property, not enlarge footprint and be sympathetic to neighbours whilst making internal changes. They also want to create a new patio to take advantage of views to the rear and add a wrap round conservatory to the rear of the house. They also intend to widen the

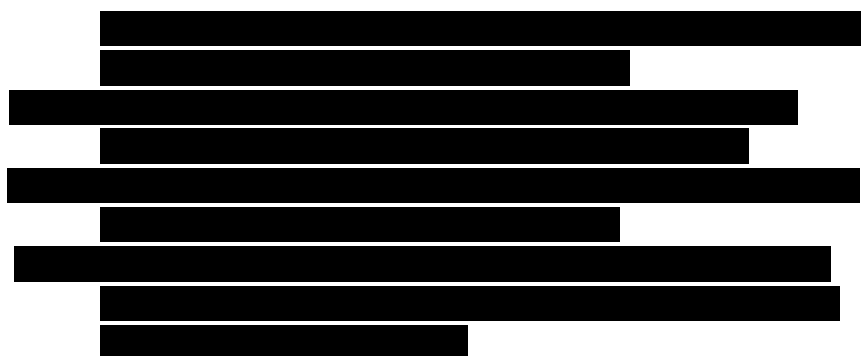
- front driveway so they can turn within their own driveway as it's currently quite hazardous to access and exit the property
- II. The Parish Council doesn't want to delay the planning process with the Borough and the resident present at the this meeting agreed to a site meeting on 6/5/25 with TB and SD to ensure any significant change to the outside of the property fits into the character of the village.

***THE FOLLOWING ITEM WILL BE REDACTED FOR THE PUBLIC MINUTES**

- b) Gypsy & Traveller site, Land East Side of Pavenham Road, Felmersham – major retrospective planning application

TB/SD

RP



The following applications have been distributed to Parish Councillors prior to this meeting:

c) Recent planning applications

- I. 43 The Bury Pavenham Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7PY
- II. Cherry Cottage High Street Pavenham Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7NJ – consideration about work on High Street
- III. Wilflete 9 The Bury Pavenham Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7PX

d) Recent Planning Decisions

- I. Dunelm Cottage High Street Pavenham Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7NJ
- II. 39 The Bury Pavenham Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7PY
- III. Garages At Close Road Pavenham Bedfordshire
- IV. 53 The Bury Pavenham Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7PY
- V. 1A The Bury Pavenham Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7PX
- VI. Ouselcot Mill Lane Pavenham Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 7NL

7. 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

8. Matters Arising from Minutes of previous meeting (for information only)

Nothing to report.

9. Clerk's Report (for information only)

- The Bury street sign chased again.
- BPHA chased for an official update of the Close Road development. Disabled Access to property at Close Road (Bowyer) needs dropped kerb.
- Bi-monthly litter pick scheduled for the end of April, after which Stephen Jarvis leaving the village end of May and Steve Pike has agreed to take over.
- Grit bins still haven't arrived.
- Parish Council received cheque for a donation from Pavenham WI for £446. Spoken with pub landlord who's getting agreement from building

owner to install defibrillation. Landlord will arrange installation and will be adding charity collection money to the WI donation.

- AGAR is complete and all policies and procedures reviewed and updated.

10. Borough Council Report

Apologies received from DMM.

11. Police Matters

a) Crime report

The following incidents were logged by the Police:

- Car stolen from Close Road
- Dog incident
- Domestic heating oil stolen

12. Election of Representatives

a) Village Hall & Playing Field Management Committee

PROPOSAL: Cllr David Smith to continue as portfolio holder for Village Hall and Playing Field Committee.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Thomas Beazley

SECONDED: Cllr. Sara Darlow

VOTE: Unanimous

b) Villager Bus

PROPOSAL: Cllr Sara Darlow to continue as portfolio holder for bus services.

PROPOSED: Cllr. David Smith

SECONDED: Cllr. Caroline O'Neill

VOTE: Unanimous

Appointments to working groups:

c) Footpaths

PROPOSAL: Cllr Caroline O'Neill to continue as portfolio holder for footpaths.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Sara Darlow

SECONDED: Cllr. Thomas Beazley

VOTE: Unanimous

CON reported the following regarding footpaths:

- I. Piled up cut down trees at 50 The Bury and broken fence.
- II. People filling wheelie bins with leaves and filling spinney.
- III. Number of posts along The Cut.
- IV. Bushes overhanging the pavement from The Spinney.

d) Highways & Pavements

PROPOSAL: Cllr Sara Darlow to continue as portfolio holder for Highways and Pavements.

PROPOSED: Cllr. David Smith

SECONDED: Cllr. Thomas Beazley

VOTE: Unanimous

e) Spinney & Tree Warden

PROPOSAL: Cllr Abbie Furr to be portfolio holder for Spinney and Trees

PROPOSED: Cllr. Thomas Beazley

SECONDED: Cllr. Sara Darlow

VOTE: Unanimous

f) Traffic Management

PROPOSAL: Cllr David Smith to continue as portfolio holder for Traffic.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Thomas Beazley

SECONDED: Cllr. Sara Darlow

VOTE: Unanimous

g) NDP

PROPOSAL: Cllr Sara Darlow to continue as Chair of NDP Group

PROPOSED: Cllr. Thomas Beazley

SECONDED: Cllr. David Smith

VOTE: Unanimous

h) EWR

PROPOSAL: Cllrs Thomas Beazley and Sara Darlow to be portfolio holder for East West Rail.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Jon Abbott

SECONDED: Cllr. David Smith

VOTE: Unanimous

13. Review of Governance Documents

a) Standing Orders

b) Parish Council Policies

c) Financial Regulations

PROPOSAL: The above matters are ratified.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Sara Darlow

SECONDED: Cllr. Thomas Beazley

14. Highways Maintenance

- I. Large patch of damage outside Hurston House.
- II. Church Lane looking good
- III. SD to chase DMM about walkround with Highways including concerns about The Bury pavements.
- IV. Erosion of verge at far end of long row
- V. Drains at entrance to Walnut Close still not cleared. This is a BPHA issue.
- VI. The Leys – sandbags been moved and a large proportion of drains cleared by Borough. Waiting on more rain to see how successful the work has been.
- VII. U-bend on drain from Church Lane.
- VIII. Chestnut paling along The Causeway.
- IX. Add Highways contact to Parish newsletter.

15. Traffic Management

- I. Amended reports to RP
- II. Level of speeding seems to be increasing from 22 in Jan to 26/day in March.
- III. Beds Police have been in attendance doing speed checks to raise awareness.

16. Environment

a) SSSI Update

- I. Footpath appears to be open with no signs for closure. It's passable with extreme care, still very boggy.
- II. It is passable with care and ideally wellies as it is still boggy but considerably better than over the winter period.
- III. TB and SD due to meet with other landowners and will then follow up with Bedford Borough and Stevington. This is likely to include a walk through the site with the Mayor and Bedfordshire MP.
- IV. Add notice above sheep and livestock grazing – please don't let dogs off lead. Owners are at liberty to destroy dogs out of control and damaging livestock.
- V. RP discuss joint signs with Stevington Parish Council.

17. Neighbourhood Development Plan

a) Update

- I. Pavenham NDP committee reconvened in Summer 2024 and has met several times to progress the plan. Two members engaged from Stevington NDP committee to assist with Flora and Fauna survey.
- II. After reviewing the draft NDP, feedback from Bedford Borough Council was sought about recent changes in government and at Bedford Borough. Feedback, received in early March, included over 120 comments, necessitating a re-write of some sections to align with the Bedford Borough Council plan.
- III. This has delayed Pavenham consultation and NDP committee remains committed to completing the NDP and presenting it to residents, followed by review and sign-off by Bedford Borough Council.

18. Community Matters

a) VE Day Events

- I. The Bury having street party on 5th May
- II. SD asking Public House about possible event on 7/8 June

b) Good Neighbour Scheme update

- I. The scheme continues, with over 100 jobs completed in its first year.
- II. New Chair is Richard Bond and group continues to support the community.

c) Bus update

- I. SD meeting with Grant Palmer in 2 weeks.
- II. Service for Pavenham stepped up in last few months.

- III. Reduction in the service from Stagecoach with one service a day just after 8am to Oakley.

19. EWR

a) Update

On hold due to Universal and need to change business case.
Statutory Consultation expected end of 2025.

20. Financial Update

a) Ratify AGAR 2024-25

AGAR ratified for submission.
PROPOSED: Cllr. Sara Darlow
SECONDED: Cllr. Caroline O'Neill

b) Payment of Accounts for Approval

Accounts presented for payment circulated to members.
PROPOSED: Cllr. Sara Darlow
SECONDED: Cllr. David Smith

c) Review of Direct Debits

Direct Debits present to Councillor by RP.

21. Correspondence

- I. Enquiries received from two residents.

22. Date of 2024-25 Meetings

- 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 10.15pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
Dated	3 rd July 2025

Chair