

Meeting:	Pavenham Parish Council 4 th September 2025 at 7.30pm
Council Members in attendance:	Cllr. Thomas Beazley (TB) Cllr. David Smith (DS) Cllr. Sara Darlow (SD) Cllr. Caroline O'Neill (CON) Cllr. Abbie Furr (AF) Cllr. Jon Abbott (JA) – arrive 8pm Cllr. Katie Sharpe (KS) – arrived 8.10pm
Apologies Received	Cllr. Doug McMurdo
Borough Council Member:	Cllr. Doug McMurdo (DM)
Clerk to the Council:	Rosemary Plum (RP)
Public Attendance	1 resident

MINUTES OF MEETING

Welcome and Introductions

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from:

- Ward Cllr. Doug McMurdo
- Cllr. Katie Sharpe for late arrival 20.10
- Cllr. Jon Abbott for late arrival 20.00pm
- Cllr. Abbie Furr for needing to leave meeting at 9pm

2. Declarations of Pecuniary & Non-pecuniary Interests

As annual declarations

3. 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.

- Cllr. Thomas Beazley for matters relating to NDP policy
- Cllr. David Smith for matters relating to Village Hall

4. Open Forum (limited to 15 mins)

- i. Resident raised questions about internet and phone issues.
SD will contact BT

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of 3rd July 2025 were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Abbie Furr

SECONDED: Cllr. Caroline O'Neill

The minutes of the EGM on 7th August 2025 were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Sara Darlow

SECONDED: Cllr. Abbie Furr

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

All items covered on this evenings' Agenda

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

- RP has written Manager at Borough Highways department who responded with apologies for all issues and assured they will be followed up.
- The Bury Street sign – Borough will chase this.
- Borough will arrange walk round with SD to identify highways issues.
- The chestnut paling junction High Street and Church Lane will be investigated by Borough.
- TB asked RP to write to Mayor and cc Stevington Parish Council Clapham Parish Council advising that Pavenham Parish Council is refusing to have any further dealings with the Head of Highways, Fleet & Traffic Operations at the Borough Council as we cannot work with this person. RP proposed a more conciliatory approach in order to achieve positive engagement with the Borough Highways department and Parish Councillors were in agreement with RP.
- Borough Highways will discuss with Borough Tree Officer to find out what he is planning in regard to the fallen and dead trees in the Parish, particularly those posing a safety risk to highway users.
- TB advised stickers have been put on trees to be felled over 12 months ago and these have now been grown over. Also major risk of sudden drop in oak trees due to hot weather this year.
- Defib update – WI has contributed £460. Further approx. £580 raised from charity collections at The Cock public house. TB said anonymous donor said he would make up any shortfall.
- London Hearts Charitable Group will supply External Scheme - Mindray C1A Fully Automatic Defibrillator & External Heated Locked Cabinet for £966 incl P+P which represents a saving of approx. £725. The new defib will be position on the outside wall of The Cock public house and the landlord will provide electrical contractors to carry out installation. RP has written draft agreement to cover arrangements with The Cock PH with agreement to pay £15/yr to cover consumption (currently estimated between £4 – £10 per year). In the event of surplus funds, these will be ring fenced for defib maintenance.

- NALC in partnership with Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) launched new survey to help parishes enhance flood resilience. RP completed and submitted survey requesting information and support to better plan for flooding. Results will directly shape development of practical resources tailored to local needs. ACRE keen to ensure parish council voice is heard so they can provide support that addresses real on-the-ground challenges in delivering meaningful action that improves community resilience.
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund or the Rural England Prosperity Fund in 2024/2025 original deadline was 30 June but no or very few applications. Borough looking into the possibility of a second round of grants.
- Confirmation of Insurance renewal on 7/7/25 with Clear Councils including public and employers liability.
- AGAR – external audit wants further breakdown and details on the year-on-year variances.

8. Borough Council Report

- i. DMM sent apologies at 18.45hrs on 4th September 2025 a follows: “Apologies Rosemary for tonight. I had hoped to send a note earlier but regret the big issue at Borough still isn't published. As soon as it is I will forward my views on the future, but isn't looking good I regret. The only things I have in progress are the BPHA properties and carpark and also the Holiday Park- both I am waiting on updates.
- ii. JA advised Bedford Borough Council is in financial difficulties and awaiting report with further details. £14.2m overspend and £9.1m in general fund. Commissioners may be appointed to run Borough and more major cuts should be expected. Forecast implies Borough will be in dire straits next year and central government needs to fund local government properly.

9. Planning Matters

The following were discussed:

a) Recent planning applications

- i. The Cottage High Street Pavenham - Replacement of side window and addition of rooflight with solar panels to rear of roof. Status – Awaiting Decision
- ii. 5 Weavers Lane Pavenham - T1 Sycamore - Reduce dying crown heavily, to below historic pollard points, and shorten remaining lateral limbs to balance. Decided – Permitted. Decided – Permitted. No TPO served.
- iii. 4 Derwent Cottages High Street Pavenham - T1. Dead conifer- Remove

b) Recent Planning Decisions

- 1 River Row Mill Lane Pavenham - T1 Sycamore - Crown reduce by 3/3.5 Metres. Permitted. No TPO served.

c) Felmersham & Radwell Action Group – Update

- I. Pavenham and Felmersham Parish Council's submitted comments in response to the appeal to the enforcement notice. Awaiting update.
- II. The main planning application is ongoing. Response deadline extended to 29th August.
- III. We don't expect any further updates until end of September/early October.
- IV. Concerns about accumulation of rubbish along the road since the arrival of travellers and accumulation of vehicles being broken down for spares in the area of the encampment.

10. Police Matters

a) Crime report

- i. No activity of note to report.
- ii. PC Vito Napoli has requested Parish Council meeting dates with a view to police attending in future.
- iii. Bedfordshire Police will be getting two Live Facial Recognition Vans. RP circulated email inviting Parish Councillors to Presentation Evening but no responses received.

11. Highways & Footpaths Maintenance

a) Update - Cllr. Darlow

- I. Still waiting for highways walk around the village.
- II. Several pavements and highways in need of repair.
- III. SD continues to report potholes and is encouraging all residents to either report them online or message SD.

b) Update - Cllr. O'Neill

- I. Dry weather has seen footpaths less slippery and more accessible.
- II. Footpaths by river are accessible and Bunyan way is now passable to Stevington.
- III. Footpaths to the north of the village towards Carlton and Harrold are clear and accessible.
- IV. Several trees across the path in the small spinney at the foot of Tandy's fields.
- V. Signs and maps for all paths appear to be in place and in good order.
- VI. Thanks given to landowners who allow access across their land and maintain the paths. Parish Council is aware how

lucky the parish is to have such a network of well-maintained paths to use.

- VII. Pathway along Old School opposite phone box has been cut back.
- VIII. Number of dog owners allowing dogs to foul and not clear up along footpath in field behind the pub.

12. Traffic Management

- a) Update from Cllr. Smith
 - I. See attached report.
 - II. Concern about level of speeding with 1 in 6 cars speeding through village.
 - III. DS to follow up with police officer as he has data identifying peak offence times.

13. Environment

- a) Spinney and trees update - Cllr. Furr

See above.
- b) SSSI Update – Cllr. Darlow
 - I. We don't have an update on the SSSI yet. Update has been requested from Richard Fuller.

14. Neighbourhood Development Plan

- a) Update – Cllr. Darlow
 - I. NDP committee met in August and agreed plan to complete NDP aligned to Borough feedback.
 - II. Call for parish councillors to support with reviewing the village sections that doesn't include policies and therefore doesn't create conflict of interest.
 - III. NDP committee reduced to 3 people plus support from Stevington. This is going to slow progress if we don't get additional support.
 - IV. Aim to complete before end of 2025-26 financial year, but this is heavily reliant on getting support for the plan.
 - V. SD to get non-policy sections to Councillors by end of next week.

PROPOSAL: for Councillors to assist with reviewing non-policy sections.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Sara Darlow

SECONDED: Cllr. David Smith

VOTE: Unanimous

15. Community Matters

a) Spring bulbs – planting update

- I. Only need daffodils. Tulips not suitable as flower at different time to daffs and hamper grass cutting. Deer also eat tulips.
- II. SD to donate 200 daffodils to plant by end of October.
- III. RP collected mixed bulbs from Borough – all will be given to Clapham Parish Council in return for Clapham supplying Pavenham with daffodil bulbs.
- IV. Promote planting day 4th October 10am at Village Hall.

b) Good Neighbour Scheme update

- I. Good neighbours scheme continues to go from strength to strength. Decrease in requests over the summer and expect requests to pick up over the autumn.

c) Bus update

- I. No update on buses, the service seems to be working well. SD will monitor particularly during return to school period.
- II. JA to meet with Grant Palmer soon to review.

d) Defibrillator installation update

See Clerk's report.

16. EWR

a) Update

Nothing expected until end of the year.

17. Financial Update

a) Payment of Accounts for Approval

Accounts to be ratified were circulated to members prior to the meeting.

PROPOSA: To ratify NALC salary increase for Clerk from £14.60 to £15.06/hr and ratify accounts as circulated.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Sara Darlow

SECONDED: Cllr. Katie Sharp

b) AGAR – update

RP advised these are currently going through external audit

18. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

19. Date of next meeting

6th November – Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm in the Village Hall

PAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL



he meeting was closed by the Chair at 9.40pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	Chair
Dated	4 th September 2025