

Meeting:	Pavenham Parish Council 6 th November 2025 at 7.30pm
Council Members in attendance:	Cllr. Thomas Beazley (TB) Cllr. David Smith (DS) Cllr. Abbie Furr (AF) Cllr. Jon Abbott (JA) Cllr. Katie Sharpe (KS) Cllr. Sara Darlow (SD) – late arrival
Apologies Received	Cllr. Doug McMurdo Cllr. Caroline O'Neill (CON)
Borough Council Member:	Cllr. Doug McMurdo (DM)
Clerk to the Council:	Rosemary Plum (RP)
Public Attendance	1 x resident

MINUTES OF MEETING

Welcome and Introductions

- **Apologies for Absence**
- Apologies received from Ward Cllr. Mc Murdo at 18.25hrs this evening due to personal circumstances.

1. Declarations of Pecuniary & Non-pecuniary Interests

As annual declarations

2. Consideration of applications from Councillors for dispensation

- Cllr. Thomas Beazley for matters relating to NDP policy and planning application at 9 Souters
- Cllr. David Smith for matters relating to Village Hall

3. Open Forum (limited to 15 mins)

Nothing to report.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of 4th September 2025 were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

PROPOSED: Cllr. David Smith

SECONDED: Cllr. Abbie Furr

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

All items covered on this evenings' Agenda.

6. Clerk's Report (for information only)

- I. Defibrillator installation update – awaiting registration with central data base. RP/DS
- II. Bartlemas Farm Consultation on Woodland Management Plan.
The Parish Council is happy for the consultants to work with Bedford Borough as there are groups of TPO trees within the boundaries in the proposal. Similarly, the thinning of trees and replacement of diseased trees to promote health has been noted. Replacing trees with native trees is also a welcome addition.

7. Borough Council Report

- I. Apologies received from Cllr. McMurdo. Cllr. Jon Abbott gave an update in his absence.
- II. TB noted the disappointment of the Committee at DMM not being present to give his own report.
- III. TB asked RP to raise concern with the Borough about the non-attendance of our Ward Councillor for around 12 months. RP

8. Police Matters

a) Crime report

- I. Two reported incidents (possibly the same matter) both in Close Road on 27 September: 1) Possession of article with blade or point 2) Public fear alarm or distress
- II. The three-month period for the current Community Priorities ended on 31st October 2025. The office of the Police Commissioner, will be looking to carry these priorities over for the next three months to 31st January 2026. The priorities are:
 - A. Sharnbrook/Riseley/Wybosoton – Drug Related ASB
 - B. Clapham/ Wootton/Great Denham – Vehicle Related Crime and ASB
 - C. Wilstead/Shortstown/Willington) – Drugs and Drug Related Crime

9. Highways & Footpaths Maintenance

a) Borough Highways Report – RP

- I. Substation bottom of The Bury should have been finished last week. Exposed wires still visible – Borough Highways are looking into this. RP i. – xiii.
- II. Paling fence along the Spinney in Church Lane. Highways have been told it's been fixed but it obviously hasn't. Borough Highways are looking into this.

- III. We cannot see any evidence of the replacement of a broken man hole cover and drain in the Spinney. Also a broken pipe in the spinney. Borough Highways are looking into this.
- IV. Also a number of trees in The Spinney still marked with a yellow X. RP to speak with Borough Tree Officer.
- V. Gullies in Walnut Close will be cleared.
- VI. Walnut close surfaces are Borough Property and not adopted. They were advised 18 months ago and measured up but the surfaces have worsened considerably since then.
- VII. Letters to be sent to a number of residents with hedges encroaching on public footpath or highway.
- VIII. Team from Harrold Country Park should pick up the spinney fencing along the passage between The Bury and High Street. This needs replacing.
- IX. Water leak Long Row – AWA have been told again. They reported having repaired four times now but it's still clearly leaking.
- X. 56, The Bury – drain outside has collapsed with a possible danger of a sink hole. Situation has definitely worsened and RD is arranging to get cameras and further investigation.
- XI. Footpaths – general road patching scheduled for Jan/Feb 2026. The Bury was on the list 2 years ago but has since dropped off. RD going to follow up. Ask DMM to push for more action from the Borough.
- XII. Fallen trees – UK Power Networks came out last week. We are now waiting on their report back to the Tree Officer before felling/pruning takes place.
- XIII. Kerbs outside The Leys – need repair
- XIV. Thanks given to SD for attending the site meeting with the Borough Highways officer.

- b) Update – Cllr. O'Neill
CON sent apologies for this meeting.

10. Traffic Management

- a) Update from Cllr. Smith
 - I. Levels of speeding fairly consistent with exception at Close Road which continues to see very high levels of speeding.
 - II. DS will be moving the SID in future to a new roadside position.
 - III. DS provides feedback to Riseley Police who have asked for him to continue providing this information.

11. Environment

- a) Spinney and trees update - Cllr. Furr
 - I. Fallen tree reported by a resident.
 - I. RP to follow up with Borough about report on The Spinney. RP

- II. One of the main parkland trees in the middle of the golf course is dead and needs to be removed. Possibly TB responsibility.
- b) SSSI Update – Cllr. Darlow
 - I. Ward Cllr Simmons (Stevington) continuing to discuss options with Bedford Borough Council.
 - II. Planned meeting yesterday with Head of Borough Highways and Richard Fuller MP was ended abruptly by division bell.
 - III. Funding will be a major challenge going forward.
 - IV. Current discussion is around removing the SSSI to complete the work required with machinery, to reduce costs.
 - V. As conditions deteriorate, we hope the Borough will close it at a suitable time.

12. Neighbourhood Development Plan

- a) Update – Cllr. Darlow
 - I. Current NDP is out for review by councillors and committee.
 - II. Comments to be collated during November for the committee to complete overall review and agree next steps. SD

13. Community Matters

- a) Spring bulbs – planting update
 - I. Residents invited to join working party on Saturday 22nd November at 10am.
 - II. Thanks given to RP for arranging the bulb ‘exchange’ and collection of bulbs and to Clapham Parish Council for donating daffodils to Pavenham.
- b) Good Neighbour Scheme update
 - I. Scheme continues to support many villagers.
 - II. 10 Small Acts of Kindness bags, similar to last year, will be delivered to residents in the coming weeks.
- c) The Cock PH – Renewal of asset of community value
 - I. Original registration as a Community Asset has been renewed at least once since by the Parish Council. When last renewed, the pub was shut. Borough asset list not been renewed since 2021.
 - II. Concerns raised about the pub now being even more valuable asset for the community as an integral part of village life in all it does and supports.
 - III. Recognition as an asset is much stronger now but there’s no group forum to progress with any attempted purchase. Action needs to be taken before the owner potentially puts the property up for sale.

- IV. JA absolutely agreed the Public House is a vital asset to the village. He however advised that Bedford Borough will have a problem if the asset is registered and the funds aren't raised. The property owner could request reimbursement of loss of value from the Bedford Borough for delayed sale. TB – do we write to the owner and enquire whether the lease is up for renewal and ask him to keep in touch.
- V. DS agreed to look into the situation further and report back to the Parish Council. DS

d) Village Hall CIO Status – Update Cllr Smith

- I. Existing VH management committee is unincorporated and as such individual members are individually liable for any incidents.
- II. Increasingly difficult to find people in the village to serve as a trustee with this liability.
- III. The Committee wants to move to Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status.
- IV. Resident Ian McKenzie has been co-opted onto the management committee to look into providing a new draft constitution.
- V. New sub-committee has been formed to do the work with approval of the current management committee.
- VI. CIO status would involve transferring ownership of the Playing Field and Village Hall into the name of the CIO.
- VII. TB needs to arrange solicitor to look at the transfer deeds from Lord Luke of Pavenham to the Parish Council. TB to ask Palmers if they would support legal search on ownership. TB
- VIII. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) for parishioners to vote in favour of this transfer will be required.
- IX. Clarity is required around liability if anything goes wrong and the assets are no longer in the ownership of the CIO.
- X. RP to look into arranging collection of documents. RP

e) The Villager Bus – Invite to AGM

Apologies to be sent as nobody able to attend.

14. EWR

- a) Update
Nothing to report.

15. Planning Matters

a) Traveller Site – Update

- I. No decision yet but expected soon. Current target date is 7th November.

- II. An update will be provided as soon as application has been determined by the Borough. If it's rejected, we expect to see an appeal from the applicants.
 - III. In the event of an appeal, funding options need to be investigated.
- b) Close Road, Pavenham – Update
- I. Borough highways not aware of proposal.
 - II. RP awaiting comments back.
- c) Recent planning applications – see attached list
- I. TB expressed concern and disappointment at lack of comments from Parish Councillors to planning validations.
 - II. Car port – 9 Souters Bungalow – Parish Council has no jurisdiction over applications for tree work.
 - III. 1 or 1a The Bury was approved. It was noted the trees had no implication on the light as a north facing garden.
 - IV. Sycamores – Park Cottage & Wellingtonia – support tree officer.
 - V. The Oaks, High Street – application came in to demolish existing chalet bungalow and applicant wanted to build cinema room in cellar. Development is now partly built at rear of property. Property was sold and current people finished house and have separate residents living in the garage. This creates a precedent for backyard development in gardens if it goes ahead.
 - VI. 9 The Bury – sensitive site that has caused several reservations and there must be more close monitoring of the works. Car port could be built without damage to trees but it will result in a roof over the trees, limiting rainfall onto them. Support with reservation.
 - VII. Create new process for reviewing planning applications. SD to download all documents to a drop box and circulate to members for comment.
- d) Recent Planning Decisions – see attached list
- I. TB noted Pavenham Court refused relocation of west window and the Parish Council was not sent a copy of the application by the Borough Planning office.

16. Financial Update

- a) Payment of Accounts for Approval
Accounts to be ratified were circulated to members prior to the meeting.
PROPOSED: Cllr. Sara Darlow
SECONDED: Cllr. David Smith

- b) Villager Bus – application for S137 donation
PROPOSAL: £100
PROPOSED: Cllr. Jon Abbott
SECONDED: Cllr. Katie Sharpe

- c) Village Hall – S137 donation for equipment
PROPOSAL: £2,384
PROPOSED: Cllr. Jon Abbott
SECONDED: Cllr. Katie Sharp

17. Correspondence

- Resident - regarding emails, publication of Councillor information and trees in Conservation Areas
- Resident – regarding fallen footpath sign

18. Date of next meeting

- 8th January 2026 in the Village Hall

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 21.55 hrs.

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
Dated	8 th January 2026

Chair