

Meeting:	Pavenham Parish Council 5 th March 2025 at 7.30pm
Council Members in attendance:	Cllr. David Smith (DS) Cllr. Sara Darlow (SD) Cllr. Jon Abbott (JA) Cllr. Katie Sharpe (KS) – late arrival Cllr. Doug McMurdo (DM) – late arrival
Apologies Received	Cllr. Thomas Beazley (TB) Cllr. Caroline O'Neill (CON) Cllr. Abbie Furr (AF)
Borough Council Member:	
Clerk to the Council:	Rosemary Plum (RP)
Public Attendance	3 Residents

MINUTES OF MEETING

Welcome and Introductions

3 residents in attendance

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from:

- Cllr. Thomas Beazley (TB)
- Cllr. Caroline O'Neill (CON)
- Cllr. Abbie Furr (AF)

2. Declarations of Pecuniary & Non-pecuniary Interests

Cllr. David Smith – Chair of Village Hall Committee

3. Consideration of applications from Councillors for dispensation

As annual declarations.

4. Open Forum (limited to 15 mins)

- I. Residents expressed concerns for pedestrian safety due to condition of roads and paths in The Bury. RP to remind Highways.
- II. Defib cabinet at Village Hall is rusting and condition is of concern. Consider replacing cabinet only – add to next agenda.
- III. Speed cameras in Oakley, Pavenham Road now operational again.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting 5th March 2026 were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Jon Abbottt

SECONDED: Cllr. David Smith

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

Nothing to report.

7. Clerk's Report (for information only)

All matters covered on Agenda for this meeting.

8. Borough Council Report

- I. Mayor has invited 5 members to join an executive committee regarding finances.
- II. Borough accounts currently under inspection. Other Councils throughout the country are in a similar situation and it's not just Bedford going through inspection. At the end of Nov 2025, the Borough recorded a £14m overspend on a budget of £177m. Pressure points are Adult services and Children's Services whose budget are extremely difficult to predict year on year.
- III. Borough has applied for exceptional financial support (total of 34 councils nationally last year and 74 this year are in the same position).
- IV. Borough Budget 2026-27 has now been approved.
- V. There will be a 5% uplift in Borough Council Tax.
- VI. 2040 Borough Local Plan has been cancelled and no further action taken since September 2025.
- VII. Pavenham Parish Council will continue with its NDP and majority of residents have come back with updates. SD consolidating responses, followed by a redraft and the updated draft plan will be sent back to Borough for review. Parish Council will need to allocate funds for a planning inspector review prior to a Parish referendum on the final draft. Pavenham Parish Council agreed it would definitely be a wrong choice not to proceed with the local NDP.

9. Police Matters

a) Crime report

Nothing to report.

10. Highways & Footpaths Maintenance

a) Average Speed Cameras

- I. The Borough has confirmed it will, after all, fund recalibration for a 2026-27.

- II. Parish Council would like to find out what proportion of data collected leads to prosecution. It appears to be around 10%. RP to investigate how we obtain regular monthly reports of this data including how many incidences were reviewed and how many resulted in prosecution.

b) Update - Cllr. O'Neill

- I. After second wettest winter on record, footpaths are finally drying out and less slippery and are all accessible.
- II. Less rubbish along paths due to decreased footfall.
- III. Thanks put on record to landowners for maintaining our excellent network of footpaths around the village
- IV. Overall, still a lot of mud and debris and the Parish Council will consider organizing a working group when weather improves.

11. Traffic Management

a) Update from Cllr. Smith

- I. Seems the reduction in incidences of speeding passing the Village Hall has been maintained at around 10-12 vehicles per day exceeding 46mph.
- II. Issues with batteries and charging has resulted in lost data.
- III. Vehicle numbers differ between our speed devices as there's no simple way of correlating data, although its more reliable at higher speeds.

12. Environment

a) Spinney and trees update - Cllr. Furr

- I. Nothing to report on trees.

b) SSSI Update – Cllr. Darlow

- I. No further news. Footpath will continue to be closed during bad weather as Borough will never be in a situation to fund works to improve situation.

13. Neighbourhood Development Plan

a) Update – Cllr. Darlow

- I. 75% response received for updates when compared to previous update.
- II. Draft NDP incorporating residents viewed will be circulated to Borough for interim review.
- III. Cost for consultant review and completion of final NDP will be an Agenda Item for May Parish Council meeting.
- IV. On completion of review, the draft NDP will be submitted to Borough Council for independent examination, after

V. NDP Committee is currently made up of Cllr. Sara Darlow and two local residents.

a) Good Neighbour Scheme update

- b) The Cock PH – Renewal of asset of community value

- c) Village Hall CIO Status – Update Cllr Smith

- a) Update
Nothing to report.

[illegible]



- b) Recent planning applications – see attached list
Report circulated prior to meeting.
- c) Recent Planning Decisions
Report circulated prior to meeting.

17. Financial Update

- a) Payment of Accounts for Approval
Accounts to be ratified were circulated to members prior to the meeting.
PROPOSED: Cllr. Jon Abbott
SECONDED: Cllr. David Smith
- b) PROPOSAL: Ratify purchase of Scribe software for Parish Council accounts.
PROPOSED: Cllr. Jon Abbott
SECONDED: Cllr. David Smith

18. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

19. Date of next meeting

- a) Confirm 2025-26 Calendar
The 2026-27 Parish Council calendar of meetings is set as follows:
 - 7th May 2026 APM & Parish Council Meeting
 - 2nd July 2026
 - 3rd September 2026
 - 5th November 2026
 - 7th January 2027
 - 4th March 2027

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 20.37 hrs.

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
Dated	5 th March 2026

Chair