

PAVENHAM PARISH COUNCIL



Meeting:	Pavenham Parish Council AGM 7 th May 2026 at 8.10pm
Council Members in attendance:	Cllr. Thomas Beazley, Chair (TB) Cllr. David Smith (DS) Cllr. Caroline O'Neill (CON) Cllr. Katie Sharpe (KS) – late arrival 8.01pm
Apologies received:	Cllr. Jon Abbott (JA) Cllr. Abbie Furr Cllr. Sara Darlow, Vice Chair (SD) Cllr. Doug McMurdo (DMM)
Non-attendance:	None
Borough Council Members Present:	None
Clerk to the Council:	Rosemary Plum (RP) Lindsey Walton (LW) present as an observer
Public Attendance:	2 residents

MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions

1. Election of Officers for 2026/27

a) Chair of the Council

TB called for SD to be nominated for Chair. No other nominations were forthcoming.

PROPOSAL: Cllr. Sara Darlow to be elected Chair of Parish Council

PROPOSED: Cllr. Thomas Beazley

SECONDED: Cllr. David Smith

VOTE; Unanimous agreement

TB formally confirmed he is willing to continue as a Parish Councillor.

b) Vice Chair of the Council

PROPOSAL: Cllr. Thomas Beazley to be elected Chair of Parish Council

PROPOSED Cllr. David Smith

SECONDED: Cllr. Caroline O'Neill

VOTE: Unanimous agreement

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from:

- Cllr. Jon Abbott (JA)
- Cllr. Abbie Furr
- Cllr. Sara Darlow, Vice Chair (SD)
- Cllr. Doug McMurdo (DMM)

3. Declarations of Pecuniary & Non-pecuniary Interests

The following declarations were received:

- TB for matters concerning Planning and Travellers applications

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.

Applications were received from:

- TB - Dispensation for NDP comments and Travellers Site

5. Open Forum (limited to 15 mins)

- Lower end of The Bury –damage from vehicle reversing into the fence. Photos available from SD. RP to follow up with Borough RP
- Tree report – concerns about the number of dead trees along straight including Birch and other. RP to request visit by Borough Tree Officer. RP
- Chestnut paling either side of bridge near boundary with Oakley in very poor condition. RP

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

PROPOSED: Cllr. David Smith

SECONDED: Cllr. Caroline O'Neill

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

Nothing report.

8. Clerk's Report (for information only)

- Reports of dog waste left in memorial bin (email April). RP write to Borough – why isn't bin being emptied by Borough – for schedule of bin collections for Parish. If it's not being emptied, it should be removed.
- Bulky waste 20th June at entrance to The Bury

9. Borough Council Report

Ward Councillor not in attendance.

10. Police Matters

a) Crime report

- I. Nothing to report.
- II. TB concerned at speed of 'blues and twos' going through Pavenham especially past gateways along the High Street. What's the police H&S Strategy? RP to invite local police representation to next meeting.

11. Election of Representatives

a) Appointments to working groups

The following appointments as portfolio holders were confirmed:

- Footpaths – Cllr. Caroline O'Neill
- Highways & Pavements – Cllr. David Smith
- Spinney & Tree Warden – Cllr. Abbie Furr
- Traffic Management – Cllr. David Smith
- NDP – Cllr Sara Darlow
- EWR – Cllr. Thomas Beazley

12. Review of Governance Documents

a) Standing Orders

- Available on the Parish website.

b) Parish Council Policies

- Available on the Parish website.

c) Financial Regulations

- Available on the Parish website.

13. Highways & Traffic Maintenance

- I. Issues with batteries. DS proposes to simplify regular reporting to provide average speed camera data in a reliable way.
- II. Parish Council to consider submitting a FOI to Legal Department of Borough Council asking them to provide: RP
 - a. last 12 months speeding convictions
 - b. statement of quantity of data processed to produce speeding results.

14. Environment

a) SSSI Update

- I. Cllr. Darlow not present at the meeting.
- II. Stevington PC is chasing update from Borough. It seems highly unlikely Borough will have funding for anything in the future.
- III. Concerns about trees likely to fall in public areas.

15. Planning Update

a) Planning Applications & decisions

As reported on Borough Council website.

b) Gypsy & Traveller site, Land East Side of Pavenham Road, Felmersham

- A big thank you to the approx.15 residents who attended — their support was very much appreciated and helped demonstrate the strength of local feeling.
- The Planning Inspector opened proceedings by setting out the approach for the week, including discussing the points of common ground and encouraging the three barristers to work through these where possible.
- Opening statements were then presented by all three parties. Ed Grant, representing the Parish Councils, delivered a strong and robust opening statement, which was well received by those in attendance.
- Doug McMurdo also spoke, raising concerns about why some local residents may feel unable to speak publicly, and highlighting key issues including flooding and foul drainage, asking that these are carefully considered during the Inspector's site visit.
- The morning session concluded before lunch, with the site visit taking place during the afternoon.
- Day 2 of the inquiry focused entirely on landscape evidence.
- The morning session heard evidence from Bedford Borough Council's landscape witness. His evidence was delivered clearly and confidently, drawing on experience from more than 40 planning inquiries. Challenges from the appellants were dealt with effectively.
- Following lunch, the inquiry heard evidence from a representative of the Rule 6 Party. Drawing on over 20 years of experience, she challenged the appellants' assessment of landscape and character impact, including questioning whether some impacts had been undervalued when compared against the appellants' own assessment tables.
- The final evidence of the day came from the appellants' landscape witness. His evidence was challenged in detail by Bedford Borough Council's barrister and the Rule 6 barrister, particularly around his assessment methodology, characterisation of impacts and how conclusions had been reached. A number of points were conceded during questioning, including the mis-characterisation of certain impacts.

- The Planning Inspector also agreed to make allowances for any resident who wishes to speak in a closed forum if required. This would involve only the Inspector and the three barristers being present.
- One resident chose to make use of this arrangement. Others are considering this option.
- Following the hearing, a site visit took place and was attended by the key planning and evidence witnesses. A number of points were identified during the visit, including:
 - A dead badger cub on site (identified by the Inspector)
 - Several soil pipes located near to, or appearing to discharge towards, the watercourse
 - Trees missing from the appellants' ecological report were identified by our ecologist
 - At least six generators were present on site, although none were running during the visit
- Day 3 of the inquiry began with the Council's team highlighting that a number of residents had come forward to speak, following the success of yesterday's closed forum.
- The Inspector asked to speak to the appellants KC, with Bedford Borough Council's and Rule of 6 legal team present. The appellants personal circumstance evidence had been requested to be made in entirety in closed session, and the Inspector was hesitant to grant given the level of public interest and that personal circumstance was the crux of the case.
- The inspector granted a closed session for some of the personal circumstances, followed by an open discussion on personal circumstances. Following these conversations, Ecologist Nick Sibbet explained clearly why he believed that the PEA the appellant submitted was inadequate and took the inquiry through the evidence he had gathered including: habitat disruption, heritage trees, bats, badgers and Great Crested Newts amongst other things.
- Evidence continues.

16. Neighbourhood Development Plan

a) Update

- I. SD continues to complete updates to the NDP.
- II. Latest draft has been shared with Parish Councillors and SD is awaiting feedback.
- III. Further support will be required from consultants for missing areas of the report still to be drafted.

17. Village Hall

a) CIO Status update

See annual report attached.

18. Community Matters

- a) Good Neighbour Scheme update
 - I. GNS continues to successfully support several residents.
 - II. Group has benefitted from fundraising at the pub, which is very much appreciated and will allow the group to continue for the next year or so at least.

19. EWR

- a) Update

Nothing to report.

20. Financial Update

- a) Ratify AGAR 2024-25

RP presented figures to the Committee.
PROPOSED: Cllr. Thomas Beazley
SECONDED: Cllr. David Smith
- b) Payment of Accounts for Approval

PROPOSAL: To transfer £100 per month into deposit a/c as a call maintenance account to start building funds.
VOTE: Unanimously agreed.
- c) Review of Direct Debits

RP advised of a new DD to Starboard Ltd commencing 1st April 2026 for monthly subscription of Scribe accounts software.

21. Correspondence

- I. Resident has written to advise of recent discussion with the Borough Council regarding an underground pipe identified whilst excavating foundations for a replacement boundary wall to Hill Farm House and ensuing damage to the pipe relating to an underground culvert. Residente advised this damage was not caused by the workmen digging the foundations and has highlighted:
 - the pipe was repaired to the councils' satisfaction following a member of their staff inspecting the repair.
 - Research identified the pipe unearthed when digging the foundations was not in fact the culvert. This runs under the lane and parallel with the footings. The residents have not, therefore, disturbed the culvert.
- II. TB noted - the question is when was the stone wall around Hill Side built, as there was originally an open ditch there. The pipe under the wall seems to predate the wall. As long as this has been repaired in a satisfactory manner, that's all the Parish Council can ask and it is appreciative of the fact they are repairing a stone wall that is part and parcel of the village.

22. Date of 2024-25 Meetings

- 1st Thursday of July, September, November 2026, January and March 2027.

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 9.15pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
Dated	2 nd July 2026

Chair