

Meeting:	Pavenham Parish Council 2 nd July 2026
Council Members in attendance:	Cllr. Thomas Beazley, Vice Chair (TB) Cllr. David Smith (DS) Cllr. Caroline O'Neill (CON) – late arrival 19:37 Cllr. Katie Sharpe (KS) Cllr. Jon Abbott (JA) Cllr. Abbie Furr
Apologies received:	Cllr. Sara Darlow, Chair (SD) Cllr. Jon Abbott, JA Cllr. Doug McMurdo (DMM)
Non-attendance:	None
Borough Council Members Present:	
Clerk to the Council:	Rosemary Plum (RP) Lindsey Walton (LW)
Public Attendance:	3 x residents

MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from:

- Cllr. Sara Darlow.
- Cllr. Jon Abbott

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Thomas Beazley, Vice Chair of the Parish Council.

RP to email DMM to wish him well and say his presence was missed.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary & Non-pecuniary Interests

As annual register.

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.

As annual register.

4. Open Forum (limited to 15 mins)

The Cock Public House – update

- DS made further enquiries into the status of The Cock Public House which is currently on the property market. The current

TB/DS

landlord not involved in any process.

- II. DS to try and contact the owner directly. TB /KS to find email address. DS
- III. It was noted the Parish Council is thrilled with current incumbent and their efforts have rekindled village life. The Parish Council are keen to help support any new incumbent.

Bench in bus stop at bottom of Weavers Lane.

- I. This is broken. Local resident, Bob Green has offered to carry out repairs and Councillors confirmed he should claim expenses.

Footpath Sign at entrance to Bartlemas Farm Yard

- I. DS has reported to Borough Council who confirm it's listed for action. DS

The Bury - Footpaths and subsidence

- I. Renewed concerns raised by residents. Borough to be asked yet again about planned repairs. RP/SD

Dead trees in the Parish

- I. Resident has raised concern about dead trees now lying in the road. RP has reported to Borough tree officer. RP

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of 7th May were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Katie Sharpe

SECONDED: Cllr. Abbie Furr

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Electors on 7th May were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Caroline O'Neill

SECONDED: Cllr. Katie Sharpe

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

All covered on the Agenda for this meeting.

7. Clerk's Report (for information only)

- Condition of the phone box is causing concern as 'falling to bits' and at the point of being considered a safety issue. - TB to provide contacts for Borough/BT. TB/RP
- Brookfields Paddock - it is in a very poor state and needs mowing to cut down the hundreds of sprouting trees that cover half the field. It appears that the ponies and donkeys have departed. Also there is a risk to anybody passing by from the tree which has half lost a large limb which needs to be taken down properly. People

have asked the owner in the past to address such issues and action is really needed now. Private land – entitled to do what he wants with it. TB to speak to the owner in the first instance and ensure the tree isn't overhanging public land. TB

- Chris Horne will be on holiday from 25 June, returning to work 6 July.
- Bedford Borough Community Safety Partnership has just launched a new public consultation – closes 20 July.
- Parish Insurance Policy has been renewed 7/7/26.
- Report to police by SD about unsafe parking on the High Street opposite Church Lane. We understand that the property owner and the builders have previously been spoken to regarding this issue by residents and have been asked to park more responsibly, away from the junction, to improve visibility and allow larger vehicles to manoeuvre safely. Regrettably, these requests have been disregarded, and the unsafe parking continues.
- Resident has repaired kerb by the War Memorial which was damaged by a lorry which had experienced great difficulty in turning onto the High Street owing to the hazard posed by the parked cars and vans outside Upper Leys. Resident has spoken to the home owner to try and encourage more considerate parking.
- Reece Forder – new Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for Bedfordshire Police, based out of Riseley, working within the North Rural area. Should residents require assistance, have any concerns, or simply wish to get in touch for any reason, they are encouraged to contact Reece via email.
- The General Purposes Committee at Bedford Borough Council met last month and one of the agenda items was to consider the scale of fees as proposed by the Returning Officer for the forthcoming Contested and Uncontested Elections in May 2027. The costs are draft and only show a marginal increase in previous years. Full information will be provided to all Parish and Town Councils during Autumn 2026 via a Parish and Town Council Network. Following the meeting, the Chair of the Committee advised that the report regarding the Costs of Parish Council Elections had been deferred to a later meeting to allow further analysis. It was noted that the report would be provided in advance of the commencement of next year's parish precept setting and budget planning processes.
- Volunteers from Harold Country Park have done a good job hedge cutting in the village.
- Still waiting on date from Highways for an inspection of all the issues we have reported in recent months.

8. Borough Council Report

Not available.

9. Planning Matters

a) Felmersham Travellers Site- Update

- I. The planning appeal has been dismissed by the inspector. As a result the enforcement notice is now in full affect, and the travellers have to vacate the site by the 10th September and put it back based on the original condition of the land when they illegally entered, by the 10th October. This is now the responsibility of Bedford Borough Council to enforce.

a) Recent planning applications & decision – Update

Nothing of note to report.

10. Police Matters

a) Crime report

11. Highways & Footpaths Maintenance

a) Update - Cllr. Darlow

- I. Significant number of outstanding issues and we're waiting for a date for walk around inspection with Borough Highways.
- II. Residents to be encouraged to raise issues either by:
 - a) Email clerked@pavenham-pc.gov.uk or
 - b) Posting on the Facebook sites or
 - c) Attend Parish Meetings to raise awareness of issues
- III. TB received complaint about contractor parking for thatching at Angle Stones.

b) Update - Cllr. O'Neill

- I. All paths in reasonable condition due to the dry weather with the exception of the path next to Derwent cottages (FP5) which overgrown RP to look into responsibility for maintenance and let CON know. RP
- II. Call for sign to be placed in the Marshes when there are cows grazing nearby. TB will put out a sign. TB
- III. TB looking into dead trees on the FP towards Chellington. TB

12. Traffic Management

a) Update from Cllr. Smith

- I. Report distributed. DS has asked Riseley Police Station to send officers to do spot speed checking as we have recorded up to 111mph High Street along the straight outside the Village Hall.
- II. RP written to Borough for updated speed data.

13. Environment

- a) Spinney and trees update - Cllr. Furr
Nothing to report.
- b) SSSI Update – Cllr. Darlow
No further updates.

14. Neighbourhood Development Plan

- a) Update – Cllr. Darlow
 - I. NDP draft is almost complete. A further update will be ready for the September meeting. SD
 - II. TB asked to put on record thanks and acknowledgement to SD for enormous amount of time and effort she has put into supporting the successful planning appeal against the Travellers Site in Felmersham, on the Pavenham boundary.
RP to Formally write to SD on behalf of the Parish Council recognising her commitment to this project. RP

15. Community Matters

- a) Good Neighbour Scheme update
 - I. Still going strong. After a quiet first quarter, things are picking up again.

16. EWR

- a) Update
Clapham Parish Council has submitted a comprehensive response to the Public Consultation.

17. Financial Update

- a) Payment of Accounts for approval
Accounts to be ratified were circulated to members prior to the meeting.
PROPOSED: Cllr. David Smith
SECONDED: Cllr. Caroline O'Neill

RP to Cancel Survey Monkey being paid by TB. Cancel auto renewal. RP
- b) AGAR for approval (2024-25) RP
The revised 2024-25 AGAR presented to the committee to be ratified approval. Deferred to September meeting.
- c) AGAR for approval (2025-26) RP
The draft 2025-26 AGAR presented to the committee to be ratified approval. Deferred to September meeting.

18. Correspondence

- i) Resident: a note to say how grateful we are for the splendid path-clearing alongside the spinney. It was a horrid rainy day but they did a great job. Commendations please! I am cutting back the brambles which are reappearing.
- ii) Resident: drawing attention to condition of Brookfield Paddock and the urgent need for maintenance. (See Clerks report above).
- iii) In 2019 I visited your open gardens event, which was fantastic. There was also a miniature steam railway in operation. Do you by any chance have contact details for the railway, or could you pass on my details to the owner?

19. Date of next meeting

- 3rd September 2026 – Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm

The meeting was closed by the Vice Chair at 20.55 hrs.

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
	<i>Vice Chair</i>
Dated	3 rd September 2026