

Meeting: Stevington Parish Council
13th July 2023 at 7.30pm

Council Cllr. Janet Day (JD), Chair
Members in Cllr. Richard Taylor (RT)
attendance: Cllr. John Strutt (JS)

Apologies Cllr. Mouritz Botha (MB)
received: Borough Cllr. Dylan Simmonds (DS)

Non-
attendance:
Borough Council Cllr. Robert Rigby (RR)
Member:

Clerk to the Rosemary Plum (RP)
Council:

Public Tricia Lennie Chair of FOSM
Attendance Steve Cole, Stevington Social Centre
Gary Thomas, Stevington Social Centre
5 Resident Observers

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Welcome

Welcome and Introductions

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

- Borough Cllr Dylan Simmons
- Cllr Mauritz Botha

3. Declarations of Interest

A declaration was received from:

Cllr John Strutt, as Trustee of Friends of St Mary's (FOSM)

4. Open Forum (15 mins)

a) Presentation - Stevington Social Centre – Presentation Gary Thomas & Steve Cole

- The speakers outlined the possibility and reason for a change of status to the Stevington Social Centre.

- The Chair and Clerk of Stevington Parish Council have had an initial meeting with representatives of Stevington Social Centre. Background document attached to these minutes.
- Current executive will be standing down in 2024 and trying to put everything in place prior to handover to a new management body.
- Looking to move to better management of the Charity from an unincorporated Charity to a Charity incorporated Association.
- They would like to explore the better protection offered for Trustees liability by this different status. They tried in 2015-16 to simplify the structure but were unsuccessful. They have now attended a presentation from a specialist Solicitor for Village Halls and are planning to explore further with a specialist Charity Law solicitor.
- Status of ownership and management hasn't been very clear to Trustees who tend to get on with it. They now think there's a benefit to the Parish Council if there are any councillors who are trustees.
- It may be a good move for all concerned to update the status of the Trustees of the Village Hall.
- JD agreed In terms of progression and RT felt that in the overview paper, no disbenefits indicated.
- Both Stevington Parish Council and the Social Centre will need to get independent legal advice that aligns with their Charitable Purpose and the correct structure in place for the future.
- JS confirmed Stevington Parish Council is happy to continue to pursue this matter with the aim of the Parish Council being able to dedicate a Parish Councillor to pursue the change alongside the Social Centre representatives.
- Wider consultation with the village was suggested, addition to village magazine and feedback from residents were all suggested when the time is right.
- This matter will be added to the Agenda as a standing item in

future.

b) Stevington Good Neighbours

- Scheme set up recently. They haven't got enough drivers but do have lots of volunteers. About 2/3 jobs per week have been requested.
- Volunteers have also proposed helping with maintenance jobs in the Parish e.g. Silver Street and Farley Way signs have been reported several times but the Borough has not responded.
- FOSM – better signage in the village for getting to The Hub would be a good idea. Are there Highways restrictions? Parish Council support was requested in this regard. RT advised highways positioned signs are covered by Dept of Transport standards and it's a long complex process so possibly not advisable to pursue. A notice such as an 'A-frame' would be easier and more convenient to acquire and install. RT
- Fiona Muir-Howie will raise a request for better signage to the Community Hub/shop.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

PROPOSED BY: Cllr Richard Taylor

SECONDED BY: Cllr John Strutt

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

- a) Daniel Norton confirmed he is happy to continue for the time being with the Barringer Trust. Once things are further progressed he will discuss the situation with the other trustees and let you know. JD
- b) Windmill – RP has contact and will get update from Borough contact. May require support from Borough Councillor to get open days back up and running for visitors. RP
- c) Create a Communications and Social Media policy – work in progress RP
- d) Stevington Parish Council agreed to be one of 3 partners in a large lottery funding application subject to AGAR and Charity Funding regulations permitting this – Work in progress. RP

- e) Storage of Flood Equipment – on Agenda later for ratification of expense.
- a) Hedges around the playing field - Agenda later.
- b) Date for Coffee with a Cop –MB will chase and liaise asap with community hub. MB
- c) Removal of old speed activation signs. JA will pass onto RR and DS for conversation with Borough Highways Department. Proposal to remove defunct speed sign by the old Chapel and replace with SID. The activation sign on the bend at Court Lane is worth keeping until it fails completely. RR/DS
- d) Litter pick – this will be deferred to the next meeting. .Good Neighbours may want to pick up on this. JD to email Chair and ask. JD
- e) Defibrillator training – combine with neighbouring Parish. Cost sharing agreed with 3 parishes. RP
- f) Working Group re agreement with social centre – on Agenda tonight.
- g) Silver Street commercial vehicle enforcement (possibly ANPR camera) – need to follow up with Borough Highways Dept. Due to have a review in August and we need to have a village review as well. RT/RP
- h) Risk Assessment for accessing Morelock speed indicator device – Defer to next meeting. RT/RR to discuss further about risk assessment. RT/RR
- i) Village entry gates – Money was allocated by Cllr Jon Abbott who will continue to chase and liaise with DS and RR for dragons teeth and gates. RR/DS/RP
- j) Playground checks – don't appear to be any specific requirements for weekly checks. Proposal to book RoSPA quarterly checks on same dates as Clapham and Oakley Parish Council to save on costs. Move to monthly local checks and notify insurers accordingly. RP

PROPOSAL: For JD to change playground checks to monthly instead of weekly.

PROPOSED: Cllr Janet Day

SECONDED: Cllr Richard Taylor
- k) Add notice on website to contact Parish Council if anyone notices attention is required to the play equipment. RP

- l) Notified Planning Dept of new Clerk although correspondence does not appear to be reaching us. RP to email details to RR who will submit further request personally. RP
- m) Monthly schedule of speedwatch meetings – work in progress (residents based Stevington Traffic Action Group lead on this) RT
- n) Enquiry from a resident asking whether the Parish Council could arrange painting of the fence between his property and the Village Hall. This is not the responsibility of the Parish Council. All
- o) Advise DS of topics of particular interest to Stevington and he will update the Mayor in preparation for his future attendance at a Parish Council meeting.
- p) Traffic, Environmental issues, managing rainfall re ditches. Deferred to future meeting.
- 6. **Clerk's Report** *(for information only)*
 - a) Bottle Bank is going to be moved. Bromham have identified an alternative site although no details revealed to date. Borough is working on getting it moved. Has a safety audit been done? We've seen two very close incidents recent weeks and the Risk has been flagged. DS
 - b) Red Lion bin – RP spoke with JA who had allocated funds for the bin to be re-sited and not replaced. Matter is now with Dylan to see if he can allocate Ward Funding for the purchase of a new bin following vandalism. DS
- 5. RP has identified the decision maker/budget holder for the Borough heritage asset portfolio and I will be dealing with him regarding the condition of the Windmill. RP
- c) Next Parish and Town Council Network meeting is 20th July 2023
- d) RP has asked for quotes for comparison against purchase of reconditioned mower. Current mower requires a major service. RP
- e) Ongoing correspondence with Borough Highways about correct/incorrect signage for 17-19 July road closures between Stevington and Bromham and also disruption anticipated from July-October resurfacing work on Paula Radcliffe Way in Clapham. RP
- f) Problem with Village Hall booking on 14th September for Parish Council meeting. Alternative is to book the Church Room.

RP

- g) AGAR to be submitted this week.... and online banking continues to be challenging. RP added to the signatories mandate 3 months ago without the bank advising her 'because of GDPR'.

RP

- h) Website has been updated with Agendas and minutes although there is still a lot of information to go on there.

- i) Clerks post is 30 hours per month.

7. Borough Council Report

a) By-election in Wyboston Ward, Bedford Borough

- Conservative candidate Julie Cox has been elected Borough Councillor for Wyboston ward following the by-election on 29 June 2023.
- The turnout was 34% with the votes split:
 - Conservative Candidate, Julie Cox – 610
 - Labour Candidate, Ian Robert James Nicholls – 34
 - Liberal Democrat, Thomas Luke Townsend – 323
- The total seats now held on Bedford Borough Council are:
 - Conservative Party – 14
 - Green Party – 3
 - Independents – 2
 - Labour Party – 14
 - Liberal Democrat – 13

b) Summer holiday voucher scheme

- Bedford Borough Council is continuing to distribute supermarket vouchers to thousands of families across the Borough over the summer holidays.
- The vouchers are funded through the Government's Household Support Grant which is distributed through the Department for Work and Pensions.
- Over 7000 children will benefit from the scheme.

c) East West Rail (EWR)

- The Council is currently reviewing the details of the proposals to better understand the implications for the people of Bedford Borough.
- For reference the current Mayor has previously stated the below which was included on the previous report: *"While we do support investment into our Borough, improved rail links and the EWR project in principle, we have always been clear that any decision involving the loss of homes and destruction of families, lives and countryside would be completely unacceptable. The selection of route E would involve a pointless six-line*

track despite EWR accepting the fact a four-track proposal was feasible and would avoid the destruction of homes. I want to leave no doubt that, unlike my predecessor, I will do everything in my power to ensure their concerns and views are heard."

- The Mayor said there was a sense of frustration and anger at the event as "residents felt ignored".

d) Bedford Borough Council left with £2.27m overspend

- It has been reported that the previous administrations balanced budget for 2022/23 has resulted in a £2.27m overspend.
- The large amount overspend has been largely attributed to the costs in temporary accommodation and optimistic assumptions in last year's budgeting process which have not come to light.

e) Local Plan 2040 hearings

- The hearing sessions of the Examination of the Bedford Local Plan will be held in two blocks and opened at 12 midday on Monday 12 June 2023.
- Block 1 hearings have concluded, the 2nd block will take place:
 - Week 3: Monday 11 September to Friday 15 September.
 - Week 4: Monday 18 September to Friday 22 September.

f) POP Bedford launches summer programme at Midland Road creative art space

- The new pop-up creative art space on Midland Road is opening this Wednesday (12 July) for a summer-long programme of creative workshops, artist workspace and exhibitions for the people of Bedford – most of which will be free.

g) Bedford Borough Council tackles fly-tipping

- The mini-recycling site on Old Ford End Road, Queen's Park has seen 20 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) being issued following an increase in illegal dumping of rubbish.
- These sites only take specific materials for recycling such as glass bottles and jars, clothes and shoes, with everything put in the bins provided. There was a trend of residents leaving bags of rubbish and bulky waste at the sites which has led to the FPNs being issued.

- To combat the issue, the Council has installed CCTV cameras at various mini-recycling sites across Bedford Borough.

h) Beds Urban Sketchers display art at The Higgins Bedford

- A new art display from the Beds Urban Sketchers group opens on 30 June 2023 at The Higgins Bedford and will run until the end of February 2024 and admission is free to all visitors.

i) Greyfriars police station redevelopment

- Planning permission has been secured for the redevelopment of Greyfriars police station by DLP Planning Ltd behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner of Bedfordshire.
- The redevelopment could see 105 new homes plus 'town centre uses' on the ground floor of the building.
- The redevelopment forms a key part of regenerating Bedford Town Centre through the Town Deal which will make significant investment to Bedford Borough.

j) **Paula Radcliffe Way**

- Multiple repairs are taking place along Paula Radcliffe Way with the first phase of the resurfacing confirmed to begin on Monday, 24th July.
- The southbound carriageway, leading towards Bedford, will be closed until early September.
- During these closures, traffic will be diverted through Clapham, allowing for the uninterrupted progress of the project.
- The lengths affected are:
 - Southbound closure from Clapham north slip road to The Great Ouse roundabout 24th July to 1st September 2023.
 - Southbound closure will be opened before the Northbound closure is commenced.
 - Northbound closure from The Great Ouse Roundabout to Oakley north slip road 21st August to 27th October 2023.

8. Co-Option of Councillors

a) Procedure

- Anyone interested in co-option onto the Parish Council will be invited to meet with Councillors to understand what is involved and attend a meeting prior to making their decision.
- RP to publicise vacancies and add JD phone number, offering opportunity to talk informally with any existing councillor.

RP

9. Planning Update

Details were circulated and are available on the Borough Council website.

10. Highways & Traffic Management Update

a) Update from Cllr Richard Taylor

See report attached.

b) Incident Log & Reporting Form

- Borough 12 month review ref 20mph and 7.5T limits due in a few weeks. Will need to be done by robust evidential data. Anecdotal evidence suggests many residents feel there has been a meaningful improvement.
- RP to remind Highways Depart this review in due.
- SID Morelock at Park Road – battery died overnight and will be changed by RT next week. Issues with working at height (3.5M), soft ground and live traffic passing close by with no pavement. Ask Borough if they could assist.

RP

RT

c) STAG Speedwatch – see report attached to these minutes.

- RT gave formal thanks to Geoff Lawday for his success in establishing STAG and the community speedwatch. Chair requested SPC send formal letter of thanks to GL/STAG. Action RP)

11. Environment

12.

a) Report from Cllr. John Strutt

- I. Work on the Environmental Manifesto continues.
 - We anticipate some very hot and humid weather at some time in the future. Want to establish a heat and drought resilience group
 - Consider establishing refuge buildings in the village and working in partnership with local authorities.
 - Parish Council should support this activity which will help to give more momentum. it's a community offering.

- We need people with specific skills and strengths in each issue i.e. flood or heat. May be a combined group – depends on people who respond. Perhaps have a Stevington Climate Group.
- The Flood group is an official group of the Parish Council whereas Stevington Environment Group is independent.
- Take forward to next meeting when there are more Councillors present to debate.
- JD confirmed Stevington Parish Council is not against principle of supporting the group.

II. Flood group

- Plan is almost complete and in place. Document updated with new risks. Direct surface water run-off into houses is an increasing risk. Next step is to test plan with Bedford Borough Council flood resilience group.
- Storage of flood response equipment: RP to go through buying process. Village Hall committee has agreed to storage at the back of the Village Hall with a hard surface. Shed will be delivered as flat pack and will need volunteers to erect.
- Flood group picked up blocked gulley report by resident on Facebook.

RP

b) Strategy for maintenance of playing field hedges

- I. JD will deal with this.
- II. Bulbs from the Borough Embankment spring planting have been collected by RP and put into storage with JS.

c) Update on cherry tree in play area

This will be dealt with under hedges.

13. Police Matters

- a) Crime Report & Update from Cllr Mouritz Botha
- b) MB sent apologies for this meeting.
- c) No crime was recorded for the period 1st – 31st May 2023.

14. Community Matters

a) Report from Cllr Janet Day

See report attached to these minutes.

I. Fencing around enclosed play area

- Quote received for £5,000 to replace and paint fencing as requested.
- Second quote received for £2,900 to remove horizontal parts of fences and replace posts where required and re-use horizontals.
- JD to ask Borough Councillors if there is any Ward Funding available to cover this costs.

JD

- ii. Cherry Tree in play area
 - We have been advised the cherry tree is rotten.
 - RP to get second opinion from JDT Arboriculture. RP
- b) Update on maintenance of Playing Field fence
 - RP to ask JDT to quote for management of hedges around the playing field. This hasn't been done for many years. RP
- c) Update on Mobile Post Office request
 - Not sure Parish Council should pursue this request.
 - Ask Good Neighbours scheme to support people needing help to access the Post Office.

PROPOSAL: The Parish Council does not support the request for a mobile post office in Stevington and the Good Neighbours Scheme should be approached to support residents who need help.

PROPOSED: Cllr Janet Day

VOTE: Unanimously agreed

15. Finance

a) Payment of Accounts

The following accounts as presented were approved and/or ratified:

ALREADY PAID on 4/7/23:

- J Smith-website £450
- Court Lane Landscapes – tree & hedge maintenance £796.99 April
- Court Lane Landscapes - tree & hedge maintenance £436.99 May
- Court Lane Landscapes £ tree & hedge maintenance 436.99 June
- Clerks Salary
- Community Heartbeat Trust – Defib batteries £357.00

TO BE PAID 14/7/23

- £200 G King – fuel for mower
- Clerk's Salary £638.40
- Clapham Parish Council – annual facility rental £360 1/4/23 – 31/3/24
- £23.99 approx for paint for phone box – Richard Blayney
- Storage of flood equipment – purchase of Shed max £650
- Arnold Baker Local Government Legislation Handbook 30% of £165 (£50)

PROPOSED: Cllr Janet Day

SECONDED: Cllr Richard Taylor

16. Correspondence

List has been distributed

17. Any other Business *(for information only)*

JD reminded all present that the Clerk should be copied into all Parish Council correspondence.

18. Date of Next Meeting

27th September 2023 in Stevington Village Hall

Schedule of 2023-24 Meetings

- 22nd November 2023 in Stevington Village Hall
- 24th January 2024 in the Church Room, Stevington
- 14th March 2024 in Stevington Village Hall

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 9.20 pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
Dated	<i>Chair</i>

**STEVENINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: HIGHWAYS - JULY 2023**

[Outstanding Actions - there are several previously recorded actions requiring priority progression in partnership with Borough Councillors and Highways. For clarity these are highlighted at the end of each relevant item].

1.1 7.5T Weight Limit (Silver Street): This is 2 months away from the 12 month Borough Council's formal review period, ending August 2023. SPC traffic incident log continues to provide a facility for residents to formally report individual instances including non-compliance. The positioning of associated 40mph/national speed limit signage towards the A428 has been identified and agreed by Borough Highways as needing repositioning away from a residential property entrance. **Action status: Ongoing.**

1.2 20mph Mandatory Speed Limit Scheme: This is also 2 months away from the 12 month Borough formal review period, ending August 2023. **Action status: Ongoing.**

1.3 Mobile Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs): The Morelock SID unit is now operational in Park Road (sharing pole with recent 'Pedestrians in Road/No Footway' warning signs). Battery life appears 5-6 weeks depending upon vehicle volumes. Note: the working height of installing/removing the SID from this pole - at 3.46m from ground level to top of pole - is considered unsafe for SPC volunteers at a live roadside. Borough requested to swap fixing positions of the triangle/plate signs with the SID to enable safer SID access (photo shows pre-SID deployment and with SID at top of 3.46m pole). Until the mounting fixing positions are swapped by the Borough, the SID will remain at the present Park Road location. **Action: Signage and SID position adjustments required by Borough, as stated during 11 May 2023 SPC meeting.**



1.4 Other Matters:

1.4.1 West End and Park Road – alteration of current speed limits: Borough Council confirmed at 8th Feb EPM the outward extension to the 30mph and 40mph mandatory speed limit extents/introduction at West End/Pavenham Road and Park Road. For the

former, there are signage position location paint markings on the carriageway. **Action: formal Borough confirmation required ref timescales.**

1.4.2 Village Entrance Roads – Entry Gates (& ‘Pedestrians in Road’ Signage), Dragons Teeth Road Markings: Borough confirmed at 8th Feb EPC this needs to align with end-of-year timings ref intended lowering/moving of the mandatory speed limits (see above). Allocated funding confirmed in place by former Borough councillor during 11 May 2023 SPC meeting. **Action: formal Borough confirmation required ref timescales.**

1.4.3 Bottle Bank, Stevington Country Walk, Park Road: This is considered by SPC to present a significant risk to road safety. A comprehensive safety-based report was provided to Borough councillors during May 2023 - no response yet received as at 23rd June 2023. **Action: Borough councillors requested to formally present the matter to Borough Highways and advise SPC of response.**

1.4.4 February 2023 Highways EPM - Silver Street/Cross Junction - Commercial Vehicle Damage Mitigation Measures: During the EPM a number of topics were discussed with the majority of actions covered elsewhere in this report. Also, however, the subject was raised by residents of Borough Highways assessing any opportunity for the protection of historic buildings at the Silver Street/Cross junction by means of pavement bollards - agreed for formal consideration by Borough. **Action: Borough councillors requested to formally present the matter to Borough Highways and advise SPC of response.**

1.4.5 Community Speedwatch: Stevington Traffic Action Group (STAG) has formally partnered with Bedfordshire Police and following mandatory vetting of individuals and formal training, regular roadside speedwatch camera sessions are taking place with data submitted to the Police. Latest session Friday 9th June 2023. STAG has also been invited to access/make use of speed data available via Bluetooth from the SID (para 1.3 refers) in support of evidence led speedwatch deployment and improved road safety. Action status: Ongoing.

*Report Ends
23 June 2023*

Cllr John Strutt Parish Council Environment Report for meeting on 13-07-2023

Environmental Manifesto Resolutions

Last year Stevington experienced the hottest two days ever experienced with a maximum air temperature of almost 40°C. Council should be aware that extremes of temperature and humidity are increasing. We are very likely to see this repeated or even exceeded over the next 4 or 5 years as we enter the next 'El Niño' period. If, as expected, this does occur, it is very likely that some of our older, very young or more vulnerable residents will suffer heat stress as few homes are designed to reduce temperature and humidity in the home. The Stevington Environment Group are very much aware of this growing risk and included a resolution in the 2022 Environmental manifesto to establish a Stevington heat and drought resilience group. SEG therefore request SPC to adopt resolution 2 of the manifesto.

Proposition: that SPC adopt resolution 2 of the 2022 Stevington Environmental Manifesto
Resolution 2 : To improve Stevington's resilience to climate change by establishing a 'Heat and

Drought Resilience Group' with the following aim.

The first priority should be to assess the potential of and create proposals for adapting key community buildings as heat refuges. This group will work in partnership with custodians of our key community buildings, e.g. Church, Church Room, Village Hall and Baptist Chapel, and other community groups as appropriate.

This group will operate in a manner similar to and in parallel with the currently active Stevington Flood Group and will also work with SEG to support feasibility assessments studies for community scale energy sources as required.

Stevington Flood Group

The Stevington Flood Plan has recently been updated to address direct flooding from surface water and flooding from burst water mains. The risk assessment section has also been updated to address these added risks and been corrected for accuracy and readability and will be reviewed on 27th July.

The next stage will then be to conduct a table top exercise with the Borough council's flood resilience group to test the Stevington Flood Plan and make any necessary amendments.

Storage of Flood response Equipment

The Flood group have arranged for the purchase of the **5' x 3' Asgard Securestore Metal Shed**.

Arrangements have been made with the Stevington Social Centre Committee to locate the shed in the secure area behind the village hall.

The shed will be delivered as a pack to the village hall site and will be constructed on site in the secure area by a flood group working party.

Blocked drains

A resident posted a message on Stevington Face book about three blocked, surface water run off drains at Mill Farm, 68 Park Road. Following a recent torrential downpour, there was some flooding described by the resident as “ serious flooding”. Flood group is now aware and have notified



1

Bedford Borough Council via the ‘blocked gully’ website. The notification has been acknowledged by the council. The flood group will now include these grilles on the inspection list.

Hedge Cutting

A resident emailed me about tree and hedge cutting near Pells Farm adjacent to Foxbrook in June. She had concerns about nesting birds in the trees and that his actions were against the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

I checked the act. The act does not legally protect a tree. The Act protects active nests of wild birds, and requires tree cutting to be delayed if it would result in damage to or destruction of a known active nest. This specific point was checked with Mr Pell who confirmed that the felling of the trees did not disturb any nesting birds.

In terms of SPC environmental policy, it is good practice to restrict hedge and tree cutting to times when nesting is not in progress. The deciduous trees and hedge are important from an environmental perspective and should not be removed unless the trees are dying or have a disease. However, there will always be arguments for cutting hedges for maintenance, appearance, light, visibility and general highway safety. These decisions have to be balanced against ecological/environmental arguments for not cutting.

Natural England provide guidance about hedge cutting in their publication, ‘Hedge cutting: answers to 18 common questions’ ISBN 978-1-84754-024-9, which can be used to support SPC policy and decisions on timing and extent of hedge trimming when these questions arise in future.

Tulip bulbs

A package of Tulip bulbs has been donated to the village by Bedford Borough Council. These were picked up by the clerk and transferred to SEG for planting and distribution. Discussions

STEVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



are in progress to identify a communal location for planting, that will enable them to be watered during dry periods. Any remaining bulbs will be offered to village residents for garden planting.

Councillors Report: Janet Day Meeting on 13th July 2023

Village Hall

Representatives will be at the hall during the open session to give information about the proposed change to the legal status of the trustees.

Playing Field

So far we have not had an annual report from ROSPA. I am not sure why. **I propose the Clerk checks with ROSPA.**

Fencing around the enclosed play area.

Some of the fencing around the play area is loose, mostly it is still sturdy enough but the edge at front (where the gate is) is crooked. It does need repair and so far we have had two estimates:

Dave Bishop
To strengthen the existing fencing with concreted-in new posts for support and straighten as much as possible £3,800 To repaint the existing fence with at least two coats of product £1,600

Contact of Mo
Advice: Not worthwhile to repair Replace 3 sides 73 metres at £58 plus VAT at £5000.

SamHelliwell Fencing	
Advice: around 20 posts are rotten If all were replaced fencing could be dismantled and horizontal parts of fence could be reused	Quote awaited for 2 different options.

Advice from Rosemary re funding

We should talk to our Borough Councillors to find out if they can support the project with Ward Funding

- ☐ We should look into grants should as lottery funding
- ☐ We should speak to BRCC for their advice - they are very good at sourcing grant funding too.

I propose we decide what if any estimate we can accept and request the Clerk to investigate funding.

FOR INFORMATION

Background information re the playground for information from my report to the Parish Council : March 2022. It cost £1245 to carry out the repairs advised. The multi play area was installed under the play builder grant programme in 2010. I met Andy Readman, the UK head for inspection and maintenance from HAG on 16th March 2022. Below are the key points from our meeting, which included considering points from last year's ROSPA report. · not all the equipment was installed by HAG

- *AR said the swing and slide in the enclosed area possibly predated the multi play area. (MPA) and was installed by Wicksteed park.*
- *advised that there is some strimming damage to the base of the posts on the swings. I will follow this up with the ground contractors.*
- *AR felt the MPA was in reasonable condition and as it is in a rural location has not worn so heavily as it would have done in an urban setting. He would expect there it could continue to be used safely as long as we ensure any maintenance work is completed*
- *the main problem is that when equipment made of wood is installed directly into the ground without a steel cover at the base it rots and wears more easily.*
- *The difference can be seen in the supports for the newer swings outside the enclosed area.*
- *I was reassured by our discussion that the MPA has a few more years of use if we continue to ensure we follow through on maintenance issues. It means we have time to plan for a replacement.*

HAG will send an estimate for

- *repairs to the swing bridge where the chain is loose.*
- *lowering the shop window frame*
- *checking the mobilus top and repairing if required.*

AR suggesting using yellow concrete paint on the tunnels. He checked the fittings on the bucket swing seat. There is no fraying on them.

*I think we should consider replacing all the kick boards at the perimeter of the bark infill as a number are loose and rotting. (**Completed February 2023**)*

Plans for managing the hedges around the playing field

I propose we agree who is going look into the costs and options for the hedges.

Bin at the bus stop outside the Red Lion

I propose we agree expenditure to replace the bin and request the Borough to replace it as a matter of urgency. Below is one option.

<https://uk.glasdon.com/litter-bins/outdoor-litter-bins/topsy-royale-tm-litter-bin>

Still outstanding: Update of Welcome packs

To be deferred until the casual vacancies are filled.

Janet Day
5th July 2023

STAG Report – Community Residents Group in partnership with Police have created a Speedwatch group.

STAG members continue to grow with three new members joining in the past month. As mentioned previously, I had a useful meeting with Dave Smith from Pavenham and we confirmed some mutual interest in campaigning for reduced traffic speeds on North Beds rural roads. We have agreed to share information and research papers, and generally liaise together.

The Stevington Speedwatch Group has conducted a number of sessions and the visual presence of members in yellow coats seems to have an immediate effect upon speed reduction. Whether this effect will be permanent remains to be seen, but awareness is definitely growing.

Reports of reps from different parts of the village suggest the following;
Silver Street. : Peak times 6.30-8.30, and 4.30-6.00pm sees the greatest number of noted incidents of speeding mainly at the top end of the residential area as one leaves the village.

Park Road: Similar report from reps as Silver Street, especially peak time traffic, and two or three persistent offenders later into the evening period. The SID seems to have made a slight improvement, but this is a perception rather than analytical evidence, but it is welcomed. We have a concern about the choice of approved location in Park Road and are currently talking to Beds Police about re-evaluation.

West End. Still evidence of speeding often late afternoons, especially traffic from the village end via Court Lane.

Court Lane, (Long straight)... Evidence of vehicles accelerating into long straight from village end, and maintaining speeds into corner at top end where road narrows.

Church Road. N/A

Membership of Speedwatch Volunteers is growing, but it is generally felt that more volunteers are needed to cover contingency due to holidays, family and village commitments, sickness, and work arrangements. We have set up “Dustbin campaigns” to raise awareness. We have 8 volunteers approved by Beds Police, and a second group of newbies (n=6) who have been approved but have to undertake roadside training before going live. We still need more volunteers.

Because Speedwatch is part of the Bedfordshire WATCH group (Speedwatch, StreetWatch , Dogwatch, Horsecatch) , we have become affiliated /registered into the Bedford and district neighbourhood Watch association, which is coordinated from Riseley police station. Consequently, we receive messages from the Police, Fire Service, Action Fraud and others. Although Stevington is a comparatively low-crime area, the fact is that rural crime has

significantly increased in the past three years. STAG and the Stevington Speedwatch Group were not set up to deal with these matters directly, as we are primarily a traffic action group but it might be more appropriate if members of the SPC were to liaise with us to ensure we make best use of these opportunities, and not lose them.

Geoff Lawday