

Meeting:	Stevington Parish Council Meeting 25 th September 2024 at 7.30pm
Council Members in attendance:	Cllr. Janet Day (JD), Chair Cllr. John Strutt (JS) Cllr. Gareth King (GK)
Apologies received:	Cllr. James Surtees (JSu) Cllr Robert Rigby
Non-attendance:	None
Borough Council Member:	Cllr Dylan Simmons
Clerk to the Council:	Rosemary Plum (RP)
Public Attendance	Paul O'Flynn, Resident Tom Perrett, Bedford Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Welcome

The meeting start at 7.35pm due to flood group meeting running late.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Cllr. James Surtees

3. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations were received:

Cllr. Janet Day – Planning matters 6, Park Road as a neighbour and as a member of the Barringer Trust committee.

4. Open Forum

- I. Paul O'Flynn made Councillors aware of his disappointment the Borough Council has still not repaired access to his driveway which is raised and causing damaging to his car. The road was marked out in May for repairs following the visit by a Borough Highways Officer but no attempt has been made to carry out the work. RP to provide details to DS and RR for follow up with Borough Highways Department.

- II. The same resident has reported the condition of the footpath between Burridges Close and the Red Lion PH which is treacherous due to large roots breaking through the surface, leaves and mud. DS has already raised this matter with the Borough and will follow up further.

5. Item 16 - Stevington Windmill (discussed at this point in the meeting)

a) Update – Tom Perrett – Manager Culture and Heritage Services, Borough

- I. Update from meeting 1st July. TP picked up responsibility for Windmill after the main restoration several years ago.
- II. Intention was to restore the Windmill to theoretical working condition and integrity. Sails and stocks we see today were removed for safety reasons and subsequently replaced following a grant from Bedford Borough Council.
- III. Limited number of contractors in the Country for this type of restoration work. Maintenance manual and operating instructions have been produced together with advice on safety considerations for access.
- IV. 5-year confirmed for annual service and maintenance visit from the specialist mill contractors, the first of which has now taken place.
- V. A local company has been secured to undertake quarterly turn of the windmill sails.
- VI. Condition report will be reviewed in June 2025 and notes from this month considered. This is costed under the Restoration and Renewal programme.
- VII. TP is picking up with Borough Estates about growth around the base of the round house and the need to get a channel cleared and dug around the base to allow sails to turn easily.
- VIII. The Windmill is hundreds of years old and condition of wood only allows sails to turn in the current direction. It's no longer suitable to try and operate it as originally intended.
- IX. Sails cannot be turned away from the wind and braking mechanism won't withstand stress given its' age if the sails pick up wind.
- X. Discussions underway for specialist contractors to demonstrate the sails turning under safe conditions at an Open Day.
- XI. Question about access into the structure. Damage from unauthorised access and in consideration of cost of restoration, it's no longer a good idea to have unsupervised access.
- XII. Discuss with Friends of Windmill group to arrange supervised access going forward.
- XIII. TP Would like to reinstate walking tours and expand the heritage walks beyond the town centre to take in Stevington Windmill.
- XIV. Aim to open in Spring and Autumn 2025 but need to ensure number of volunteers. TP to let us know cost.
- XV. TP happy to come to reconvened Friends of WM group and update them and move forward potentially as a partnership between Friends of WM and Bedford Borough Council.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

PROPOSED: Cllr. John Strutt

SECONDED: Cllr. Gareth King

7. Matters Arising from the minutes – *information only*

Nothing reported that isn't already covered on this Agenda.

8. Clerk's Report – *information only*

- Updated Insurance Policy to include change of name to Stevington Village Hall
- Bulb planting update around base of tree in Village Hall car park – Borough to supply mix called Bee Surprise Mix. Quite a colourful and fairly low growing. Needs to be planted at a high density of 300 bulbs per m2. More than one bulb type which comes up at different times of the year.
- Cost of £180 will be paid by DS & RR Ward funds.
- RO to update Village Hall committee and ask for their help in gathering volunteers for the bulb planting.
- Copy of RoSPA playground report sent to Will Stanbridge for his professional review and opinion.
- On JSu return from holiday, RP to arrange date for meeting at The Cross with Borough Highways Manager and Ward Cllrs.
- Not heard anything from NatWest so it would seem the account has been removed from previous Clerks' online access.
- Directory of Grant Funding has been received.
- Website had to be rebuilt in part due to new StackCache plug-in.

9. Borough Council Matters

a) Borough Councillors Report

See report attached to these minutes.

- I. Blocked drain on Park Road at Stack Corners – DS confirmed this is on Borough list for priority attendance.

10. Councillor Vacancies

a) Discuss strategy

PROPOSAL: To co-opt Jim Sinfield as a Parish Councillor with immediate effect.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Gareth King

SECONDED: Cllr. John Strutt

It was noted there are a further 2 casual vacancies on Stevington Parish Council with no interest from applicants so far.

11. Planning

a) Update

- RP has responded to Bedford Borough draft Statement of Community Involvement 2024
- b) Applicant at 6, Park Road offered to speak to Parish Council if any clarifications required. The Parish Council has already responded with no objection to the planning application with some additional comments.

12. Highways & Traffic Management Update

a) Update

- I. No further updates from Bedford Borough on the dragons teeth *"currently on order and will be delivered within the next 2-4 weeks"* advised on 24/7/24.
- II. Borough Traffic Operations are *"having difficulties locating the monies for the village gates. We are continuing to track this down and hope to have a response by the end of next week"* – again advised on 24/7/24.
- III. Borough Traffic Operations have advised of *"another difficulty in finding a suitable location for the gates due to the width of verge"*.
- IV. JSu to meet with Borough on-site to determine the most suitable location.

b) STAG — Update

- I. JD spoken to Geoff Lawday who advised group haven't been active for some time.
- II. GK to speak with local police and discuss further.

c) SID Signs

- I. Parish Council were considering additional device. Pole available but no sign. To be discussed further in future.

13. Environment & Footpaths

a) Update – Cllr Strutt

See report attached to these minutes.

- I. Environment – footpaths SEG will try and take over responsibility for some of the maintenance.
- II. Flooding – JS was away at time of recent requirements. Flood plan has been provided to Borough. Analysis relates to ditches and culverts. This time it was drains and sewers causing the flooding.
- III. Flood plan will be updated to account for blocked drains and AWA sewers.
- IV. JS to email DS outlining major causes of flooding to raise at Borough Envco

b) Dog bins – review requirements

- I. Consider additional bin at top of track to sailing club as many dog walkers.
- II. Consider additional bin at West End at top of the hill
- III. Consider additional bin Playing Field – discuss with VH committee
- IV. RP to contact VH and get prices

14. Police Matters

a) Update – Priority Settings Meeting 26/7

- I. RP to circulate report provided by Clapham Parish Council attendee.

b) Crime report

- II. RP to circulate report

15. Community Matters

a) Update - Cllr Day

See report attached to these minutes.

- I. JD formally confirmed as trustee of Barringer Trust. Work on ramp going well and also drains and repaving being done.
- II. Request to keep The Cross clear of signs has been well received

b) Anti-social dog situation

- I. Further noise monitoring equipment installed by Borough and data is being analysed. Attempted OOH visit to corroborate source of barking but unsuccessful. Determining action for ongoing steps and possible prosecution.
- II. Borough is very clear, if there is a concern, residents are encouraged to report independently.

16. Village Hall

a) Update – Cllr Surtees

See report attached to these minutes.

17. Playing Field

a) Update - Maintenance of play equipment

See comments under Clerks report.

18. Financial Matters

a) Financial Report

Accounts to be ratified were circulated to members prior to the meeting.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Janet Day

SECONDED: Cllr. John Strutt

It was noted there are still funds in the Anne Stileman bursary. RP to check balance remaining in accounts and promote in magazine/online

19. 2025/2026 Schedule

Meetings will continue to be held on 4th Wednesday of the month, every two months.

20. Correspondence

Correspondence includes following issues:

- I. The footpath between the Red Lion car park and Burridges Close is treacherous, not say downright dangerous.
- II. Concerns about the 60 mile speed limit sign being placed in between property entrances.
- III. The pot holes, which I reported nearly two years ago have worsened and because the camber and pot holes do not allow the water to drain freely into the ditch, the dirty water is just thrown up constantly against our property!
- IV. Now the 60 mile speed sign is visible a little way before you get to it, we have noticed that since the 20 mile speed limit in the village has been in place, frustrated drivers are now going faster outside our house on the only little stretch of straight road.
- V. Concerns about the dangers for anyone visiting Ashmi farm and the livery there, Duck End House when they leave the property, and anyone coming in the other direction.
- VI. Dog poop bags to keep the entrance (top of sailing club drive) tidy. Would it be possible for the PC to look at installing a dog waste bin in this area.

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

22. Date of Next Meeting

27th November 2024 in the VILLAGE HALL

2024-25 Meetings Calendar

- 27th November 2024 - PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (VILLAGE HALL)
- 22nd January 2025 - PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (VILLAGE HALL)
- 26th March 2024 - PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (VILLAGE HALL)

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 9.20pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
Dated	27 th November 2024

Chair