

Meeting:	Stevington Parish Council Meeting – CLOSED MEETING 22 nd January 2025 at 7.30pm
Council Members in attendance:	Cllr. Janet Day (JD), Chair Cllr. John Strutt (JS) Cllr. James Surtees (JSu) Cllr. Gareth King (GK) Cllr. Jim Sinfield (JSi)
Apologies received:	Cllr. Robert Rigby for late arrival
Non-attendance:	None
Borough Council Member:	Cllr. Dylan Simmons Cllr Robert Rigby (RR) – late arrival
Clerk to the Council:	Rosemary Plum (RP)
Public Attendance	None

REDACTED MINUTES

Welcome

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies as noted above.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interest

Cllr. Janet Day - Barringer Trust

Cllr. James Surtees – Village Hall and Item 7) on this Agenda

Cllr. John Strutt - FOSMs

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Changes to be made: Page 9, It 8 – JSi has taken over walkie talkies for Court Lane.

RP

The minutes were agreed subject to the above change being made, as a true reflection of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

PROPOSED: Cllr. John Strutt

SECONDED: Cllr. James Surtees

4. Setting of Precept 2025/26

RP

CONFIDENTIAL MEETING - MINUTES REDACTED

PROPOSAL: To request an increase of 9.9% from the Borough Council for the 2025-26 Parish Council Precept. JD 9.9%

PROPOSED: Cllr. Janet Day

SECONDED: Cllr. Gareth King

5. EWR

a) Consultation 24 Response

- I. Non-statutory consultation closes 24th January 2025.
- II. Statutory consultation expected early 2026.
- III. If Universal goes ahead Wixams needs to become 4 track station (currently 2 track) and would be centrally managed by Government.

b) Discuss Parish position

- I. We have to recognise it's very likely the current route will go ahead with a 1km+ long viaduct over Clapham.
- II. We need to start thinking now about the implications and management of the disruption faced by North Bedfordshire villages.
- III. We should form a group to pick up on studies of highways implications and the environmental damage.
- IV. Really good idea to be connecting Oxford to Cambridge across Bedford offering local residents flexibility in travel but Is the south route better?
- V. Need to mitigate against disruption.
- VI. We can only make limited response to the non-statutory consultation and then create working group to respond to the statutory consultation.

a) Agree Councillors to draft response

- I. Key concerns include:
- II. Access to and from the village from Bedford
- III. Emergency services access
- IV. Hospital access and parking
- V. Environmental impact
- VI. Lack of consultation with North Bedfordshire.
- VII. Spoil being dumped across north Beds – will it be in Stevington Parish?

PROPOSAL: Cllr. Janet Day will draft a response to be sent to EWR by 5pm on 24th January 2025 with the assistance of Cllr. John Strutt with all Councillors to comment on the draft proposal. JD/JS

VOTE: Unanimously in favour

6. Planning Matters

- a) Retrospective Planning Application (*Land Between Northampton Road Bromham and Turvey Road Stagsden Bedfordshire*)

CONFIDENTIAL MEETING - MINUTES REDACTED

7. Anti-Social Dog

- a) Update

CONFIDENTIAL MEETING - MINUTES REDACTED

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

- a) A resident has come forward who is willing to be co-opted as a Parish Councillor. They will attend the March meeting for co-option. It was noted the candidate is very enthusiastic to support the Parish Council and has a particular interest in housing.
- b) Good to hear new people being trained for Village fireworks event.
- c) JD to send previous Highways reports to JSi for information. JD
- d) Windmill – brambles need clearing but otherwise seems in good order. RP chase Borough for update on next steps. RP
- e) Crime figures, nothing reported.
- f) GK to speak to AJ Contractors regarding leaf collection. GK
- g) Susan Young sending the hedge regulations to JS. These will impact our hedge cutting.
- h) Flood meeting held with all volunteers – all very positive. Several Parish Councillors have signed up for Borough Flood Forum on 12th February 2025.
- i) RP to check second payment to Picnic grant on behalf of Borough Council (to be reimbursed by Borough to Parish Council).
- j) Damage to a tree in Park Road, Stevington opposite the end of Burridges Close hit by a vehicle has been reported.
- k) Letter of thanks received from Kid Craft Club which was much appreciated by the Councillors.
- l) Resident very happy with the work carried out by Borough Highways and wrote to thank Parish and Borough which was much appreciated.
- m) Decision made by Bedford Borough Council Executive to withdraw bus services review and re-tender the rural bus service on the basis of re-provision and optimise service level requirement.
- n) Government is re-examining Local Government structure across the country. Proposal for a South-Midlands combined authority to include Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire, North and South Northants, Central Milton Keynes.

9. Date of Next Meeting:

19th March 2025 at 7.30pm

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 9.40pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
Dated	19 th March 2025

Chair

CLOSED MEETING