

Meeting:	Stevington Parish Council Meeting 22 nd May 2025 at 8.00pm
Council Members in attendance:	Cllr. Janet Day (JD), Chair Cllr. John Strutt (JS) Cllr. James Surtees (JSu) Cllr. Gareth King (GK) Cllr. Hannah Colemam-King (HCK) Cllr. Nick Jones (NJ)
Apologies received:	Cllr. Jim Sinfield (JSi) Cllr. Dylan Simmons (DS)
Non-attendance:	None
Borough Council Member:	Cllr. Robert Rigby
Clerk to the Council:	Rosemary Plum (RP)
Public Attendance	None

Start 19:57

1. Election of Chair

PROPOSAL: Cllr. Janet Day to continue as Chair for another year

PROPOSED: Cllr. James Surtees

SECONDED: Cllr. Nick Jones

It was noted that this is the last year JD is prepared to carry on in the role of Chair and succession planning will be required.

2. Election of Vice-Chair

Election deferred to a future meeting.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr. Jim Sinfield
- Cllr. Dylan Simmons

4. Declarations of Interest

Declarations were made by:

- Cllr. James Surtees – Trustee of Village Hall
- Cllr. Janet Day – Trustee of Barringer Trust
- Cllr. Jon Strutt – Member of FOSMS

5. Open Forum

Nothing to report.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

PROPOSED: Cllr. Janet Day

SECONDED: Cllr. Jon Strutt

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

- i. RP to chase Borough for resolution on Silver Street post box, tubs, wastes bin left outside permanently. **RP**

8. Clerk's Report – *information only*

- Borough Flood Forum being held 8th July
- JSt has not received any response to SEG application for grant funding and will escalate to Melanie Bright at the Borough Council. **JSt**
- RP to invite Andrew Prigmore from Borough Highways to a future Parish Council meeting. **RP**

9. Borough Council Matters

a) Borough Councillors Report

- i. See attached report from Cllr. Rigby.
- ii. 8k permanent jobs will be created when Universal opens in 2031
- iii. Bedford Borough need to make savings £33m over next 5 years. Currently formulating a stability plan.
- iv. There are proposals in the pipeline for a new GP Practice in Biddenham that could result in closure of Bromham Surgery. Most Stevington residents are registered with Harrold GP Practice with no signs of dissatisfaction.
- v. Deichmans spent £750k on opening premises in old Next building in Midland Road

10. Planning Committee

a) Wheaton Hill Stables Appeal hearing – update

- ii. JD and JSu attended the appeal. Awaiting planning decision outcomes.
- iii. Applicant has agreed to remove caravans.
- iv. JD agreed to continue coordinating planning responses.

11. Highways & Traffic Management Update

a) Appointment of representatives

- i. Cllr. Jim Sinfield agreed to continue as portfolio holder.
- ii. More photos of lorries to be filed with Borough Highways.
- iii. The Cross insurance claim – RP to make point about risk of collapse

12. Environment & Footpaths

a) Appointment of representatives

- i. Cllrs. King and Strutt agreed to continue as joint portfolio holders.
- ii. RP to send contacts for Tom Perrett to RR
- iii. NJ with SEG group to monitor condition of footpaths

RP

b) Report & Update – Cllr Strutt

- i. See attached report.

c) Stevington Windmill – Cllr King

- i. Still awaiting news from Borough.
- ii. Concerns about rubbish dumped at top of Silver Street –Borough notified but no action taken to date.
- iii. Insurance – Borough cannot insure the Parish outside area of 30mph limit. RP to check if Parish Insurance covers litter picking above 30mph.
- iv. Community land purchase – NJ and JSt had meeting to explore setting up advisory working group to look into land and asset purchase for the community e.g. land that could be used by the community or for ecological purpose or helping to protect the village development. The group will look at different types of investment e.g. EWR wanting carbon credits.
- v. Defer to next meeting for full discussion.

RP

RP

d) Footpath 6 (The Marshes) – update

- i. FP 6 – awaiting Pavenham Cllr. Darlow to make contact with Willmotts landowners. We are told the path is now dry enough for pedestrians.

13. Police Matters

a) Appointment of representatives

Cllr. King agreed to continue as portfolio holder.

b) Report & Update – Cllr King

- i. GK spoken to local Police Officer about nuisance moped, Ferrari noise and dog nuisance.
- ii. Police will increase speed traps and patrols in the area.

14. Community Matters

a) Appointment of representatives

- i. HCK agreed to review Welcome Packs given to new parish residents.
- ii. Playing field needs more mulch, weed killing and hoeing, RP to get quote for sanitised mulch (Madingley) for play area.
- iii. Two ropes and 4 poles – need maintenance near corner of football pitch).
- iv. RP to remind Will Stanbridge about solutions about potential solutions for damaged play equipment.

HCK

RP

RP

15. Village Hall

a) Appointment of representatives

- i. Cllr. James Surtees agreed to continue as portfolio holder.
- ii. See attached update report.
- iii. Village Hall Committee established, set and running well.
- iv. Hall Manager is stepping aside and will be replaced.
- v. Village Run had one medical incident, full capacity, event run very well.
- vi. Fireworks – change in trained persons.
- vii. Barn dance fully attended.

16. Financial Matters

a) Financial Report

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

PROPOSED: Cllr. Janet Day

SECONDED: Cllr. James Surtees

b) Grant VE Day celebrations – Village Hall

PROPOSAL: to make a donation for 31st Anniversary of Community Shop Party of £100 with £100 matched Ward councillor funding.

RP

PROPOSED: Cllr. Janet Day

SECONDED: Cllr. James Surtees

17. Correspondence

Nothing to report.

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

- i. NDP due to be reviewed this year. Andy Lockwood attending Borough meeting this evening. Parish Councillors urged to read current NDP in preparation for discussion at next meeting.

RP

19. Date of Next Meeting

25th September 2025 in the VILLAGE HALL

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 9.25pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
Dated	25 th September 2025

Chair