

Meeting:	Stevington Parish Council Meeting 24 th July 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. Nick Jones (NJ) Cllr. Jim Sinfield (JSi)
Apologies received:	Cllr. Hannah Coleman-King (HCK)
Non-attendance:	None
Borough Council Member:	Cllr. Robert Rigby – arrived at 20.06 Cllr. Dylan Simmons (DS)
Clerk to the Council:	Rosemary Plum (RP)
Public Attendance	2 x members of public in attendance Tricia Lennie – Chair, Friends of St Mary's, Stevington (FOSMS) Andy Lockwood (AL)

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Welcome

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from:

- Cllr. Hannah Coleman King

3. Declarations of Interest

Declarations were received from:

- Cllr. James Surtees -Parish Council representative on Village Hall Committee.
- Cllr. Janet Day – Barringer Trust
- Cllr. John Street - Stevington Environmental Group

4. Open Forum

- Chair of Friends of St Mary's, Stevington introduced Rural Youth Council, a small group of young people aged 13-19yrs. Hoping for more members in future to give them a youth voice for the village. For children who don't have bus service, bikes are incredibly important. Parents being encouraged to ensure children wear helmets when cycling. Quick win would be clear brambles from bike track in playing

field. Current BMX track is obscured by overgrowth. RP to ask ground contractor to review.

RP

- II. Chair of FOSMS requested that Parish Council give consideration to provision of an outdoor table tennis table for children and adults. This would be a popular addition.
- III. Local family with particular needs asked Parish Council to not cut back brambles on site of old cricket pavilion. TT table – could be situated on hard standing while more permanent solution is sorted. Investigate cost of outdoor version.
- IV. Family video and board games evening 28 August 6-8pm. No age limits.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- I. JD advised she is prepared to serve a further year on the Parish Council but not as Chair.
- II. JD called for a Vice Chair to be appointed as soon as possible.

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

PROPOSED: Cllr. Gareth King

SECONDED: Cllr. Jon Strutt

6. Matters Arising from the minutes – information only

- It was noted the appeal referred to at Item 10 of the July meeting, the planning appeal, has been rejected and no further correspondence ensued.

7. Clerk's Report – information only

- I. RP has once again chased Borough Highways issues.
- II. Will Stanbridge (WS) of the Village Hall Committee has been unable to provide any information about solutions to the play equipment in need of repair. He has spoke to two manufacturers that have been unable to source spares or provide advice. WS spoke with Adrian Churchill (local builder) and it's on his list of jobs, but not a priority for him. WS further advised that due to multiple commitments to family and friends, he needs to hand this project to someone else to try and find a repair solution.
- III. RP asked to get estimates from HAG.
- IV. Cost of decorative mulch is £88 for 1 ton. Sterilised mulch is out of stock. Councillors discussed use of sterilised mulch with any possible fungi will become non-sterilised after a few weeks. It was agreed to provide non-sterilised mulch as protection (in absence of availability).
- V. Borough Highways wants to meet to discuss installation of dragons teeth within the next 4 weeks i.e. before 14th August. The gates are proving more difficult due to the lack of space. JSi and JD would like to meet with Borough Highways to discuss on site.
- VI. Antisocial dog cannot be discussed further at this stage.

8. Planning Matters (moved up Agenda before Borough report)

a) Update

See Item 6) above. Nothing further to report.

b) NDP Review – update from Town & Parish Council Network

- I. Thanks given to Andy Lockwood, former Chair of Parish Council was key person in developing current NDP in 2019, for attending the meeting this evening and advising the Parish Council.
- II. Borough is going has to create new local plan. Therefore ever more important for Stevington NDP to be kept up to date and relevant.
- III. Borough doesn't have 5yr land supply which means planning applications currently being viewed differently, with a presumption for approval. Tilted balance is in effect which tends to encourage approval for planning application. Any planning application that comes forward is likely to be passed as long as it doesn't have any major conflicts. Wilstead, Roxton and Bromham are potentially affected by recent new developments. Unless significant and demonstrable reasons against, almost certainly will be passed because of tilted balance.
- IV. Any material changes to Stevington NDP could lead to a referendum. Parish Council needs to bear in mind costs as no more grants available. Original NDP cost approx. £15k and we would be looking at a further approx £10k at this stage to cover publicity, printing, consultants for independent review and public meetings.
- V. We should be able to self-certify once again. There are a number of issues to consider including climate change, traffic, flooding, housing pressures, travel, reduction of traffic through parish, Universal Studios and employment opportunities etc.
- VI. NDP, if remade, will hold for 5yrs only if NDP allocates growth in housing or until tilt goes back.
- VII. Local Plan should have policies tailored to the existing area with consideration given to alignment with Borough Plan which is being redeveloped.
- VIII. Considerations for the Parish Council are this stage include:
 - Whether to do a simple review of key issues at this stage
 - Need for a smaller working group. JSt to work with AL.
 - If changing/rewording policies we will have to use Reg 14 route including major workshops, public events, re-write, essentially start again.
 - Kick off with annual review and see how many applications have come in.
 - Ask a planning officer to address council – Parish Councillors need to familiarise themselves with the current NDP before next Parish Council meeting.
 - Serious concerns about the need to build climate resilience in the Parish.

- IX. It was agreed that Andy Lockwood will review planning applications for whole period and feedback on effectiveness of NDP since its inception, prior to decision on light touch or re-write of NDP.

9. Borough Council Matters

a) Borough Councillors Report

- Borough in financial difficulty following its inheritance of £2.3m overspend from previous Council. Projected overspend this year is quite large but steps being taken to ensure financial resilience.
- Green glass recycling coming to Stevington by end of September. Glass bottles to go into orange bin. DS will be getting bottle bank removed from edge of village.
- Food waste collection coming soon – Government has mandated it should be done sooner than later.
- Further to recent vehicle accident on Oakley Road towards Bromham, DS is in contact with Borough Highways and Oakley Ward Cllrs to discuss greater road safety in the area. Looking for reduction of speed along the whole road however current cost of feasibility study is £10.

10. Highways & Traffic Management Update

a) Update – Cllr Jim Sinfield

Apologies given for not having been in parish for professional reasons.

b) Speeding Cars Silver Street

- I. Police have increase number of speed checks.
- II. Consider calibration of speed trap at entrance to village.
- III. We need additional speed cameras.

c) Obstructions on pavement Silver Street

Awaiting return of Borough Highways manager from annual leave.

11. Environment & Footpaths

a) Update – Cllr. Strutt

- I. Report distributed prior to this meeting.
- II. Need to prepare process document for flood warnings.
- III. Need a notice about keeping entrance to flood storage clear.
- IV. Village to uphold due diligence in tidying and keeping clear the area around the container. Discussion in progress about working party to help clear the area. JSu to discuss with VH committee and confirm back. JSu
- V. Thanks given to Village Hall committee member for arranging access at late hour.

b) SSSI update – Cllr. Day

- I. Footpaths visit between here and Pavenham attended by Richard Fuller, MP, DS, JD and Chair of Pavenham Parish Council. Very helpful to have RF support. DS had follow up meeting to discuss

approach and will be going to the Borough to find ways of finding a cost effective, rurally suitable solution.

c) The Cross repairs – update

Bollard replaced fairly quickly. RP still chasing Insurers to progress repairs.

RP

12. Police Matters

a) Update – Cllr. King

- I. No recorded crimes and GK in regular contact with Police Officer Mark Hancock.
- II. GK attending PCC meeting.

13. Community Matters

a) Update – Cllr. Day

Report circulated prior to meeting.

b) Anti-social dog

See Item 7) above

c) Barringer Trust – update Cllr. Day

Trust is currently reviewing policies.

14. Stevington Windmill

a) Update – Cllr. King

- I. Grass being cut by local farmer.
- II. Residents report cars being on-site possibly for car sales.
- III. RP to remind RR Borough Officer about this situation.

RP

15. Village Hall

a) Update – Cllr. Surtees

- I. Report circulated prior to meeting.
- II. New Village Hall manager has been appointed and all going well.
- III. Unclear about request of change of ownership of Village Hall from Parish Council to Village Hall trustees. Deferred to next meeting.
- IV. Good to see the Village Hall in strong financial health.
- V. Fireworks event - 4 people trained as backup.

16. Playing Field

a) Update

- I. Old mower has been sold.
- II. Reducing mowing to every 2 months as no sports requirements.
- III. Minor repairs carried out to equipment.
- IV. GK will look into repairing posts.

b) RoSPA maintenance report

- I. Agreed to provide non-sterilised mulch as protection (in absence of availability) – see Item 7) above.

c) Clearing of bike tracks – Youth Council request

PROPOSAL: To go ahead with clearance subject to quotes for clearing BMX track and consider work required to re-instate.

PROPOSED: Cllr. John Strutt

SECONDED: Cllr. Nick Jones

17. Financial Matters

a) Financial Report

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

PROPOSED: Cllr. Jim Sinfield

SECONDED: Cllr. James Surtees

b) Disposal of Lawn Mower and use of funds

PROPOSAL: £500 income from disposal of old mower shown on Parish Asset register to be split equally between Parish Council, Social Centre and Football Club.

PROPOSED: Cllr. Gareth King

SECONDED: Cllr. James Surtees

c) Queens Jubilee Trees – refund cost of water bags

PROPOSAL: Refund £31 for purchase of water bags to place around trees on field.

PROPOSED: Cllr. John Strutt

SECONDED: Cllr. Nick Jones

18. Correspondence

a) Resident concerned about Borough Council double charge on empty property.

b) Thanks to given to Ward Councillors for their continued support for local residents.

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

- I. Date of next Stevington Parish Council meeting clashes with Turvey Parish Council meeting. RR and DS will each attend one meeting.

20. Date of Next Meeting

25th September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 9.28pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
Dated	25 th September 2025

Chair