

Meeting:	Stevington Parish Council Meeting 27 th November 2025 at 7.30pm
Council Members in attendance:	Cllr. Janet Day (JD), Chair Cllr. John Strutt (JS) Cllr. James Surtees (JSu) Cllr. Nick Jones (NJ) Cllr. Jim Sinfield (JSi) Cllr. Hannah Colemam-King (HCK)
Apologies received:	Cllr. Gareth King (GK) Cllr. Jim Sinfield
Non-attendance:	
Borough Council Member:	Cllr. Dylan Simmons – late arrival 20.17 Cllr. Robert Rigby – late arrival 20.15
Clerk to the Council:	R Plum
Public Attendance	8 x residents

MINUTES

1. Welcome

Introductions from members of Parish Council and invited speakers

2. Apologies for Absence

Received from:

- Cllr. Gareth King

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Janet Day as Trustee Barringer Trust items

Cllr. James Surtees as Trustee Village Hall

Cllr. John Strutt – Stevington Environmental Group

4. Open Forum

- I. Group of residents present to raise concerns about speeding through the village. There have been near misses with horse riders, residents at top of Silver St, two residents nearly hit by driver, excessive noise overnight from speeding cars, resident petrified to open door onto street/path in dark especially with young children and pets.
- II. Grouped don't want to be seen as a vigilante group but wanted to express in the strongest way possible their concern about speeding in the village.

- III. They cited an incident where a resident with young children was pushing a buggy too wide for footpath– drivers sped by the family as if they weren't there.
- IV. Vehicles also mounting pavements at speeds of 40mph in a 20mph zone.
- V. Long term resident raised concern of speeding above 50mph by specific vehicles including a VW Golf seen on several occasions.
- VI. Councillors keen to look into starting a new Speedwatch group with trained volunteers. JD to carry forward new group of volunteers and get info on previously trained people.
- VII. Issues remain about balancing street signs, street obstacles and no lighting as the Parish is in a conservation area.
- VIII. Investigate with Borough extension of 40mph restrictions and positioning of dragons teeth and gates with speed warnings.
- IX. RP to book police officer for a future parish council meeting.
- X. SID in Park Road working quite well. Parish would like to consider placement of another one on Silver Street. However, Councillors were advised these devices are not particularly effective and Parish Council agreed to not go ahead with the expense due to lack of efficacy.
- XI. JSi to contact Pavenham Cllr. David Smith who has experience of SIDs in our neighbouring village.

Presentation from Geoff Evans from Amplius housing and Jemma McLean – BRCC Community Engagement Team Leader

- I. BRCC Rural Housing Service works with all partners in facilitating the provision of affordable housing suitable for rural communities. Aim isto ensure residents can stay in their communities which can thrive and be sustainable.
- II. Rural exception sites – most are progressed by developers who are required to deliver around 20% affordable housing. The highest priority in rural areas go to residents with a proven connection to the village.
- III. Usually progressed by housing association e.g. Amplius and include shared ownership short term purchase. 10-12 units typical to a rural site, sometimes including one or two open market homes based on evidence from housing needs survey.
- IV. Beds rural housing partnership is facilitated by BRCC and includes Amplius, based in MK with housing stock in Beds, Northants, Cambs through to Grimsby. They work with BRCC and NDP groups who often commission housing needs survey.

- V. Foxbrook was a social housing project from 30yrs ago – built into S106 planning consent and written into planning permission that affordable housing must be offered to people with a strong local connection and/or specification as agreed. Planning obligation specified the homes should go to those with a parish connection in perpetuity so if re-let, they still go back to local connection.
- VI. Parish Council could ask Borough Planning to consider Rural Exception Site for new developments in Stevington. Housing needs survey could be discussed at a future Parish Council meeting.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

PROPOSED: Cllr. Nick Jones

SECONDED: Cllr. James Surtees

6. Matters Arising from the minutes – information only

- I. RP find out if speed checks have been increased
- II. Red Lion Highways modification – RP to follow up with Bedford Borough.
- III. RP to chase up supply of 3 new dog bins.

7. Clerk's Report – information only

- I. Application to be submitted for road closure from 13 April 2026 for The Cross repairs.
- II. Insurance claim to be re-opened to cover cost of traffic management.
- III. Nothing heard back from Head of Borough Highways as promised with regard to emergency road closure.
- IV. Thanks given to RP for continued efforts in managing the repairs to The Cross and to resident, Rogan for supporting the project.

8. Borough Council Matters

a) Borough Councillors Report

Report circulated prior to meeting.

- I. Glass recycling to start 1st December.
- II. DS will be fighting to remove bottle bank from Oakley Junction (technically in Bromham) but not helpful to Oakley and Stevington.
- III. SSSI – DS met with Richard Fuller MP and Head of Borough Highways but meeting was interrupted by division bell. Further meeting to be set up.

9. Planning Matters

a) Update

Nothing to report.

b) Withdrawal of Bedford Local Plan 2040

Confirmed as withdrawn.

- a) NDP Review – update
 - I. Andy Lockwood to be invited to a future Parish Council meeting and include BRCC discussion regarding affordable housing.
 - II. NDP needs to include housing to create greater protection.
- b) Community Land Project – update
 - I. Local residents approached for legal and financial advice/support. JSt and NJ will be progressing in the New Year in order to put forward proposal.

10. Highways & Traffic Management Update

- a) Update – Cllr Jim Sinfield
 - I. Follow up with Head of Borough Highways regarding issues raised in Open Forum this evening.
 - II. Investigate Speed Bumps – not good for farmers tractors.
- b) Silver Street – Damage to stand pipe
 - II. Stand pipe outside Warwick Cottage knocked by skip backing into the site. The metal/bucket stand on the bottom was damaged and developer removed it for safety reasons. Parts have been recovered and developers are prepared to tidy on completion.

PROPOSAL: Whilst it's unfortunate the stand pipe has been removed, it's not practical to replace it and it cannot be repaired. If reconstructed, it will not look the same. Therefore, we will ask developer to make good on completion as promised.

PROPOSED: Cllr. James Surtees

SECONDED: Cllr. Hannah Coleman King

- c) Other matters
 - I. Ward Cllr Dylan Simmons received enquiry/discussed with a local resident the potential for adjusting Silver Street to create a one-way system on that road. This would potentially allow for the pavement to be extended on both sides and bollards to be put in to protect the cross from HGVs. DS has dealt with issue and the Borough are not looking to progress.

11. Environment & Footpaths

- a) Update (including Flood Group) – Cllr. Strutt
 - I. Parish to receive £900 additional funding from Bedford Borough Council flood forum for flood protection equipment.
 - II. Borough Highways now have access to ditch from blocked culvert at West End that floods. Currently waiting for estate manager to clear the ditch and it will be functional.
 - III. Call to put an improved grid on the Court Lane culvert under the house at no.17 to improve flood mitigation.

- IV. Consider creation of a pond upstream in future.
- V. Updated village emergency response plan completed. Includes four stages of alert that could trigger response in suitable measure. Fabulous positive responses received from residents. RP to add to website and produce information pack. JSt to send full document to RP. **JSt/RP**
- VI. Flood equipment storage area behind Village Hall overgrown with brambles and large goal posts in the way of the entrance. JSu to speak with VH management with feedback.
- VII. SSSI update – See above
- VIII. The Cross repairs - See above

12. Police Matters

- a) Update – Cllr. King
 - I. DS been asked for local intelligence on car meets and vehicle-related ASB in the Parish.
 - II. FP14 – waiting for feedback from Borough Highways regarding potential for improvements.

13. Community Matters

- c) Update – Cllr. Day
See attached report.
- d) Barringer Trust – update Cllr. Day
 - I. Very positive recent meeting.
 - II. Looking at plan for improvements to try and overcome damp.
 - III. JD full of admiration for the way the properties are managed for the benefit of the beneficiaries.

14. Stevington Windmill

- a) Update – Cllr. King
 - I. DS to chase Borough Council.
 - II. Damian Pell has cleared brambles and continues to maintain the area.
 - III. Aaron Keep has also done some maintenance work.

15. Village Hall

- a) Update – Cllr. Surtees
Report circulated prior to the meeting.
 - I. Fireworks went well and event sold out with excellent feedback.
 - II. Lot of new events all sold out.
 - III. Parishioner asking about outdoor table tennis table: cost of new one £1k. Would not need any particular footing or foundations and would be kept outdoors permanently. Look into second hand.

PROPOSAL: Investigate the cost of an outdoor table tennis table up to a total of £1,500.

RP/JSu

PROPOSED: Cllr. James Surtees

SECONDED: Cllr. John Strutt

b) Appointment of Trustees

Deferred to future meeting.

c) Transfer of Ownership – update

- I. JSu has not received any further response from the Village Hall Management Committee. Parish Council assumes status quo has been accepted.
- II. Congratulations given to the Village Hall Management Committee for the new events and new initiatives.
- III. Stevington Parish Council is clearly shown as proprietor of the Village Hall in the Official Register of Ownership.
- IV. RP to contact the Land Registry and update the official address. **RP**
- V. JD expressed surprise that the Village Hall Management Committee still has trustees who wanted to step down previously. It was suggested this should be looked into. **JD**

16. Playing Field

a) Update

- I. Training event was held.

b) Play equipment repairs

- I. RP needs bank details for Football Club.
PROPOSAL: To accept quote from Ade for repairs to play equipment to replace and concrete in 6 play grade posts at an anticipated cost of £750.
PROPOSED: Cllr. James Surtees
SECONDED: Cllr. Nick Jones

17. Financial Matters

a) Financial Report

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

PROPOSED: Cllr. James Surtees

SECONDED: Cllr. John Strutt

18. Correspondence

- I. Hedges – email complaint from resident regarding hedges behind bungalow on Court Lane.

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

- I. Xmas Concert on Friday 5th December
- II. Reminder of Succession Planning
- III. RP to provided dates for BATPC New Cllr training when available.

20. Date of Next Meeting

29th January at 7.30pm in Stevington Church Hall

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 21.30hrs.

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
Dated	29 th January 2026

Chair