

Meeting:	PRECEPT MEETING - CONFIDENTIAL 14th January 2025 at 7pm
Council Members in attendance:	Cllr. Phillipa Simms, Chair (PS) Cllr. Eric Cooper (EC) Cllr. Sarah Walker (SW) Cllr. Nigel Sparrow (NS) Cllr. Ian Gaskin (IG) Cllr. John Keech (JK) Cllr. Adrian Langley (AL) Cllr. Michael Walmsley (MW) Cllr. John Reid (JR) Cllr. Ali Dove (AD) Cllr. Charlie Tompkins (CT) – late arrival Cllr. Tamsin Bromley-Rahike (TBR)
Apologies received:	Cllr. Jacky Fraser (JF) Cllr. Allan Prudham (AP)
Non-attendance:	Cllr. James Petrides (JP)
Clerk to the Council:	Rosemary Plum (RP)
Public Attendance	None

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. 2025/26 Precept

- I. Apologies received from Cllrs. Fraser and Prudham.
- II. 4.6% increase giving 4p per week increase for Band D property was agreed by all present.

2. East West Rail Consultation 24 Response

- I. Thanks given to EC for huge amount of work.
- II. Thanks to residents and Councillors who attended 3rd January 2025 event and for their contributions.
- III. Draft response document circulated prior to meeting.
- IV. Summary of key points to be considered in response to non-statutory consultation.
 - a. **Flooding**
 - Concerns about trapped water Clapham side of River. As a result of levees being breached. Water will go toward Bedford and railway is on the Bedford side.
 - No hydrology work done by EWR yet so we have no details on the effect of river water management.
 - Driving piles into flood plain is going to create a huge risk of flooding.
 - We need to highlight any areas of risk that will add cost to project.

- If water is held back from Bedford, it will affect Clapham directly.
- We're in a very difficult position at the moment as we just don't know enough detail.
- Mitigation indicated by EWR at the present time is not sufficient. Very little allowance by EWR for levees, weirs, dykes in Clapham and surrounding area.
- Clapham has been glossed over in this consultation – we're at the end of one section and the beginning of another and there's nothing specific being considered for Clapham and North Bedfordshire. We have a right to expect a far greater level of engagement for our parish. Two different EWR teams working on the two sections.

b. **Tunnel -v- Cutting**

- EWR putting tunnel on the outskirts of Cambridge, so why not allow for a tunnel in Clapham?
- Works will cross major water main and cable for the solar park.
- EA new going to provide us with river levels and flooding history.
- We want to see predicted noise levels.
- A local farmer was originally told he would lose 80 acres of land. The latest plans show he will be losing 330 acres of farming land. This will make his farm no longer viable as he will not be getting back the land he needs. This will change the entire village and make it a suburb of Bedford.

c. **Compensation packages**

- HS2 affected residents have been compensated – including for potential extra flooding (too early at the moment).
- Push for realisation EWR budget isn't going to cover cost of adequate mitigation of flood risks.

d. **Still to be captured by EWR:**

- Construction
- Effects of congestion
- Access to hospital and from emergency services
- Parking at train station and hospital

e. **Order of priority for Clapham concerns:**

1. Flooding
2. Noise
3. Construction impact
4. Emergency routes when bypass is closed

f. **Key questions put to Parish Councillors to agree as a group:**

1. Do we support the concept?
2. Do we agree we support the project but don't want the route chosen?

3. With public money so tight can we push for completion of HS2, Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet roadworks and then see how much money is available for EWR before starting work impacting our community and then suspending mid-development due to lack of funds.
 4. Compensation/mitigation – should we call for far greater engagement with EWR and demand greater recognition of the impact this is going to have on our village?
 5. What will be the EWR contributions to our community in recognition of the disruption to the Parish.
 6. No major changes to documents – just incorporate comments made this evening.
- V. No major changes to draft document – just incorporate comments made this evening.
 - VI. Any further comments to EC by Friday 17th January. Final version to be approved at Full Parish Council meeting on 21st January.
 - VII. EC to get final draft to SW by Sunday 19th January for review and distribution to Committee for ratifying on Tuesday 21st January.

ALL
EC/SW

3. EWR Scoping Report

- I. 'Ridiculously huge' statutory document which few people understand in full.
- II. Consultation ends 31st January and Environmental Impact Assessment Statement has to be submitted by EWR.
- III. Call for everyone to look at the scope tables and bring comments to the meeting on 21st January.

ALL

4. Date of Next Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday, 21st January 2025 in the Methodist Church Hall

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 21:13 pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
Dated	21 st January 2025
	Chair