

Meeting:	Environment Committee, Clapham Parish Council 10 th March at 7:00pm
Council Members in attendance:	Cllr. Ian Gaskin (IG), Chair Cllr. Michael Walmsley (MW), Vice Chair Cllr. Nigel Sparrow (NS) Cllr. Jacky Fraser (JF) Cllr. John Keech (JK) Cllr. Adrian Langley (AL) Cllr. Charlie Tompkins (CT) – arrived at 7.35pm
Apologies:	Cllr. John Reid (JR)
Non-attendance:	Cllr. Allan Prudham (AP)
Clerk to the Council:	Rosemary Plum

MINUTES

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

3. Open Forum

- I. NS raised problems in Green Lane with traffic. Large amount of building and construction work going on with heavy vehicles travelling at speed. Call to renew request for speed cameras and cables which are now considered absolutely vital. Huge volume of businesses now trading in the area at the top of Green Lane and the volume and speed of vehicles needs to be monitored urgently. RP
- II. Questions raised about the possibility of unauthorised trading activity being carried out in the area. The Baulk is still officially a bridleway.

4. Ratify Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held 10th February 2026 were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

PROPOSED: Cllr. John Keech

SECONDED: Cllr. Michael Walmsley

5. Matters Arising (*for information only*)

Nothing to report.

6. Clerk's Report

- I. Solar lights now fully charged and installed at sand store and parking area at entrance to allotments.

- II. Highway drainage survey works planned on the A6 at Milton Ernest, outside The Thatched Barn, 14th and 15th March. The works are not expected to cause significant disruption; however, temporary traffic lights will be in place while the team is working.
- III. Resident has enquired whether anything can be done about the condition of the internal path from Milton Road to the Medical Centre. Bridge put in by The Borough but path is very dark path with broken glass and dog faeces. RP to speak with Borough about improvements. RP

7. Riverside Gardens

a) Update

- I. Volunteers hoping to start work this weekend although weather forecast isn't great.
- II. Gardens are stunning and look in very good condition with spring blooms. New grassed area is a success.
- III. New shrubs expected to be planted soon.
- IV. JK to arrange breakfast event for the volunteers in 2nd or 3rd week after Easter. JK

8. Flood Group

a) Clapham Flood Plan – Update

- I. RP taken over plan document and will update and distribute as soon as possible. RP
- II. Parish Council Chair has requested clearance of mud from gulleys and areas along Riverside Gardens.

b) REPF grant – Update

- I. New flood signs provided by the Borough are with JK.

c) Annual Flood Forum – Attendance & planning

- I. Annual Flood Forum on Thursday, 26 March 2026, 2.30-6.30pm, at Great Denham Community Centre, 86 Saxon Way, Bedford, MK40 4GP. Free, drop-in event open to everyone and offers a chance to speak directly with the Council's Resilience Team and other flood management experts. Visitors will learn more about flood resilience measures, how flood risk is managed locally, and what practical steps they can take to help protect their homes and communities.
- II. Partners attending include Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Board, Anglian Water, Bedfordshire Fire Service, Flood RE and other Bedford Borough Council teams, such as Highways.
- III. The Flood Forum 2026 is free and open to everyone - no booking required

9. Highways & Footpaths

a) New soakaway at entrance to allotments – Update

- I. Ideal period for work to be carried out is 7-9 April during school holidays.
- II. Road through allotments need to be closed for 3 days RP when work is undertaken. Signs to be erected asap at the crossroads with FP14 in the centre of the allotments.
- III. Track through allotments will be resurfaced at same time as creation of soakaway.
- IV. Need to remove rocks and stones along edges of plots IG bordering the track through the site.
- V. Allotment Association, holders of parking space permits and local residents will be informed of work.
- VI. CT wants Parish Council to consider putting French drain along southern boundary of allotment where the site meets houses to link with soakaway and drain into Kings Ditch.
- VII. Longer term, need to reinstate access around outside edges of plots.
- VIII. RP engaged with the Borough works department and two independent contractors as well as ACO Water Management. RP

b) Other matters

- I. Parking on corner in The Close. RP to follow up with Borough for costs of grass crete. RP
- II. Paths near Clapham Park Wood and continuation of FP14 along to the Vicarage is a quagmire due to the volume of footfall and not because of farming activity.

10. Burial Ground & Church Yard

a) Planting of CPRE anniversary tree

- I. Paperwork submitted for the Anniversary Tree to be planted in Milton Road burial ground. RP
- II. Resident has asked for notices to be displayed in approach road to the Parish Church to prevent children using it as a play area. RP
- III. RP to write to Stephen Liley advising of residents' concerns following incident near the entrance to the cemetery. RP
- IV. RP to ask Borough when grass cutting starts RP

11. Cody Road Garages

a) Maintenance

- I. RP has contacted Landmark Road Lining who will come out to assess the site and make recommendations re surfacing and marking spaces. RP

- II. IG identified plot at end of centre row of garages that could create 4 spaces.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 14th April 2026 in the Committee Room, Clapham Village Hall

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 8.30 pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	
Dated	14 th April 2026

Chair