

Meeting:	CLAPHAM PARISH COUNCIL 19 th May 2026 at 7.20pm
Council Members in attendance:	Cllr. Phillipa Simms, Chair (PS) Cllr. Sarah Walker, Vice Chair (SW) Cllr. Jacky Fraser (JF) Cllr. Tamsin Bromley-Rahike (TBR) – in attendance for 30mins only Cllr. Michael Walmsley (MW) Cllr. Nigel Sparrow (NS) Cllr. Adrian Langley (AL) Cllr. Eric Cooper (EC) Cllr. Chris Hardwick (CH) – appointed at this meeting Cllr John Reid (JR) Cllr. John Keech (JK) Cllr. Ian Gaskin (IG)
Apologies received:	Cllr. Allan Prudham (AP) Cllr. James Petrides (JP) Cllr. Charlie Tompkins (CT)
Non-attendance:	
Borough Council Member:	Borough Cllr. Jane Walker (JW) – late arrival Borough Cllr. Jon Abbott (JA)
Clerk to the Council:	Rosemary Plum (RP)
Public Attendance	None.

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Election of Chairman

PROPOSAL: Cllr Phillipa Simms to continue as Chair of Clapham Parish Council.

PROPOSED: Cllr Adrian Langley

SECONDED: Cllr John Reid

VOTE: Unanimously in favour

2. Election of Vice-Chairman

PROPOSAL: Cllr Sarah Walker to continue as Vice Chair of Clapham Parish

Council PROPOSED: Cllr Adrian Langley

SECONDED: Cllr Tamsin Bromley-Rahike

VOTE: Unanimously in favour

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr. Allan Prudham (AP)
- Cllr. James Petrides (JP)
- Cllr. Charlie Tompkins (CT)

4. Declarations of Interest

EC - allotment holder

CH - allotment holder

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 Nigel Sparrow

SECONDED: Cllr Jackie Fraser

7. Matters Arising from the minutes *(for information only)*

Nothing to report.

8. Clerk's Report *(for information only)*

- I. RP has notified Borough about resident again leaving up to 7 domestic refuse bins on the pavement throughout the week.
- II. Draft content for burial grounds information booklet has been circulated to all Environment Committee members. NS asked for this document to now be circulated to all Parish Council members for adoption asap. NS commended RP for producing this information booklet.
- III. RP looking into possibility of using S106 money to provide a further fishing platform in Riverside Gardens as an angling facility forming part of outdoor sport and recreation provision.

9. Borough Council Matters

a) Borough Councillor Reports

- I. Apologies from JW for being unable to attend EWR meeting next week. JA will deputise. JW has fed comments from CPC into her group's response.
- II. Borough is working with two new partners to support carers. Blue Sky Carers (face to face) and Mobilise (digital platform)
- III. JA's group has fed back comments to Borough for EWR response.
- IV. 170 tonnes of waste food collected in first week of new domestic collections.
- V. Rural waste skip back on 6th June from 8am-11am in Twinwoods Road.
- VI. Referring to the Costa Drive Through at Fairhill and the 40 houses in Bromham planning applications, EC asked JW and JA why no information relating to access to the roundabout was included and why Highways made no comments. As a result, EC questioned whether due diligence is being applied by Highways officers or are they too overworked? JA advised he had asked planners about effects

of extra traffic onto roundabout and why traffic lights were not proposed. Borough officers advised the matters had been assessed and they felt there was no benefit to traffic from installing further measures.

10. Police Matters

a) Crime report

Circulated prior to the meeting.

11. Environment Committee

a) Appointment of representatives

Current members all agreed to stand again.

b) Report from meeting 12th May 2026

Circulated prior to meeting.

- I. Benches in Riverside Gardens will be painted in the coming weeks.
- II. Need more support and volunteers for Flood Group. Information and a call for volunteers is being included in the June Village News, Parish Social media and website.

12. Planning Committee

a) Appointment of representatives

- I. Current members all agreed to stand again.
- II. NS called for EC to continue as Chair as he does such a good job.
- III. Planning report circulated prior to this meeting.

b) NDP update

- I. Public consultation on the review ended in early May.
- II. Consultation statement currently being drafted. Level of responses was limited to 10 printed replies, 2 by email, 2 councillors, 1 developer and 3 online responses
- III. It was noted that Hallam Developers via their Agent emailed requesting information about the timeline.
- IV. Responses were received from Bedford Borough Council, Historic England, Environment Agency. No other responses received, including from neighbouring parishes.
- V. Comments generally supported the revised NDP. A question was raised about increased risk of flooding and surface water and the management and protection of the green gap between Clapham and Bedford.
- VI. Next steps are to share draft response with Parish Councillors and planning consultant to add input. Once approved by the Parish Council, it will be sent to Bedford Borough Council for approval and acceptance.
- VII. PS proposed to invite Milton Road developers to outline their plans for their development.

- VIII. It is good practice to review the NDP every 4-5 years although it doesn't actually expire. Rules are fluid and the document is updated accordingly.

13. Allotment Committee

a) Appointment of representatives

TBR and IG agreed to stand again. CH agreed to fill the vacancy of the third Parish Councillor on this sub committee.

b) Report from meeting 11th May 2026

- I. Report circulated prior to meeting.
- II. The committee asked to record in the minutes its appreciation to the Parish Council for the road resurfacing and soakaway works.
- III. Allotments Association have been successful in recruiting additional members to their committee.
- IV. Allotment Association AGM went very well and all other Association events going very well.
- V. 9 plots let this month with a further 8 people on waiting list.
- VI. Working group has been set up to clear more plots.
- VII. Inspections currently under way with several Stage 1 letters sent out.
- VIII. There have been some problems with theft.
- IX. It was noted 8 people in the village, only 2 of which are allotment plot holders, have put gates from their garden into the allotments.
- X. IG called for the Parish Council to take action to improve security for plot holders. When locking at dusk recently, the caretaker found a person in the allotments who wasn't a plot holder.
- XI. Thanks given to EC for all his contributions as an allotments committee member, prior to standing down earlier this year.

14. East West Rail

a) Public Consultation event

- I. Parish event Sunday 17th May made up for lack of EWR engagement locally. Reasonably good turnout. Comments from this event will inform the Parish Council response to the EWR Spring Public Consultation that closes on 9th June 2026.
- II. Thanks given to PS for organising and managing the event.
- III. Parish Council will be responding to the public consultation prior to its closing date. EC noted no comments received from parish councillors to date and failure to comments suggests we're not properly representing our residents.
- IV. It was noted that EWR have provided no evidence so far to support their designs and why they are taking the measures proposed.

b) Public Referendum response

- I. EC not happy about the quality and level of response from EWR to direct questions posed to them.
- II. Bedford Borough response is on the Borough website.
- III. There is suggestion circulating that BeFare, a group originally set up as entity, may be closing and remain as a social media group. EC has questioned this and feels it's important to have a group to respond on behalf of residents.
- IV. The last EWR public meeting is at Kings House on Saturday 23rd May and EC encourage everyone to attend and have their say. If parish councillors have any questions, EC and SW will pose them on behalf of others.

15. Communication

a) 4YP Youth Club - Annual update

Update provided in Annual Parish Meeting.

16. Finance

a) Payment of accounts

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

PROPOSED: Cllr. Adrian Langley

SECONDED: Cllr. John Keech

Thanks were given to RP for her diligence throughout the year in preparing and maintaining the Parish accounts.

b) Review of direct debits

- I. The following direct debits are in place 2026/27 financial year:
 - HMRC
 - SBSUK
 - ANDREWS & ARNOLD
 - PEAC UK
 - NEST
 - WAVE

17. Correspondence

- I. FOI request has been received by RP regarding ANPR parking system in the Village Hall car park.

18. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 16th June 2026 in the Methodist Church Hall, Clapham



The meeting was closed by the Chair at 9.46pm

Signed as a true reflection of the meeting:

Signed	Chair
Dated	16 th June 2026