

2015/2016

The basic theme running through the past 12 months in Bawdeswell seems to me to be '*Change*'

As far as the Parish Council is concerned following the 2015 May elections John Mallen was co-opted back onto the council leaving one vacancy. Roy Reed was co-opted on to the PC in July, so the council once again has a full complement of councillors. This is a healthy situation because many villages have difficulty in filling their quota - Reepham for instance has only 7 of its 12 councillors.

At the Annual PC meeting on 9th May this year, David Shannon resigned as Chairman but agreed to continue as councillor and I was elected to replace him as Chairman. William Mason agreed to remain Deputy Chairman. We owe a huge debt of thanks to David for his many years of service to this Council. He will be a hard act to follow and I will do my utmost to maintain the high standards set by him.

In July the PC took over responsibility for and began to pay for the street lighting and electricity supply. May and November 2015 saw the first repayments of the PC's public works loan (£50,000).

During the year 8 planning applications were received. In the main the PC had no comment or objections - except where the applications were outside the settlement boundary.

With further regard to planning there were 3 important meetings of the PC: Firstly, Breckland's proposal to designate Bawdeswell as a Local Service Centre, Secondly the planning application for a gypsy/travellers Site in Reepham Road, and most recently, the application for 36 new dwellings on the Two Fields Way site.

It's indicative of the spirit of this village that all 3 of these meetings were well attended. In one case by well over 100 villagers.

The PC's unanimous decision on all 3 applications was to object. The gypsy site application was withdrawn by the applicants and we have lodged our objection to the 2 Fields Way application. We still await Breckland Council's decision as to whether or not we are to become a Local Service Centre.

It is also good to report that there appears to have been a reduction in Anti Social Behaviour in the village.

Without doubt the most exciting and major event in Bawdeswell in 2015 was the opening of the new BVH. This was the result of a massive amount of work and determination by the BVH trustees which has resulted in us having one of the best village halls in East Anglia. It is a triumph for all those who worked so hard to bring this about. The trustees continue to work hard and its good to see the hall being used by so many people offering so many varied attractions. Sadly though, just before Christmas we lost our caretaker Les Beach who died suddenly after a short battle with cancer.

It was good to see football on the recreation ground again. Postman David's team from Swanton Morley played on Sundays, and it is hoped during the next year that a youngsters football team from Bawdeswell can be set up by a parent from our Primary school. Its a sign of the times that interest has also been shown locally for the club to be for both boys and girls, both having their own teams. (Jamie Snell)

Moving on it was also good to see the church clock working once again. The PC were happy to contribute to the cost of the repair as we believe that the clock is an integral part of life in Bawdeswell.

The village school appointed a new headmaster this year and 2 new classrooms were added to the school.

Even our church is undergoing a massive change in it's organisation and we hope that the outcome will be favourable to as many people as possible.

So looking at the past 12 months there has been a change in the council, there has been a change in the village hall, the local school , the clock and the recreation ground.

Looking to the future we are facing the possibility of becoming a Local Service Centre which would change the face and character of Bawdeswell.

Just when you thought there were no other changes that could be made, up pops Highways Department who have changed the B1147 (Dereham Road) to a 'C' road and is now the C888.

I think it has been a great year for the village and as far as the PC is concerned, I can assure you we will endeavour to ensure that ALL changes in the future will be for the benefit and good of this village and its people.