

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BAWDESWELL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3rd MAY 2018 AT THE VILLAGE HALL.**

Present: B. Cunliffe (Chair), K. Ewing and A. Toomey  
Mrs. J Boxall (Clerk)

Members of the public – 1

Cllr Bill Cunliffe opened the meeting at 7.10pm and gave the following report on behalf of the Parish Council.

‘In the last year we have seen some changes to the Councillors serving on the Parish Council.

During the year we co-opted Ken Ewing on to our council and I am pleased to say he has already proved himself a real asset and long may it continue.

We did however reluctantly accept the resignation of Councillor Roy Reed who had served the village well for a number of years. This means there is now a vacancy and I hope it won’t be too long before it is filled.

I would also like to go on record to voice my thanks to the Councillors who have all dedicated their time and energy always without pay and often without thanks. This is coupled with thanks to our excellent Parish Clerk who has guided us through the muddy waters of reform in the legal and financial methods of performing the duties of a Parish Council.

One of the most important functions of the PC is ‘Planning’.

We have maintained our policy of accepting small developments within the Settlement Boundary which are in keeping with the character of our village, and seriously questioning any large development outside the Settlement Boundary which we feel would have an adverse effect on our village.

We have not always seen eye to eye with Breckland Council in their decision making. Whilst we accept that they have quotas to aim for, it is us who live with the consequences of their decisions.

In March of this year, the planning permission decision was at long last finalised for the building of 40 dwellings in Two Fields Way. There are signs of activity on the site already so building work will presumably start sooner rather than the later in the 2 year period during which building must be commenced.

However at the moment there are no time constraints on when the building work is completed, which is a pity.

I believe the strength of our objections to this planning application caused Breckland to admit that with the granting of these 40 new dwellings, they had no plans for additional developments in Bawdeswell for the next 20 years. We will see.

Whilst on the subject of planning permission, during the last year Foxley had an application for the erection of 18 dwellings on a site at Old Fakenham Road, across the road from Bawdeswell. This would have impacted on the infrastructure at Bawdeswell, and so we liaised with Foxley PC and together we both objected to the planning application. Breckland narrowly voted to refuse the application, the developer appealed, and the appeal was dismissed. Our PC was thanked by our neighbours at Foxley for our assistance reinforcing the good relationship we share.

Talking of good relationships, this PC has maintained its policy of working closely and together with the Trustees of our Village Hall. The Village Hall has continued to be a success and bookings have increased greatly. Whenever an event involves the use of the Recreation Ground which is the responsibility of the PC, the PC is always informed, and this system is working well. The hall has become a massive asset to the village. It caters for old and young alike and it is now good to see people visiting the hall who in the past have not. It all points to a bright future for the hall and the community.

Another example of good working relationships concerns the Bawdeswell Youth Football Club. The club has been a great success thanks to the hard work of all its organisers. The trustees of the village hall have been very supportive and have let the club use all of the facilities available in the hall both on training nights and match days. The PC has also played its part, we have allowed the club free use for all its training sessions and matches at the recreation ground. We have assisted them financially and have agreed to have a storage unit on the recreation ground for storing their football equipment. This help is fully justified as anyone who has seen the numbers of youngsters enjoying the facilities would testify to. The football club is so well run I have no doubt it is here to stay, and this PC will do all it can to support it.

Due to the extreme weather we experienced this winter, the village hall driveway and car park has had more rain than it could reasonably be expected to deal with. We are currently exploring ways of improving the drainage and included in the precept, is an annual amount of money for use when remedial work is required.

This PC has also made plans for some events in the forthcoming year.

We hope to get finance to have in November two new seats for the village green in commemoration of the ending of World War One a hundred years ago.

We are also working with the church to have this coming Christmas, a much larger Christmas tree in the grounds of the church with a special night for the children of the village involving the switching on of the lights on the Christmas Tree.

It was disappointing to hear from Norfolk Constabulary this year that they were dispensing with PCSO's. We did not see a lot of Police presence in our village, but when we did, it was usually a PCSO, and consequently we have concerns about the level of policing we will now get in Bawdeswell. A recent spate of thefts from vehicles in Bawdeswell has done little to lessen these concerns.

In the coming year we will continue to promote what we see as being good for the village and will do our utmost to prevent what is not.

As always this Parish Council will strive to work for the good of everyone in Bawdeswell.'

There being no further business, the Parish Meeting was closed at 7.17pm.