

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BAWDESWELL PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 4th MARCH 2021
STARTING AT 7.30PM.**

The meeting was held under The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 via Zoom.

Present: B.Cunliffe (Chair), J. Mallen, A. Hartley-Walder, K. Ewing and R. Reed

Mrs J Boxall (Clerk)
County Cllr Bill Borrett

Members of the public – 0

1. To receive and note apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Lilwall.

2. To record declarations of interest from members in any item to be discussed.

None received.

3. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 4th February 2021

It was unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 4th February 2021, as a true and accurate record as proposed by Cllr Cunliffe, seconded by Cllr Hartley-Walder. Minutes to be signed as soon as possible once current restrictions are lifted.

4. To adjourn the meeting to allow public participation.

No comments were received as there were no members of the public in attendance.

5. To receive reports from District Councillor, County Councillor & Police. To receive reports from Village Hall and Bawdeswell Heath.

Cllr Ewing joined the meeting at 7.33pm

District Councillor G. Bambridge and the Police were not in attendance. The monthly Police report was circulated electronically.

County Councillor B. Borrett gave a brief update on the Covid situation in the County. Details of the Parish Partnership scheme were received. County Cllr Borrett was thanked for attending.

Cllr Mallen gave a brief Village Hall report and confirmed that new equipment had been ordered which would allow the Village Hall to open up under Covid restrictions. A take away service on a Thursday morning was trialled. Cllr Cunliffe reported that the Council may need to review / increase the offer of support to Bawdeswell Heath regarding the insurance contribution in light of their lack of income / funds in the current pandemic.

6. To receive update on matters arising from previous minutes for information only –

Highways had been contacted with regards to the sunken manhole but no response had been received (County Cllr Borrett offered to help chase any outstanding issues). The plan of Adams Pit as held by the Charity Commission had been circulated for consideration. Cllr Cunliffe confirmed that Norfolk Constabulary had carried out speed monitoring in the village following recent concerns.

7. To approve further action regarding church boundary

It was unanimously agreed to accept a quote for £1130 for 42m of post and rail fencing for the Church boundary and to accept the offer of a one third contribution from the resident who shares the boundary, ensuring that a letter is written to the resident confirming that the siting of the fence is with mutual consent and does not depict the boundary, as proposed by Cllr Cunliffe and seconded by Cllr Hartley-Walder. The offer was made by the resident subject to the fence being placed on the church side. As the fence cannot be placed on the boundary because of the trees, it was agreed to place the fence on the church side of the trees. It was agreed to check the contractor's public liability prior to commencement of works.

It was recognised that as the Friends of the church have not been able to hold fund raising events, a contribution towards the cost of the fence was unlikely.

8. To approve further action regarding drainage extension -Village Hall car parking area

A written quote was received to dig from the car park into the field to connect a land drain to the pipe in the field. To supply pipe, stone and clear all leftover soil off site. The Council had to date been unable to obtain another quote for comparison. As it was felt that the Council needed another quote for reassurance, Cllr Cunliffe proposed to spend the next two weeks speaking to two potential contractors in the hope of receiving other quotes and ensuring the idea is feasible. Councillors to be consulted via email and if unanimous agreement is reached, decision to be ratified at the next meeting. Clerk gave finance update and confirmed that there were earmarked reserves of £2500 and a further £2500 allocated in the 2021/22 budget for drainage work. It was thought too late to consider a grant funding exercise.

9. Planning

(a) To consider planning applications

No planning applications were received.

(b) To receive decisions from Breckland District Council

3PL/2021/0017/F - Change of use from annex to separate residential property at Cobblers Cottage, The Street, Bawdeswell - Refusal

(c) To consider any late planning applications

No late planning application were received.

10. Finance

To receive financial update and bank statements for consideration

The balance of the Community account as at 28th February 2021 was confirmed as £17,528.11 , Business Money Manager was £2258.84, Project Bawdeswell account (earmarked reserves) was confirmed as £5006.64.

Although a funding request of £400 was made to Breckland District Council in respect of the Community Car Scheme (acknowledging a balance of £750.26 as at 7th January 2021), £750 has been offered to cover the likely cost of DBS checks and Medicals that will be required in this financial year. The Council agreed to accept the grant as proposed by Cllr Cunliffe and seconded by Cllr Ewing. An error in the minutes from September 2019 – September 2020 was identified and it was acknowledged that the balance of the Project Bawdeswell account should have been recorded as £3313.90.

To approve payments made, to be made and approve late payments as necessary

All payments made and to be made for March approved as proposed by Cllr Cunliffe, seconded by Cllr Ewing . An invoice was received from Mr Bush with regards to the grass cutting in the Churchyard and Jubilee Garden for 2020. It was confirmed that the invoice paid October 2020 was for 2019 grass cutting services. A letter is to be sent thanking Mr Bush for his work and wishing him well in his retirement.

11. Correspondence

All items received were circulated to Council. Concern was raised about the litter left in hedgerows on the Bawdeswell / Elsing Road. An email was received requesting the Council consider providing additional seating at the Play area. It was agreed to consider using one of the benches outside the village hall as a temporary solution until more benches could be purchased. A Freedom of information request regarding the Parish Council's response to a planning application was received and a response sent. An enquiry was received about the use of the open space on the new estate. The Clerk had previously circulated details of the proposed pay equipment.

12. To receive items for information

The Clerk reported that one set of toddler swings were currently out of use due to a loose bolt into the cross bar. A contractor was currently sourcing a larger bolt in the hope this would secure the swing. An email was sent to Highways requesting The Street to be gritted as it was dangerous in the recent icy weather, no reply had yet been received.

It was hoped that the litter situation would be resolved following the lifting of restrictions as Breckland were not currently supplying the litter picking equipment. A litter pick would be arranged as soon as possible.

Cllr Reed was able to join the meeting at 8.19 having struggled with connection issues and confirmed that no update had been received with regards to the manhole cover.

Cllr Ewing expressed his concern at the increased level of speeding by motorcycles on the Reepham Road and his frustration at District Cllr Bambridges lack of attendance at Parish Council meetings.

A hole appearing round a water manhole cover outside 49 Reepham Road was reported to Council. Highways to be informed.

13. To receive items for the next agenda April 1st 2021

Future agenda items to include approval of contractor / quote for the installation of drainage in the Village Hall carpark, receipt of the end of year accounts and church boundary fence.

14. To close the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20.30 pm