

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BAWDESWELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 7th JULY 2022 AT BAWDESWELL VILLAGE HALL STARTING AT 7.00PM.

Present: J. Mallen (Chair), A. Hartley-Walder, J. Lilwall, K. Ewing, A. Toomey, D. Coles and R. Reed

Mrs J Boxall (Clerk)

Members of the public – 3

District Councillor Gordon Bambridge

County Councillor Bill Borrett

1. To receive and note apologies for absence.

No apologies for absence were received as all Councillors were present.

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

No declarations of interest were received.

3. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 1st June 2022.

It was unanimously **AGREED** to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 1st June 2022, as a true and accurate record as proposed by Cllr Lilwall, seconded by Cllr Coles. Minutes were duly signed.

4. To adjourn the meeting to allow members of the public to speak on agenda items.

No comments were received.

5. To receive reports from District Councillor, County Councillor & Police. To receive report from Village Hall & Primary School

County Councillor Borrett confirmed his continued support for the Council's Parish Partnership Scheme proposals, and expressed his interest in the Windfarm discussion.

District Cllr Bambridge was not present at this point.

The Police were not in attendance but the Police report was circulated electronically.

The Primary School representative was not in attendance

Cllr Lilwall gave a brief update on matters relating to the Village Hall, confirming that enquiries and bookings were up more than pre pandemic levels and extending thanks to all the volunteers for their support. Village Hall roof – it was confirmed that the work was due to go to tender and it was hoped to then bring the Village Hall Trustee's recommendations back to the Parish Council for endorsement. He confirmed that at the open meeting on 21st June, in excess of 25 residents attended and good discussion ensued.

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

There were no matters arising as everything was covered elsewhere on the agenda.

7. To receive update and consider / approve application for Parish Partnership funding for Speed Awareness Monitoring / Village Gate

The invitation to apply for Parish Partnership Funding was received and circulated to Councillors. Cllr Coles confirmed another meeting was held with the Highways engineer and 4 locations were identified / approved as being suitable for the SAM2 devices as follows;

1. On the B1145 Norwich Road (heading towards the garden centre) directly opposite the gate to the Commonwealth War Graves
2. On the B1145 Reepham Road on the area of grass outside 5 Reepham Road
3. On The Street past the primary school (heading to the A1067) 2 telegraph poles further up the same side of the road as the primary school
4. On the B1145 Dereham Road -opposite side to Rose Cottage and 2 telegraph poles away.

The total cost to purchase two SAM2 units with accessories was confirmed as £7554 excluding VAT. Highways would consider (through the Parish Partnership Scheme) meeting half the cost of the project. A small team of volunteers would be needed to move the units, recharge the batteries and download data.

With regards to the proposal for the installation of Village Gates, the Highway Engineer confirmed that a quote could not be provided until the Parish Partnership application had been considered / approved but that maximum size gates would cost £4000 including signage. The Garden Centre, when approached had expressed their support for the gates / speed reduction project.

Highways confirmed that Bawdeswell can keep the VAS signage that is already in position.

County Councillor Bill Borrett confirmed that the £1000 grant previously promised towards a speed reduction scheme would still be available to the Council.

It was unanimously **AGREED** that the Council would apply for Parish Partnership funding for the SAM2 units and the Village Gates, at a total cost of £11554, as proposed by Cllr Lilwall, seconded by Cllr Ewing.

The Clerk asked the Council to consider how their 50% of the expenditure would be financed (general reserves or precept) so this can be factored into next year's budget (approved in December) as appropriate.

8. To receive update on wind farm development

The Clerk confirmed that letters had been emailed and emails sent in response to the consultations.

HGV Traffic

Cllr Coles reported on Highways response regarding the request to divert HGV's away from the Reepham Road. Highways confirmed that the B1145 was a main distributor route, with the role of distributing all types of traffic, and is not intended as a through route. It was acknowledged that the route is not promoted as a through route (only signposted to Bawdeswell and Reepham) and that there was sufficient advisory signage. Following discussion there were no objections from Councillors for Cllr Coles to carry out a more focused traffic survey (with support from Cawston Parish Council), documenting companies using the road as a cut through and writing to them highlighting the option of using another route.

Overgrown hedges / Trees

A piece was put in the Reeves Tale requesting residents to check their boundaries for overhanging vegetation. Examples were given of issues in the village. It was agreed that a standard letter would be delivered to offending properties highlighting the issue, asking residents to contact the Council if there are any issues with carrying out the work.

20MPH limit outside School

Highways confirmed that although the Norfolk Speed Management Strategy had the aspiration that all speed limits outside Norfolk Schools be 20MPH, there was currently no funding for this especially as there is no record of any accidents outside the school. Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Coles go back to Highways and find out the cost to change the speed limit and also the cost for part-time 20mph signs with flashing warning lights, to go outside the school (which could be purchased as part of the Parish Partnership Scheme). It was agreed to engage with the Primary School on the matter.

Windfarm

Cllr Coles gave an update, confirming the action taken by the Parish Council in support of an offshore transmission network (ring main) and confirming MP George Freeman's response to the concerns raised. County Cllr B. Borrett confirmed that he would speak to George Freeman and assess the current situation. Cllr Lilwall highlighted the importance of ensuring that discussion at the Council meeting was focused on the aspects of the windfarm development directly affecting Bawdeswell residents such as the potential increased amount of HGV's / construction traffic accessing development sites via Bawdeswell. It was acknowledged that it was important not to make assumptions and to fully understand the issues. Cllr Coles agreed to circulate a list of concerns specific to Bawdeswell in advance of the next meeting for consideration.

9. To consider / approve further action following complaint about public open space – screening

Following a site visit, it was acknowledged that the trees already planted will grow and should provide screening. It was understood that underground cabling could be affected by further planting and there would be the cost of future maintenance to consider. Following discussion Cllr Mallen proposed to add more screening to the public open space but this was rejected by majority with only one Councillor in favour.

10. To consider / approve schedule of works and further action regarding future maintenance / management of green open space

Cllr Coles confirmed that Norfolk County Council had offered to pay the Council £1081 per annum as a delegated function payment for verge cutting. The cost to cover at least 4 cuts per annum. It was unanimously agreed that this was an inadequate figure given the extent of the verges to be cut.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would formulate a schedule of grounds maintenance works based on information provided and bring back to Council for approval in September (following which quotes could then be sought), to include a separate schedule of work for Adams Pit.

11. To receive annual play inspection report and consider / approve further action

The annual play inspection report was received and circulated. Cllr Hartley-Walder confirmed that the sandpit had already been made safe and would be removed in the next couple of weeks (as previously agreed by Council). It was unanimously **AGREED** to move forward with play area repairs over the summer with delegated authority. Expenditure to be approved via email as proposed by Cllr Lilwall, seconded by Cllr Hartley-Walder.

12. Planning

a) To consider planning applications

3PL/2022/0697/HOU

PROPOSAL: Proposed Rear Canopy/Side Pitched Roof and Garage Conversion

LOCATION: 1 Dereham Road, Bawdeswell

The Council **AGREED** they had no comments / objection to this application.

3PL/2022/0463/LB

PROPOSAL: Proposed internal and external alterations, Internal: removal of bar and one toilet, demolition of internal walls and formation of staircases. External: Blocking one external door opening

AMENDMENT: Description amended to reflect LB alterations only

LOCATION: Church View, The Street, Bawdeswell

Breckland had notified the Council that this planning application has been withdrawn, therefore there was no discussion.

b) To receive decisions from Breckland District Council

No decisions were received.

c) To consider any late planning applications

No late planning applications were received.

13. Finance

a) To receive income / expenditure budget figures for end June for consideration

The balance of the Community account as at 30th June 2022 was confirmed as £22209.27, Business Money Manager was £36144.89 after £1.53 interest had been received. The Community Car Scheme balance was £1740.00 after the grant of £375 was received and payments as detailed below were made to drivers. Bank charges of £8 were taken on 4th June 2022. Recycling credits of £336.52 were confirmed by Breckland District Council and would be paid in July. An internal control check was carried out by Cllr Toomey.

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

All payments made and to be made as per schedule of payments were **AGREED** proposed by Cllr Ewing, seconded by Cllr Toomey. The list of payments was duly signed.

List of payments made since the last meeting

4th June 2022 - Bank charges - Charges to be paid for 13th April – 12th May 2022 £8.00
4th June 2022 - Graham Williamson – Adams Pit / Jubilee Garden repairs £225
4th June 2022 - Mr David Coles – refund planter expenses £197.15
10th June 2022 - Bawdeswell Village Hall – May £10.00
10th June 2022 - Chris Leppard - Community Car Scheme March – May £12.75
10th June 2022 - Christine Wheeler - Community Car Scheme March – May £17.00
10th June 2022 - Liz & Phil Ollier - CCS March – May £21.50
10th June 2022 - David & Angie Shannon - CCS March – May £17.65
10th June 2022 - Linda Rose - CCS March – May £14.25
10th June 2022 - Jo Porter - CCS March – May £16.50
10th June 2022 - CBR Business Solutions – DBS £14.40
18th June 2022 - K&M Lighting 13th June – 12th July £7.74
30th June 2022 – Mrs Jo Boxall - Clerks Salary and expenses £483.02
3rd July 2022 - CGM Grounds Maintenance – June £184.20
3rd July 2022 - Bawdeswell Village Hall – June Hall Hire £10.00
3rd July 2022 - A McColville – refund paint for village signpost £126.00

c) To confirm / approve grant payments to BEG and Reeves Tale as previously approved

An email was received from the Reeves Tale confirming the purchase of the community laptop and seeking the £500 that was agreed at the April meeting. It was confirmed that as they had been able to find other funding sources, the Council would pay the £500 previously awarded.

An invoice was received from BEG for the £500 grant for the Queens jubilee celebrations (which covered the cost of an entertainer). It was confirmed that this would now be paid.

14. Correspondence

Planet Aid – To consider / approve request to place clothing bank at Village Hall – As there is already a clothing bank on site and income was received which benefited the community there was no need for a second clothing bank.

Highway Rangers- To consider / approve further action regarding highway maintenance, it was confirmed that Clerk had informed the Highway Rangers of all potholes / sign issues as highlighted by Councillors and NCC confirmed action was taken. Cllr Coles confirmed that all the potholes due for repair have been marked. He expressed concern about a deep groove down the road outside garden centre, and had mentioned this to Highways.

15. To receive items for information and receive items for the next agenda

Cllr Mallen reported that Norfolk Wildlife Trust had confirmed an interested in acquiring the Heath and were beginning to employ a solicitor to look at land ownership.

Future agenda items to include Windfarm (issues affecting Bawdeswell), update on overgrown hedges, play area update, Clerks annual review, grounds maintenance specification

District Cllr G. Bambridge apologised for being late was late to the meeting and provided a brief update on matters at Breckland including the Breckland call for sites. He confirmed that there was a shortage of electricity in Norfolk, and the county could not develop without electricity.

16. To approve the date of next Parish Meeting Thursday 1st September 2022

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 1st September 2022 at 7pm

17. To close the meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20.45pm