

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF BAWDESWELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2023 AT BAWDESWELL VILLAGE HALL STARTING AT 7.00PM.

Present: J. Mallen (Chair), D. Shannon (Vice Chair), A. Hartley-Walder, C. Good and P. Craven

Mrs J Boxall (Clerk)

1 Member of the public

1. To receive and note apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllr Reed.

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

Cllr Shannon, Cllr Hartley-Walder and Cllr Good declared a personal interest in agenda items 5 and 10 subject to discussion on specific sites (Breckland Local Plan).

3. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 5th October 2023

It was unanimously **AGREED** to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 5th October 2023, as a true and accurate record as proposed by Cllr Shannon, seconded by Cllr Good. Minutes were duly signed.

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

Graham Williamson was in attendance to put forward grounds maintenance proposals. It was agreed there would be discussion under agenda item 9.

5. To receive update from the Planning Director and Local Plan Manager regarding Call for Sites and Bawdeswell's Local Service Centre status

Robert Walker Deputy CEO of Breckland Council and Andrew Darcy Planning Policy Manager for Breckland Council were in attendance. It was confirmed that the Local Plan process has taken longer than expected due to the large volume of correspondence received regarding the proposed New Town. It was acknowledged that there is a need to find 4000 new homes across Breckland to meet housing needs and sites would be considered to ensure they are available, suitable and that the scheme proposed is deliverable.

The next key date will be end of November (27th) where general broad locations will be debated, these will be definitive in March. Whilst it is preferable for development to be on brown field sites, a lack of these sites in Breckland means that other types of land will be considered.

It was confirmed that the infrastructure requirements behind development is outside Breckland's control and that although site promoters will need to tick the infrastructure box, Norfolk County Council will be involved in the process after November. The Parish Council queried Bawdeswell's designation as a Local Service Centre given the lack of a Doctors or Dentist in the village. As the methodology used to designate LSC's was deemed to be robust by the independent inspector on the current Local Plan, an alternative development strategy was unlikely. The PC will have the opportunity to comment on their LSC status as part of the consultation.

The Council were advised that they did not need to submit a site specific response until it is known if Bawdeswell has any housing allocations. The PC were invited to submit comments ahead of the March draft plan but would not receive a response until after March. It was confirmed that the recent housing development would not be taken into account when considering allocations. The planning officers were thanked for their attendance.

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

District Cllr G. Bambridge sent his apologies. County Councillor B. Borrett and the Police were not in attendance.

There was no representative from the Primary School. Cllr Good gave a brief update. The AGM was held and the financial information was encouraging. PC thanked the Trustees who have been remarkable in their achievements over the past few years given the challenges of Covid and the leaking roof.

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

All matters were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

8. To receive update on Community Speed Watch and approve further action

No additional volunteers have come forward. A resident reported that the Police will be carrying out speed checks on the Reephams Road following a high incidence of speeding evidenced in data collected by the Police. Thanks were extended to the resident for their vigilance and getting the Police to carry out the speed checks. It was acknowledged that there are other areas within the village which need attention and that it is important to liaise with the Police to ensure these other areas are covered. It was agreed that the Council would pause the advert for volunteers and review in February.

9. Grounds Maintenance – To receive update & To receive quotes for grounds maintenance, approve contract for 2024 and consider / approve further action re village maintenance (Jubilee Garden & Adams Pit)

Quotes were received from two contractors for grass cutting and circulated for consideration. The local proposal from Mr Williamson was also available for consideration. The Clerk raised concern over the lack of information currently available in this proposal and highlighted financial aspects requiring clarification / consideration.

Due to the lack of information currently available, Cllr Mallen proposed that the Council accept the quote from Garden Guardian for 2024 grass cutting with a view to obtaining information so the Council can confidently consider the local proposal next November, this proposal was unsupported.

Following further discussion, it was unanimously **AGREED** that the Council would delay making a decision on the grounds maintenance contract until December and with support from the Clerk and Council, Mr Williamson be allowed to expand on areas of doubt, clarify all the codicils on the proposal, in order for the Council to make an informed decision in December as proposed by Cllr Shannon, seconded by Cllr Mallen.

Clerk to send email to current contractor requesting date for hedge cutting. It was confirmed that no invoice has yet been received.

10. Breckland Call for sites – To receive update and approve further action re consultation

Following discussion, it was agreed to send the Council's agreed final draft position paper on housing development within the village of Bawdeswell in relation to the next iteration of the Breckland local plan to Planning at Breckland ahead of the Parish Council's consideration of specific site proposals.

11. Play area – To receive update – fencing play area, receive annual play report Bluebell Rise and approve repairs to rotobounce and climbing wall

Playarea repairs have been carried out by Playdale. NGF Play confirmed that they have carried out the repairs to the toddler swings. Two quotes were received for the complete replacement of the climbing wall (tractor). Mr Williamson forwarded a price for eco board from which he proposes to create a new climbing board (cost £280.45 + VAT). As it was confirmed that the replacement climbing board would include ground anchors, it was unanimously **AGREED** to accept the quote from Eco Deck for composite board plus installation costs (to be received) as proposed by Cllr Shannon, seconded by Cllr Good.

It was unanimously **AGREED** to accept the quote for repairs to the roto bounce at a cost of £1060.29 + VAT as proposed by Cllr Hartley-Walder, seconded by Cllr Mallen.

An email was sent to a contractor seeking advice / a quote on fencing for the play area. No response has yet been received. The Clerk circulated a list of considerations for fencing of play areas which may restrict the type of fencing suitable. It was acknowledged that there is an issue with dog mess on the recreation ground and it was hoped that the new signage would help address this. It was agreed that Cllr Good would contact the Dog Warden on behalf of the PC to raise concerns.

Four companies were contacted re replacement surfacing under certain items of play equipment and to date only one response has been received with a quote for £16956 + VAT which assumes a suitable stone base to be installed by others. It was agreed to review the situation regarding surfacing until the spring.

The play inspection of Bluebell Rise play area was received and was circulated for consideration. As there were no items of immediate concern, it was agreed to defer consideration of the report until the Spring.

12. Highways – To receive items to report to Highways, receive update on items already reported.

A letter was sent to Highways and copied to the District and County Councillors and the local MP highlighting the concerns raised about vehicles parking on The Street and by the school. It was agreed to carry this agenda item forward and invite the bus company to engage with the PC and Highways on any future site visits.

13. Planning

(a) To consider planning applications received

No planning applications received

(b) To receive decisions from Breckland District Council

No decisions received

(c) To consider any late planning applications

No late planning applications received.

14. Finance

a) To receive income / expenditure budget figures to 31st October for consideration

The balance of the Community account as at 31st October 2023 was confirmed as £32164.34, Business Money Manager (Earmarked reserves) was £39234.64. Budget figures were circulated to Council for consideration. The internal control check was carried out and no concerns identified.

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** as proposed by Cllr Mallen, seconded by Cllr Good. The list of payments was duly signed.

3rd October 2023	Bank charges to 12th September 2023	£8.00
4th October 2023	Bawdeswell Village Hall September hire	£24.00
11th October 2023	CBR Business Solutions DBS check volunteer	£14.40
11th October 2023	Playdale balance 50% repairs	£462.82
11th October 2023	Linda Rose CCS Q3	£25.50
11th October 2023	Chris Leppard CCS Q3	£8.00
11th October 2023	Lin Leppard - Community Car Scheme Q3	£10.50
11th October 2023	Shawn Eglan - Community Car Scheme Q3	£9.75
11th October 2023	Ruth Whitmore - Community Car Scheme Q3	£45.25
11th October 2023	Angela Shannon - Community Car Scheme Q3	£30.50
11th October 2023	Peter Andrews - Community Car Scheme Q3	£11.50
11th October 2023	Alan Gardner - Community Car Scheme Q3	£6.00
11th October 2023	Jane Nursey - Community Car Scheme Q3	£6.25
11th October 2023	Bawdeswell Heath Trustees - 50% insurance cont	£198.65
11 th October 2023	David Bracey – Annual Play inspect Bluebell Rise	£120.00
11 th October 2023	Grant Little Monkeys – play equipment	£118.00
18th October 2023	Npower-Street Lighting electricity-1st Jul-30th Sept	£96.64
23 rd October 2023	K&M Lighting 13th October - 12th November 2023	£9.42
23 rd October 2023	Mrs Jo Boxall – refund dog signage	£47.94
29 th October 2023	Breckland District Council – election charges	£75.00
31st October 2023	Mrs Jo Boxall - October salary & exps	£508.77
Future payments to include		
3 rd November 2023	Bank charges to 12 th October 2023	8.00
	Bawdeswell Village Hall October Hire	24.00
	K&M Lighting 13 th November-12 th December	9.42
	Reeves Tale Annual contribution	410.00
	Bawdeswell PCC - PO heating donation	150.00
	Citizens advice Bureau - annual donation	50.00
	NARS annual donation	50.00
	PWLB repayment (Direct Debit)	2090.82
Receipts		
28 th October 2023	Bank interest – Earmarked reserves a/c	62.46

15. Correspondence

All correspondence received was circulated.

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

The Clerk reminded the Council that she was away from 6th November until 24th November. A draft budget had already been circulated to Councillors, this would be updated and recirculated ahead of the December meeting. Future agenda items to include Grounds Maintenance, Highway matters, Breckland Local Plan and precept consideration. Concern was raised over reports of antisocial behaviour on the recreation ground.

17. To approve the date of the next Parish Council Meeting Thursday 7th December 2023

The Date of the next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 7th December 2023

18. To close the meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21.27pm