

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BAWDESWELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 6th APRIL 2023 AT BAWDESWELL VILLAGE HALL STARTING AT 7.00PM.

Present: J. Mallen (Chair) A. Hartley-Walder (Vice Chair), J. Lilwall, A. Toomey and R. Reed
County Councillor B. Borrett, District Councillor G. Bambridge

Mrs J Boxall (Clerk)

Members of the public – 4

1. To receive and note apologies for absence.

No apologies for absence were received and noted as all Councillors in attendance.

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 Thursday 2nd March 2023.

It was unanimously **AGREED** to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 2nd March 2023, as a true and accurate record as proposed by Cllr Hartley-Walder, seconded by Cllr Reed. 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

The Police were not in attendance. District Cllr Bambridge & County Cllr Borrett highlighted the concern over the proposed new town and the need to respond to the issues and options consultation in order that the new policy does not support the development of the new town.

Cllr Hartley-Walder confirmed that the weather had delayed the start of the roof repairs and that currently £46061 had been raised towards the cost. Concern was raised over the delay in the PWLB application. Volunteers were currently finalising the coronation celebrations, a grant from Breckland had been awarded but not yet received.

David Taylor, Chair of the Primary school governors was not in attendance.

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

It was confirmed that the trees on the public open space had mostly been vandalised. Cllr Mallen reported that Bawdeswell Garden Centre has 6 beech trees in pots which they are looking to donate but these may be too big for the area.

7. To receive update in respect of the PWLB loan application

The Department for Levelling up Housing and Communities confirmed that Bawdeswell council's PWLB application is currently waiting to be reassessed and put up to approvers. Applications are going up in order of submission unless there is an urgent deadline that requires them be pushed ahead. The Council will be advised when it has been looked at by approvers.

Clerk to stress matter as urgent given timescales already provided and highlight that due to fundraising efforts now looking to borrow £15000.

8. Grounds Maintenance – To receive update

It was confirmed that work had been carried out to the overgrown hedge on the recreation ground. There was difficulty obtaining coping stones to replace the ones missing at the jubilee garden, Cllr Mallen offered to try and source some.

It was confirmed that the damaged gatepost at the entrance to the Village Hall needs serious excavation due to the lump of concrete. It was agreed to approach another contractor and enquire about removal.

9. Breckland Call for sites – to formulate response to policy consultation

The consultation was circulated to Councillors for consideration. Following discussion it was unanimously **AGREED** that in light of discussions that have taken place over the past meetings responsibility should be delegated to the Chair to complete the questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council as proposed by Cllr Hartley-Walder, seconded by Cllr Reed.

Concern was expressed about the technical language used in the consultation document (document designed for the planners) but answers can be missed where they were deemed unnecessary. It was agreed to ensure questions on the settlement boundary and the proposed new town were answered.

10. Planning

(a) To consider planning applications

No planning applications were received

(b) To receive decisions from Breckland District Council

No planning decisions were received

(c) To consider any late planning applications

No late planning applications were received

11. Finance

(a) To receive income / expenditure budget figures for end of financial year 31st March 2023 for consideration

The balance of the Community account as at 31st March 2023 was confirmed as £19053.51, Business Money Manager was £34959.16. It was agreed to transfer £3901.84 from the Community account (general reserves) to the Business Money Manager (earmarked reserves) account making balance of earmarked reserves £38861. The Community Car Scheme balance was £1584.01. Bank charges of £8 were taken on 3rd April 2023.

(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 Hartley- Walder seconded by Cllr Mallen. The list of payments was duly signed.

Bawdeswell Village Hall hire February hire £5.00 paid 9th March 2023
CBR Business Solutions - DBS new driver £14.40 paid 9th March 2023
K&M Lighting - 13th March - 12th April £9.42 paid 26th March 2023
Mrs Jo Boxall - March salary & exps £483.02 paid 31st March 2023
Bawdeswell Village Hall hire March £5.00 paid 1st April 2023
Mr G. Williamson – hedge cutting recreation ground £210 paid 1st April 2023

Payments to be made

Norfolk ALC subscription £209.24 and website £70 invoice was received for consideration. It was acknowledged that Norfolk PTS offered a similar support service at £240. It was unanimously **AGREED** to renew the subscription to NALC as proposed by Cllr Mallen, seconded by Cllr Toomey.

(c) To confirm grant award from Breckland for Community Car Scheme 2023/24

Breckland confirmed the grant award of £250 for Community Car Scheme and the new agreement was signed and returned to Breckland.

(d) To approve delegated function to the Clerk to make payments in accordance with the budget pending approval of new signatories following election.

As new signatories will be needed following the elections and there was a need to ensure invoices are paid, it was unanimously **AGREED** to approve delegated function to the Clerk to continue to make payments in accordance with the budget pending approval of new signatories as proposed by Cllr Lilwall, seconded by Cllr Toomey.

(e) To consider grant application from Little Monkeys Playgroup

A grant application was received from Little Monkeys Playgroup for help with hall hire costs. It was confirmed that since the application, Little Monkeys had spoken with the Village Hall and as a result would now come under BEG so the cost of the hall hire would be met. It was agreed that as there was no longer a need for help with hall hire costs, to respond to the request highlighting the recycling credits and ask the group to apply when they had a further specific need (Christmas party etc.).

12. Correspondence

All correspondence received was circulated electronically. Abel Homes had offered to come and speak to the Council about their proposed housing development but it was felt too early in the process to consider this.

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

As only Cllr Reed had put himself forward for election, the Council would be inquorate for the May meeting. CC Borrett suggested the Council spend time finding new Councillors for co-option.

14. To approve the date of Annual Parish Council Meeting

The 2023 local election date is Thursday 4th May. Councillors would ordinarily take office on Monday 8th May but as this is a bank holiday to mark the coronation of HM King Charles III, Norfolk ALC have advised that new councillors will now take office on Tuesday 9 May making the relevant 14-day meeting period for the purposes of paragraph 7 (2) of Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972 Wednesday 10-Thursday 25 May inclusive. It was therefore agreed to hold both the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council meeting on the 18th May starting at 7pm.

15. To close the meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.47pm