

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BAWDESWELL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1ST JUNE 2023 STARTING AT 7.00PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present: A Hartley-Walder, R. Reed and D. Shannon**

**Mrs. J Boxall (Clerk), Members of the public – 6**

**District Councillor G Bambridge**

Cllr John Mallen opened the meeting at 7.00pm and gave the following report.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022 / 23**

John Mallen confirmed that the need to recruit new Councillors has dominated meetings over the past 12 months. Despite the Council's best efforts to recruit, people who had expressed an interest withdrew due to the correspondence in the Reeves Tale, which gave an inaccurate impression that there were issues within the Council and therefore they were reluctant to stand.

A handy man has been appointed and the play area has been kept tidy, the area under the jungle gym re-barked. The A frame play unit has been removed and cleared.

The area around the Village sign has been rejuvenated, thanks to help from Councillors. The walk way to Adams Pit has been repaired by the Handy Man. It was acknowledged that Adams Pit requires some future consideration

There were very few planning applications, the main one being the change of use of the pub and couple of small extensions. Breckland's Call for sites has identified 5 areas where development could be proposed. The challenge for the new Council will be responding to the proposed sites. District Cllr G. Bambridge confirmed that nutrient neutrality has reduced the number of sites and that Breckland is considering the proposed New Town – they will review all comments following the consultation and make decisions and then come back to councils (possibly in the Autumn) Sites can be viewed on Breckland's website.

Speeding concerns – at one point there was agreement to purchase a set of village gates and a mobile speed awareness monitoring system (SAM2). The SAM2 would require volunteers to move the unit every 4 weeks and to collect and interpret the data. There was concern that if people don't already take notice of the existing flashing sign and 30MPH repeater signs etc. would they pay attention to a SAM2 unit? The Council opted out on the proviso that the new council could review. Thanks were extended to one resident for making the village aware of the issues regarding speeding and windfarms. Awareness was raised about the amount of HGV traffic on the B1145 although a traffic survey suggested that HGV traffic was not as much an issue as expected.

Cllr Reed reminded the meeting that proceeding with the SAM2 and Village Gate would have meant a large increase in the precept to accommodate the Council's share of the cost and as there is more than one entrance to the village this cost may have risen to purchase additional gates. Cllr Shannon suggests Community Speed Watch as a future option which may be more effective than a 30MPH sign but acknowledged that it needs a team of volunteers. Cllr Cockburn raised concern about volunteers of this scheme who have faced abuse from drivers, with drivers exceeding the speed limit only facing a letter from the Police.

Following questions, it was confirmed that to date the Parish Council has only commented on the New Town proposals as it is difficult to comment on sites put forward in Bawdeswell until Breckland have assessed the sites in the first instance. District Cllr Bambridge confirmed over 2000 comments were received in response to the proposed New Town which he intended to read. District Cllr Bambridge confirmed that if a site had previously been rejected by the Secretary of State the history of the site would be considered but this did not prevent future applications.

Thanks were extended to the outgoing Chair for his efforts on the Parish Council.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.19pm