

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF BAWDESWELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2024 AT BAWDESWELL VILLAGE HALL STARTING AT 7.00PM.

**Present: J. Mallen (Chair) D. Shannon, C. Good, A. Hartley-Walder, P. Craven and R. Hannent
J. Boxall – Parish Clerk, Members of the public - 2**

1. To receive and note apologies for absence

No apologies for absence were received.

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

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

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 13th September 2024

It was unanimously **AGREED** to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Friday 13th September 2024, as a true and accurate record as proposed by Cllr Good and seconded by Cllr Hannent. Minutes were duly signed.

4. To adjourn the meeting to allow members of the public to speak on agenda items and receive presentation in respect of Local Plan development proposals

A representative from Lanpro and a representative from the land owner attended the meeting to present draft proposals for the housing development site off the Reephram Road. It was acknowledged that the draft proposed scheme was low density and included ideas such as a community orchard, allotments and wild flower meadow / green open space. The Council raised the question of who would maintain these green spaces as the Council would not wish to take anything on without practical and financial support. There was a suggestion that section 106 agreement could involve improvements to existing open space. It was confirmed that there was the opportunity for further discussion on housing type to meet the needs of the community and that it was unlikely even with the Government looking to increase housing numbers that the site density would increase. It was acknowledged that the Parish Council had argued against this site due to safety concerns over the entrance to the development and a lack of footpath and this would need to be addressed.

Concern was expressed about the enhanced boundary and engagement with residents living on the edge of the development was encouraged. Concern was expressed that with increased traffic on The Street from development, the bus service may be affected if buses struggle to get through.

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

County Cllr B. Borrett and the Police were not in attendance

G. Bambridge gave a brief update on district matters, including the ward boundary review, car parking consultation and flooding concerns in the area. He confirmed there was no further update on the New Town.

Cllr Good gave an update on behalf of the Village Hall and reported that the community group meeting resulted in the purchase of a 'bleed bag' which has been placed inside the defibrillator. A training session has been arranged with NARS for coping with accidents / injuries. Cllr Shannon confirmed he would attend the Village Hall Trustee meeting on 4th November where there would be discussion on future plans for the Village Hall.

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

The Clerk reported that she was unable to submit the Council's objections to the car parking charges as Breckland website stated that 'a period of public consultation will follow in the Autumn, giving members of the public the opportunity to feed back on the proposals for each market town.' but there wasn't the opportunity yet to present views.

7. Bawdeswell Heath – To receive update

No update was received. It was understood that Bawdeswell Heath Trustees were chasing the Charity Commission for information.

8. Play equipment – To receive update

Soil levels were raised around the play equipment to cover exposed matting (and concrete – embankment slide). Grass seed had been purchased and volunteers were going to spread this. It was hoped that warning tape and stakes would deter children from playing long enough to allow the grass to grow. Thanks were extended to the Clerk, Cllr Craven and helpers for their effort in spreading the soil.

9. Grounds Maintenance –

To receive update – Cllr Shannon reported that the hedge round Bluebell Rise couldn't be cut by a tractor with a hedge cutter as there was not enough space. It was hoped that as the top and other side had already been cut, volunteers could manage the Council's side. Following discussion it was agreed that the village hall driveway hedge did not need cutting at the present time.

To receive quotes and approve purchase of a blower for Grounds Maintenance

The Grounds Contractor sent suggestions / quotes for blowers for grounds maintenance. It was unanimously **AGREED** to purchase Stihl BG 86 C-E petrol blower online from Garden Machinery Direct at a cost of £278 as proposed by Cllr Mallen, seconded by Cllr Shannon.

10. Breckland Local Plan – To receive update

An email was received - Breckland Council's cabinet resolved to pause the development of the Local Plan in response to the Labour Government's recent consultation on proposed revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and increase in Housing Target, published on 30th July 2024.

11. Dog bin – Jubilee Gardens & Litter bin – Beehive Way – To receive update.

The Grounds Maintenance contractor confirmed that he was unable to move the litter bin due to the heavy concrete base. Breckland confirmed that once the bin has been moved, it can be added to the schedule for Serco to empty. An application to Norfolk County Council for a dog bin outside Jubilee Garden has been made. It was agreed to approach Paul Buck for a quote to move the bin, and seek alternative quotes as necessary depending on cost.

12. Planning

(a) To consider planning applications

No planning applications were received

(b) To receive decisions from Breckland District Council

3PL/2024/0690/HOU Adaptation and single storey extension to fulfil accessible needs at 32 Reephams Road – Approved.

(c) To consider any late planning applications

No late planning applications were received.

(d) To receive update on planning application 3PL/2023/1145/F and approve further action

Breckland District Council had not yet made a decision in respect of this planning application. District Cllr G. Bambridge advised (email) that the applicant has submitted a lengthy rebuttal to the highways statement of objection to the application which will need to be assessed. Residents have raised concern at what they see as procrastination and the lack of response to the application by Norfolk Council Council Highways. District Cllr Bambridge confirmed that he was in contact with the planning officer on a regular basis and would provide an update on any developments.

13. Finance

a) To receive financial update to 30th September and bank statements for consideration

The balance of the Community account as at 30th September 2024 was confirmed as £27070.28, Business Money Manager (Earmarked reserves) was £35898.60 with play equipment to be taken out. Budget figures were circulated to Council for consideration.

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.

PAYMENTS				
2nd September 2024		Muddy Badger - Strim islands Adams Pit (Trustee a/c)		100.00
3rd September 2024		Bank charges 13th July to 12th August		8.00
16th September 2024		Clear Councils - annual insurance		519.80
16th September 2024		K&M lighting - 13th September to 12th October		9.42
19th September 2024		CBR Business Solutions - DBS check x2		28.80
26th September 2024		Graham Williamson - September grounds maintenance		182.05
30th September 2024		Mrs Jo Boxall - September salary & exps		548.72
30th September 2024		Mrs Jo Boxall - refund grass seed recreation ground		143.99
30th September 2024		Muddy Badger - Gardening and waste Jubilee Garden		220.00
RECEIPTS				
27th September 2024		Breckland District Council - precept	14,350.00	
FUTURE PAYMENTS				

4 th October 2024		Bawdeswell Village Hall – Hall Hire September		27.20
4 th October 2024		Bank Charges – 13 th August – 12 th September (paid in cheque)		10.00
		Top soil for recreation ground		TBC

14. Correspondence

All correspondence received was circulated to Council.

An email was received from Albanwise Environment Ltd, the owners and managers of a block of land between Bawdeswell and Foxley villages and Foxley Wood regarding an opportunity at the site to create a large new broadleaved woodland with wildflower meadows. Their plan is to create new wildlife-rich habitats, support nature restoration and develop an open space that local people can access and enjoy. As they are keen to develop the project and work with the local community in Bawdeswell and Foxley they have requested the opportunity to come and speak with the Parish Council for information and for feedback. Dates of the next Council meetings have been sent with an invitation to attend.

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

Items for the next agenda to include a draft budget for 2025/26 for consideration, tree survey quotes would be obtained as concern was expressed about a dead tree on the far side of the basketball court (may not belong to the Parish Council). It was agreed to consider future work to the hedge / undergrowth around the recreation ground.

Cllr Shannon confirmed that the bus shelters had been inspected by a contractor and there was no current structural concerns.

16. To approve the date of the next Parish Council Meeting – 7th November 2024

The date of the next Council meeting was confirmed as 7th November 2024

17. To close the meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.52pm.