

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF BAWDESWELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 5th DECEMBER 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
District Cllr G. Bambridge and County Cllr B. Borrett were not in attendance**

1. To receive and note apologies for absence

No apologies for absence were received as all Councillors were 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 meeting held on Thursday 7th November 2024

It was unanimously **AGREED** to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 7th November 2024, as a true and accurate record as proposed by Cllr Hartley-Walder, seconded by Cllr Shannon. Minutes were duly signed.

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

It was reported that the vehicle parked outside the village shop has been moved.

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

Neither District Cllr G. Bambridge, County Cllr B. Borrett nor Police were in attendance. Cllr Good gave a brief update on matters at the Village Hall and confirmed that two applications had been made in respect of funding for the solar panels. It was hoped the shortfall would be raised from solar panel sponsorship (there was a need to demonstrate community support to grant funding bodies).

Concern had been expressed over the rising cost of heating the church to accommodate the Post Office and alternatives were being considered (including use of Village Hall). It was agreed to add to the Council's February agenda when definitive electricity costs would be available for consideration so the Parish Council could review their annual donation.

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

The Clerk had emailed Highways Norfolk County Council regarding access for mobility scooters and was awaiting a response

Abels confirmed that they were responsible for maintaining the remaining hedge at Bluebell Rise and would ask their contractor to cut it back to match in with the work the Parish Council has undertaken.

Invitation from Breckland (Thompson Community Hall) inviting representatives from the parish council to attend a parish council workshop on the 11th of December 2024 where the Parish Council will be able to feed into the consultation as a parish council along with others. The Clerk had raised concern with DC G. Bambridge about the consultation as it did not allow for Parish Council general views. It was agreed to confirm the Parish Council's views that as a rural community, the Council are against the introduction of charges.

Thanks were extended to Paul Buck for moving the litter bin at Bluebell Rise. Clerk to send letter. Mr Williamson has mended / replaced broken planks at Adams Pit. It was agreed that in future recycled plastic planks would be used as they require less maintenance and are longer lasting.

7. Bawdeswell Heath – To receive update

Cllr Shannon confirmed that he attended a meeting with the Bawdeswell Heath Trustees where the response from the Charity Commission was examined in depth. The Trustees elected to recruit a legal opinion to fight the letter subject to an estimate of likely costs.

8. Grounds Maintenance –

To consider / approve quote for tree survey

It was unanimously **AGREED** to accept the quote received for £285 + VAT to survey the trees as proposed by Cllr Shannon, seconded by Cllr Good. Clerk to raise a query about the dead trees adjacent to the basketball court and informal view on the risk from the eucalyptus tree on a neighbouring property.

Muddy Badger had cut the hedges at Adams Pit and confirmed that they would get work at the church done in the next few weeks with no further work scheduled for this season. They confirmed there would not be a price increase 2025/26 for labour but waste disposal would increase to £15 per bag. They suggested taking the hedge at Adams pit down lower to open up the area.

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

Permission was received from Norfolk County Council to site a dog bin outside the Jubilee Gardens. Breckland confirmed *‘When they (NCC) have considered the request and given their approval, we would instruct Serco to add it to the schedule once the Parish Council had purchased and installed the bin.’*

As there was a financial implication of purchase, installation and emptying of the bin and concern that an additional bin may not improve the situation regarding the dog mess acknowledging that there are already two dog bins either end of The Street, it was unanimously agreed to take no further action. It was agreed to continue using the bottles and provide bags for use.

The Clerk has notified Breckland of the new location of the litter bin on Greenhouse Road / Bluebell Rise and it is understood an invoice will be raised and the bin added to the schedule for collection.

10. To approve precept requirements for 2025 / 26

Following discussion and consideration of the proposed budget and earmarked / general reserves, it was unanimously **AGREED** to request a precept of £31500 for 2025/26 as proposed by Cllr Shannon, seconded by Cllr Hartley-Walder.

11. Planning

(a) To consider planning applications

No planning applications were received.

(b) To receive decisions from Breckland District Council

No decisions were received from Breckland District Council.

(c) To consider any late planning applications

No late planning applications were received.

12. Finance

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

The balance of the Community account as at 30th November 2024 was confirmed as £21,901.01, Business Money Manager (Earmarked reserves) was £36,012.90. Budget figures were circulated to Council for consideration. An internal control check was carried out, no concerns were raised.

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 November 2024	Bawdeswell Village Hall - Hall Hire October		27.20
3rd November 2024	Bank charges 13th September - 12th October		8.00
11th November 2024	Bawdeswell Heath - 50% contribution insurance		198.65
11th November 2024	Reeves Tale - Annual donation to printing		410.00
11th November 2024	NARS - Annual Donation		50.00
11th November 2024	Bawdeswell PCC - donation to Post Office Heating		150.00
11th November 2024	Citizens Advice Bureau - Annual donation		50.00
13th November 2024	PWLB repayment		2,090.82

27th November 2024	K&M Lighting 13th November to 12th December		9.42
27th November 2024	Muddy Badger - Adams Pit hedge cutting		180.00
30th November 2024	Mrs Jo Boxall - November salary & expenses		548.72
LATE PAYMENTS			
6 th December 2024	Graham Williamson - November Grounds Maintenance Adams Pit – repair broken boards		87.77 65.00
	Bawdeswell Village Hall – November & December hall hire		27.20
3 rd December 24 3 rd January 2025	Bank Charges – 13 th October – 12 th November 13 th November – 12 th December		8.00 8.00
	K&M Lighting 13 th December to 12 th January 13 th January to 12 th February		9.42 9.42
31st December 2024 31st January 2025	Mrs Jo Boxall – December salary & exps January salary & exps		548.72 548.72
	Muddy Badger – village maintenance		
RECEIPTS			
28 th November 2024	Bank interest Business Saver	57.41	

13. Correspondence

All correspondence received was circulated.

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

Cllr Shannon raised concern over the outstanding need to replace the gate post at the end of the driveway. Clerk to send email to the Football Club as the mound of spoil still remained. Piece for Reeves Tale to include advice for residents to check their hedges and ensure not encroaching on pavement as this is restricting access. Seat on Adams Pit needs repairing.

Concern was raised about incident involving a stone thrown at a bus. Clerk to email the Bus Company and make enquiries.

15. To approve the date of the next Parish Council Meeting – 6th February 2025

The date of the next Council meeting was confirmed as 6th February 2025.

16. To close the meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20.10pm.