

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF BAWDESWELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2025 AT BAWDESWELL VILLAGE HALL STARTING AT 7.00PM.

Present: P. Craven (Acting Chair), R. Hannent and C. Good

J. Boxall – Parish Clerk, Members of the public – 3

District Cllr G. Bambridge and County Cllr B. Bambridge were not in attendance

1. To receive and note apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllr Mallen, Cllr Shannon and Cllr Hartley-Walder. It was agreed that Cllr Craven would chair the meeting.

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 5th December 2024

It was unanimously **AGREED** to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 5th December 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.

Concerns have been raised by residents regarding Post Office confidentiality when a member of the public sits next to the Post Master in the Church when business is transacted. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would draft a letter to be sent to the Post Master highlighting these concerns.

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

Apologies were received from District Cllr G. Bambridge. County Cllr B. Borrett and the Police were not in attendance. It was acknowledged that the monthly reports from the District and County Councillors are useful and the Parish Council appreciates the input.

Cllr Good gave a brief report on matters at the Village Hall, confirming that hirings remain strong and the only concern currently is with the increasing cost of electricity. A grant of £12500 has been awarded from the National Lottery towards the cost of the solar panels with the result of the grant application from the Norfolk Offshore wind zone community fund expected soon. If successful it was likely that community support would be given from solar panel sponsorship to make up the shortfall. It was hoped that with the solar panels reducing electricity costs, there would be no need to increase hiring charges.

6. To receive update on matters arising from previous minutes for information only – Bawdeswell Heath, Highways (mobility scooter)

There was no update in respect of Bawdeswell Heath. Highways had responded to the request from the Council to widen the barriers preventing access for mobility scooters;

'Sorry we are not able to do this for you as they are classed as a motorised vehicle, they are not supposed to fit through these barriers' No further action was considered at this time.

7. To consider / approve co-option of new Councillor

It was unanimously **AGREED** to co-opt Mark Bailey onto the Council as proposed by Cllr Good, seconded by Cllr Hannent. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office form was duly signed.

8. To receive update and consider / approve annual donation 2025/26 to PCC in respect of Post Office Heating

Cllr Shannon confirmed via email that the Church Warden had taken electricity readings which showed that the electricity used, at current rates, amounted to about £1.50 in mild weather, so these costs may increase to £3 in colder weather. It was calculated that at the maximum figure of £3 over 26 weeks would amount to £160. It was unanimously **AGREED** that a grant of £160 would be awarded 2025/26 to cover the cost of the post office heating in the Church as proposed by Cllr Craven, seconded by Cllr Good. This would be reviewed as necessary, taking into consideration an increase in electricity charges.

9. Grounds Maintenance

To consider / approve reduction in hedge height for Adams Pit 2025

It was acknowledged that if the height of the hedge at Adams Pit was reduced, wildlife would return and could access the water. It would also open the area up and prevent anti-social behaviour. It was therefore unanimously **AGREED** to reduce the height of the hedge as proposed by Cllr Craven, seconded by Cllr Good.

To consider / approve additional hours labour in respect of grounds maintenance

The Clerk confirmed that £7184.24 had been spent on Grounds Maintenance (budget figures had been circulated) out of a budget of £8000 with the cost of the mower service outstanding. Following discussion, it was unanimously **AGREED** to pay the Grounds

Maintenance Contractor labour costs in respect of grass cutting for December and January totalling £137.50 and review costs for February and March once received, as proposed by Cllr Hannent, seconded by Cllr Good.

To approve renewal of insurance – Mower

The insurance in respect of the Mower was due for renewal at the end February. The renewal cost was £124.73. It was unanimously **AGREED** to renew the insurance as proposed by Cllr Good, seconded by Cllr Hannent.

10 Play equipment –

To receive update & consider / approve further action regarding Monkey Clamber wall

It was unanimously agreed not to take any further action in respect of Monkey Clamber wall as it was acknowledged that replacement play equipment was costly so future maintenance was a concern.

To receive update on removal of shingle (Football Club)

No response yet received to the email sent to the Football Club regarding the removal of shingle from the recreation ground, although it was noted that the shingle has now been removed. It was reported that the Football Club would be finishing this year and would not be playing any future matches.

The Clerk reported that the toddler climbing frame and springys was in need of a clean. The roof on the tractor was deteriorating and in need of replacement panels. The replacement soil had remained in situ but the grass had not grown in high impact areas (which was anticipated).

11. Village Hall Driveway – to consider / approve further action regarding pot holes

It was agreed to defer discussion until the next meeting.

12. Tree survey – to receive survey and consider / approve further action

The Clerk circulated the tree survey report for consideration. The tree surgeon did not raise any concerns about the eucalyptus in a neighbouring garden or the dead trees adjacent to the basketball court. It was agreed the Clerk would seek quotes for the recommended tree work.

13. Planning

(a) To consider planning applications received

PL/2025/0081/HOU - Demolition of existing extension and construction of replacement rear extension at Maytree Farm Foxley Road, Bawdeswell, NR20 4RR

It was unanimously agreed that there was no comment or objection.

PL/2025/0094/FMIN - Conversion of barn to single dwelling, and the construction of four new dwellings, associated infrastructure and landscaping at Maytree Farm Foxley Road, Bawdeswell, NR20 4RR

It was unanimously agreed that there was no comment or objection.

Ref 2024/3676 - Pettywell Solar Farm

It was unanimously agreed that the Council would comment on the application – It was acknowledged that the Government has launched a consultation on a new approach to Land Use. (Land Use Framework) and that Breckland should delay in making a decision on the solar farm until the final Land Use Framework document is published later in the year.

(b) To receive decisions from Breckland District Council

No decisions were received from Breckland

(c) To consider any late planning applications

No late planning applications were received.

14. Finance

a) To receive income / expenditure budget figures to 31st January 2025 for consideration

The balance of the Community account as at 31st January 2025 was confirmed as £19,636.03, Business Money Manager (Earmarked reserves) was £36126.14. 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 Craven, seconded by Cllr Hannent. As no signatories were in attendance, the list of payments was unable to be signed. It was agreed that the Clerk would need to purchase new defibrillator pads ahead of the next meeting.

PAYMENTS				
3 December 24		Bawdeswell Village Hall - November hall hire		22.40

4 December 24		Bank charges 13th October to 12th November		8.00
6 December 24		Graham Williamson - Adams Pit repairs to boardwalk		65.00
6 December 24		Graham Wiliamson - November ground maintenance		87.77
16 December 24		K&M Lighting 13th December to 12th January		9.42
31 December 24		Mrs Jo Boxall December salary & exps		548.72
2nd January 25		Mr David Shannon - public liability insurance mower		107.88
2nd January 25		Bawdeswell Village Hall - Hall hire December		27.20
3rd January 25		Bank charges 13th November to 12th December		8.00
8th January 25		Alan Gardner - Community Car Scheme		13.00
8th January 25		Angela Shannon - Community Car Scheme		37.50
8th January 25		Jo Porter - Community Car Scheme		9.38
8th January 25		Lin Leppard - CCCS		7.00
8th January 25		Linda Rose - CCS		7.50
8th January 25		Peter Andrews - CCS		8.75
8th January 25		Ruth Whitmore - CCS		8.50
8th January 25		Ailsa Mccolville - CCS		59.00
8th January 25		Graham Williamson - December fuel receipts		68.03
15th January 25		K&M Lighting invoice 9132		9.42
18th January 25	DD	N Power - Street Lighting Electricity		164.26
23rd January 25		C Leppard - refund Public liability - Grounds Maintenance		102.87
24th January 25		Economy Plant Hire & Aggregates - soil play area		444.44
24th January 25		Muddy Badger - churchyard maintenance		340.00
31st January 25		Mrs Jo Boxall - January salary & exps		553.82
RECEIPTS				
7 December 24		Transfer Trustee a/c work to date Adams Pit	345.00	
28 December		Interest Business Saver	55.65	
13th January 25		Foxley PC - refund CCS journeys 2024	107.88	
28 th January 25		Interest Business Saver	57.59	
FUTURE PYMTS				
28 th February 25		Mrs Jo Boxall – February salary & exps		548.72 TBC
		K&M Lighting 13th Feb – 12 th March		9.42

c) To approve grant application for Community Car Scheme Grant 2025/26 and associated risk assessment

The Clerk confirmed that the expected balance of the Community Car Scheme Grant will be £1395 at the end of the financial year. It was unanimously **AGREED** to request a Community Car Scheme grant of £250 for 2025/26 as proposed by Cllr Good, seconded by Cllr Hannent.

The draft risk assessment was circulated for comment. It was unanimously **AGREED** to approve the risk assessment once the need for regular medical checks is removed and the restriction for collecting prescriptions is removed as proposed by Cllr Good, seconded by Cllr Hannent.

15. Correspondence

Concern was expressed about the increased number of HGV movements on the Reepham Road. The collapsed manhole cover outside 49 Reepham Road has been reported several times to Highways and raised as an urgent concern.

An email was received from Dereham Meeting Point regarding the withdrawal of funding and seeking support. It was agreed to ask how many Bawdeswell residents used this service with a view to promoting activities at the village hall.

An email was received from Environmental Manager at Abanwise – ‘due to business changes at Albanwise in the last couple of weeks, the woodland creation project is suspended. The business owner is currently deciding how he wants to use the land.’ Concern was expressed by residents that prescriptions could no longer be collected from the village shop.

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

It was reported that road signage at the Dereham Road junction had been destroyed. Future agenda items to include discussion about the village hall driveway, grounds maintenance and play area.

17. To approve the date of the next Parish Council Meeting Thursday 6th March 2025

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

18. To close the meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20.40pm