

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

Present: D. Shannon (Vice Chair), A. Hartley- Walder, P. Craven, R. Hannent, M. Bailey and C. Good J. Boxall – Parish Clerk,

Members of the public – 2, District Cllr G. Bambridge

1. To receive and note apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllr Mallen. It was agreed that Cllr Shannon 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 6th February 2025

It was unanimously **AGREED** to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 6th February 2025, 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.

No comments were received.

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

Reports received electronically were circulated. District Cllr Bambridge gave an update on district matters including the Local Plan. The increase in housing numbers to 903/year in the district will mean a further call for sites, in addition to the sites currently proposed. There will be further consultation. District Cllr Bambridge was asked to seek reassurance on behalf of the Parish Council that previous objections will stand. It was highlighted that if a new town is approved it doesn't come off the housing allocation. It was confirmed that the Parish Council will be invited to a meeting to discuss potential for building houses in the village and review new sites. Bawdeswell would remain a Local Service Centre. An update on plans for devolution were given and there was uncertainty about the future of Breckland District Council. Council Tax had been set with an increase of 4.95%. County Cllr B. Borrett and the Police were not in attendance.

Cllr Good gave a report on behalf of the Village Hall. Following the successful Lottery funding bid for the solar panels and battery storage, it was confirmed that the Village Hall had also been awarded £12500 from the Norfolk offshore wind zone community fund. As the aim was for work to start at the end of March / start of April, the Trustees were working on securing the remaining funding through solar panel sponsorship and fundraising events. The Parish Council were invited to sponsor a panel and this would be discussed at the April meeting. The Trustees were congratulated on their achievements.

6. To receive update on matters arising from previous minutes for information only – Breckland Local Plan, Quotes for tree work,

As Cllr Bambridge had already given an update on the Local Plan, there was no further discussion although concern was expressed about the need for additional infrastructure (increase in the need for school places). It was confirmed that the Local Plan has always dictated that infrastructure would follow development.

Quotes for tree work were being sought, it was noted that no work was considered urgent. Cllr Shannon expressed concern about the eucalyptus tree and it was agreed to consider further action at the next meeting. A letter had been sent to the Postmaster highlighting the concerns raised, no response has yet been received.

7. Grounds Maintenance – To consider / approve additional hours labour in respect of grounds maintenance – February & March

It was unanimously **AGREED** to pay the Grounds Contractors invoice for labour (3.5hours £43.75) for February grass cutting as proposed by Cllr Hannent, seconded by Cllr Hartley- Walder. It was agreed to review March labour invoice at the next meeting.

8. Play equipment – To receive update & consider / approve further action regarding Football Club container

It was reported that the Football Club had ceased and that all equipment, including the container had to be passed on to other organisations supporting football. It was hoped that there would be agreement for the container to be donated to the Parish Council for storage of the grounds maintenance equipment.

Following discussion it was unanimously **AGREED** that the container would be a useful asset to the Parish Council for the storage of grounds maintenance equipment as proposed by Cllr Shannon, seconded by Cllr Hannent.

It was understood that the Football Club would be contacting the Parish Council regarding the container, following which the Clerk was asked to enquire about the origin of the purchase of the container and confirm that it was available to be donated to the Parish Council and the donation required. To be included on agenda for April.

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

Cllr Shannon and Cllr Hartley-Walder inspected the driveway and identified several pot holes, some of which were a health and safety concern. Cllr Good highlighted that dips in the driveway slowed traffic.

It was unanimously **AGREED** that the pot holes causing most concern needed to be filled. Cllr Shannon and Cllr Bailey kindly offered to carry out the repairs and purchase necessary materials up to a value of £200 as proposed by Cllr Hartley-Walder, seconded by Cllr Hannent. Clerk to obtain quotes for the replacement of the post

10. Highway matters – To receive update, consider and approve further action as necessary on Highway matters

Clerk to send email to Highways highlighting the lack of signage (keep to the left) at the intersection with the Dereham Road and Fakenham Road, to request an update on the proposal for the 20MPH outside the school, highlight the need to repaint the white lines on The Street and request a review of the road surface at the junction where The Street meets the Norwich Road.

11. Planning**(a) To consider planning applications received**

No new 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

Correspondence was received on behalf of all local district Councils raising awareness of the Norfolk Nutrient Mitigation Fund. As planning applications across Norfolk are currently held up due to nutrient neutrality, with the need to be able to demonstrate that additional development will not increase the levels of phosphorus and nitrogen in our rivers. The fund offers grant funding to undertake feasibility work and capital loans to deliver nutrient reduction projects across Norfolk.

12. Finance**a) To receive income / expenditure budget figures to 28th February 2025 for consideration**

The balance of the Community account as at 28th February 2025 was confirmed as £18446.28, Business Money Manager (Earmarked reserves) was £36180.14. 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 Shannon, seconded by Cllr Hannent. The list of payments and receipts was signed by the one signatory in attendance. New defibrillator pads had been ordered and the invoice was awaited. Thanks were extended to Graham Williamson for all the work carried out in and around the village.

PAYMENTS				
3rd February 2025		Bank charges 13th Dec - 12th Jan		8.00
8th February 2025		Graham Williamson - Grounds Maintenance December & Jan		137.50
8th February 2025		Ravencroft Tree Services Ltd - Tree survey		342.00
8th February 2025		Rowett Insurance - renewal insurance mower		124.73
8th February 2025		CBR Business Solutions DBS checks		28.80
15th February 2025		K&M Lighting invoice 9188		9.42
28th February 2025		Mrs Jo Boxall - salary & exps February		548.72
FUTURE PAYMENTS				
6th March 2025		Bank charges 13 th Jan – 12 th Feb		8.00
		Bawdeswell Village Hall February hire		27.20
		Community Heartbeat Defibrillator pads		TBC
		Graham Williamson – Grounds Maintenance February		43.75
		Mrs Jo Boxall – March salary & expenses		548.72
		Graham Williamson – Adams Pit repairs		45.00
RECEIPTS				
28 th February 2025		Business Saver Account interest		54.00

c) To approve transfer of funds to earmarked reserves - £4500 Driveway, Repayment mower £2483.34, and from earmarked reserves - Open space towards grounds maintenance (10%), Playarea budget overspend

The Clerk circulated the budget figures ahead of the meeting. It was unanimously AGREED that as no money had been spent on the village hall driveway 2024/25, the balance should be transferred to the ear marked reserve for the driveway in addition to the repayment of funds used to purchase mower. As 10% of the grounds maintenance was for the maintenance of Bluebell Rise, it was proposed that 10% of the total expenditure should be taken from the open space ear marked reserves (it was acknowledged that the PC are still awaiting figures for March labour and mower service) as proposed by Cllr Hartley-Walder, seconded by Cllr Good.

13. Correspondence

All correspondence was circulated electronically.

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

Future agenda items to include the Football club container, End of year finance figures, a donation to the Village Hall towards solar panels, consideration of support for Church towards cemetery grounds maintenance (it was stressed this is not a Parish Council responsibility but the church were looking for support as grounds maintenance costs had increase).

15. To approve the date of the next Parish Council Meeting Thursday 3rd April 2025

The date of the next Council meeting was confirmed as 3rd April 2025.

16. To close the meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20.13pm