

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF BAWDESWELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 4th DECEMBER 2025 AT BAWDESWELL VILLAGE HALL STARTING AT 7.00PM.

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

J. Boxall – Parish Clerk,

Members of the public – 6

1. To receive and note apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence previously accepted from Cllr Mallen.

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

Cllr Good, Cllr Hartley-Walder and Cllr Shannon declared an interest in agenda item 8 Breckland Local Plan.

3. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th November 2025

It was unanimously **AGREED** to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th November 2025, as a true and accurate record as proposed by Cllr Hannent, seconded by Cllr Good. Minutes were duly signed.

4. To adjourn the meeting to allow members of the public to speak on agenda items and receive update from Bayfield Homes on development on land at Reepham Road

Concern was raised over the proposed development on land North of Foxley Road. Cllr Shannon gave a brief update and confirmed the Council had submitted their objections to Breckland. Cllr Shannon attended the 'drop-in session' to push the PC's views. Breckland has suggested that there will be many changes in the final draft plan. Residents were encouraged to respond to the consultation.

The Managing Director from Bayfield Homes gave an update on proposed plans for development on land at Reepham Road and confirmed that they will be making representations, asking Breckland to reconsider proposals for the site with two options, one for 28 new homes and a commercial unit (with flexibility for use) and an additional proposal with no commercial unit but additional houses. The Parish Council were grateful that previous concerns regarding screening for existing houses had been taken into account and welcomed the addition of the commercial unit/s. The junction remained a concern although it was reported that it would meet the visual splay required. There was an option of further traffic calming measures to mitigate risk. Management of public open space remains a concern for the Parish Council in terms of future maintenance costs. The Developer confirmed that their intentions are flexible, it's possible to make a planning application but that would run alongside the local plan. It may have a positive impact on reducing / removing larger allocation.

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

An email report received from the County Councillor was circulated electronically. County Cllr B. Borrett and District Cllr G. Bambridge were not in attendance, District Cllr Bambridge sent his apologies. It was acknowledged that the school had published an update in the Reeves Tale. Cllr Good gave an update on matters at the Village Hall, confirming that the hall would be closed over Christmas to allow the refurbishment of the hall floor. It was reported that the overflow car parking area had satisfied the needs of the largest hirer and thanks were given to the Parish Council.

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

All matters were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

7. Play equipment – To receive update & consider / approve quote for grounds maintenance and consider / approve additional no dogs' signage

It was unanimously **AGREED** to accept the quote received from Muddy Badger in respect of grounds maintenance on the recreation ground – cutting hedge / trees back around play equipment - Labour - between £550 - £700, waste- £60 for a full van load, £25 to spray off nettles and weeds as proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Hannent. Warning notices to be put up for weed spraying.

It was also confirmed that Muddy Badger are also due to cut back all green spaces one last time before the new year

It was unanimously **AGREED** to review the purchase of further dog signage after attempts to highlight the presence of the 'no dogs in the children's play area' signage and recurring issue with dog mess in the Reeves Tale, as proposed by Cllr Shannon, seconded by Cllr Hannent.

Cllr Bailey gave an update on the ongoing play equipment review and was looking into the costs of replacing equipment and considering a change of layout to incorporate fencing. The Clerk calculated that grass matting cost £17 + VAT per 1.5m x 1m includes pegs & ties and would need to measure around play equipment to confirm total cost. It was hoped to prepare a 5-year plan.

8. Breckland Local Plan – To confirm / ratify submission iro Regulation 18 stage of Local Plan consultation

A final draft was circulated via email and approved. The Clerk submitted the draft to Breckland via the portal. Cllr Shannon attended the consultation as mentioned above.

9. Bawdeswell Heath – To receive update

Cllr Shannon attended the Trustee meeting and gave a brief update. The Trustees are now contemplating two choices; taking advice from Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) on a future management plan (which may be outside the initial remit of the charity) or seek permission from the Charity Commission to sell the Heath on the open market irrespective of what it becomes.

Due to the Charity Commission, the option of selling the Heath to the Norfolk Wildlife Trust is not an option as it would not be for full market value.

10. Village Green – To consider / approve replacement of cement bollards on the village green

It was reported that the concrete bollards on the village green were deteriorating. Following discussion it was **AGREED**, with two abstentions, to spend up to £150 on materials to protect the village green as proposed by Cllr Hannent, seconded by Cllr Hartley-Walder.

11. Adams Pit – to consider / approve further action to maintain Adams Pit

Muddy Badger confirmed that work to Adams pit hedging and islands were due to be carried out before January. The current balance of the Allotment to Former Highways Surveyors account was confirmed as £4348.70 with a further +/- £350 for grounds maintenance. It was acknowledged that previously the Council would include £500/year in the budget for future maintenance.

12. Local Government Reorganisation – To receive update and approve response as necessary

There was no further update, it was acknowledged that the Mayoral elections had been set back by 2 years. The Council did not wish to respond at this point.

13. To consider / approve precept request 2026/27

The Clerk circulated budget figures for consideration along with predicted end of year general and earmarked reserves.

Following discussion, it was unanimously **AGREED** that in order to build a reserve for the future maintenance of the play area and include £500 for the future maintenance of Adams Pit, it would be necessary to increase the precept to £34250 as proposed by Cllr Good, seconded by Cllr Hartley-Walder.

14. Planning

(a) To consider planning applications received

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 later planning applications were received

15. Finance

a) To receive income / expenditure budget figures to 30th November 2025 for consideration

The balance of the Community account as at 30th November 2025 was confirmed as £30,128.36, Business Money Manager (Earmarked reserves) was £38,843.75. 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 Bailey, seconded by Cllr Good. The list of payments and receipts was signed by the one signatory in attendance.

PAYMENTS				
1st November 2025	Bawdeswell Village Hall - Hire October			27.20
1st November 2025	Graham Williamson - Grounds Maintenance October			247.08
10th November 2025	David Shannon - refund expenses fencing			122.82
13th November 2025	Public Works Loan repayment			2,090.82
17th November 2025	Bawdeswell Heath - 50% towards insurance			198.65
17th November 2025	Bawdeswell PCC - contribution to heating post office			150.00
17th November 2025	Citizens Advice Bureau - donation			50.00
17th November 2025	NARS - donation			50.00
17th November 2025	Reeves Tale - Annual donation towards printing			410.00
19th November 2025	Mrs Jo Boxall - refund printer ink			42.66
30th November 2025	Mrs Jo Boxall - November salary & exps			575.72
30th November 2025	HMRC - Employers NI November			22.31

RECEIPTS				
28 th November 2025		Interest Business Money Manager		44.86
FUTURE PAYMENTS				
		K&M Lighting - street lighting maintenance 13th Nov - 12th Nov 2026		69.61
		Bawdeswell Village Hall – November & December Hall Hire		27.20
		Grounds Maintenance November		202.52
31 st December 2025 & 31 st January 2025		Mrs Jo Boxall – December salary & exps HMRC Employers NI (TBC)		£575.72 £22.31

16. Correspondence

All correspondence was circulated electronically.

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

No items for information were received. Future agenda items to include consideration of the Community Car scheme grant for 2026/27, Breckland Local Plan and LGR update, Play area / recreation ground matters and Bawdeswell Heath update.

18. To approve the date of the next meeting as Thursday 5th February 2026

The date of the next meeting was approved as Thursday 5th February 2026 at 7pm.

19. To close the meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21.00pm