

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF BAWDESWELL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 2nd JULY 2026 AT BAWDESWELL VILLAGE HALL STARTING AT 7.00PM.

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

J. Boxall – Parish Clerk

Members of the public – 1

1. To receive and note apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Craven.

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

Declaration of interest received from Cllr Shannon, Cllr Good and Cllr Hartley-Walder in matters relating to the Breckland Local Plan. Cllr Shannon declared an interest in Item 10 as a Friend of Bawdeswell Church.

3. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4th June 2026

It was unanimously **AGREED** to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4th June 2026, as true and accurate records 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

No comments were received.

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

The Clerk confirmed that a monthly report had just been received from County Councillor P. Carr and would be circulated to Council. District Cllr B. Borrett sent a report which was circulated. District Cllr G. Bambridge and the Police were not in attendance

Cllr Good gave a brief update on village hall matters and confirmed that roof window repair work started on 1st July and she highlighted the need for additional disabled parking spaces.

The Village Hall Trustees were seeking permission for the use of the recreation ground for the Summer Sizzle event on the 15th August, subject to the usual safety measures in place. Permission was also sought to dispose of the football shelter at the rear of the village hall with a view to replacing it with a shed (permission has already been sought from the Football Manager to dispose of the shelter). Although it was recognised that approval would need to be ratified as not an agenda item, it was agreed to grant permission for the use of the recreation ground subject to the parking area being cordoned off and cars being parked away from the children's play area and for the Village Hall to dispose of the football container and replace with a shed as proposed by Cllr Shannon, seconded by Cllr Hartley-Walder.

6. To consider / approve the election of Vice Chair

It was unanimously **AGREED** to approve the election of Cllr Bailey as Vice Chair as proposed by Cllr Hannent, seconded by Cllr Shannon.

7. To receive update on matters arising from previous minutes for information only – Co-option of new Councillor

Despite an enquiry, no application had yet been received for the Councillor vacancy.

8. Play equipment – To receive update and approve further action regarding the replacement seats

Mr Williamson kindly replaced the seats on the roto bounce but was having difficulty in doing so on the air rider due to not being able to undo the bolt and he reported that a fourth seat was needed as the other was about to break up. It was unanimously **AGREED** to contact Playdale and arrange a service visit and purchase another seat as proposed by Cllr Good, seconded by Cllr Hannent. The Council thanked Mr Williamson for his work to repair the tractor

A quote was received in respect of the play area, accessible play equipment, refurbished multi use basketball area and metal fencing. As this had only just been received, it was agreed that Councillors would consider the ideas over the summer recess and discuss in September. It was recognised that this was a starting point for consideration and that section 106 funding would be available with proposed development. Cllr Bailey confirmed that a site visit was carried out with another company and a further proposal was awaited.

An email received from ROSPA Playsafety on 1st July at 21.22pm highlighted a high-risk issue with one of the goal posts on the recreation ground – The crossbar on the goal post is sliding out of the support post. The goal post was immediately taken down pending repair. It was agreed to ask Mr Williamson if he was able to repair and reinstate.

9. Recreation Ground

To receive update & to consider / approve dog bag dispenser

The Clerk circulated several different types of dog bag dispenser for consideration. Following discussion, it was unanimously **AGREED** to purchase two dog poo dispensers at £27.99 and padlocks and bags as necessary up to £dog poo dispensers, bags and limit as proposed by Cllr Shannon, seconded by Cllr Bailey.

To approve further expenditure in relation to the tree surrounds

Cllr Shannon has purchased one metal surround at a cost of £39.00 but reported that the other surround would be more difficult as

the larger tree has a serious 'lean' which cannot easily be corrected, following discussion it was unanimously **AGREED** that Cllr Shannon would procure a wooden tree surround with seating at a cost of £170 for the larger tree recognising that Muddy Badger would be asked to replace the surround as proposed by Cllr Good, seconded by Cllr Hannent.

To consider / approve request from Village Hall to provide additional disabled parking space

An email was received from the Village Hall Trustees asking for an additional disabled parking space. It was unanimously **AGREED** to create two additional disabled car parking spaces and purchase three new signs, Clerk to investigate suitable sign options. The Village Hall Trustees would be asked to refurbish existing signage to make it more prominent as proposed by Cllr Hannent, seconded by Cllr Hartley-Walder.

10. Trees - To receive update on removal of dead ash trees near the basketball court and to consider establishment of ownership of trees noted for action in the last tree survey

It was noted that there were no longer any dead ash trees near the basketball court. As it was noted that no urgent work had been advised on the last tree report, it was unanimously **AGREED** to obtain a further tree surgery in early autumn and act on recommendations. Cllr Shannon and Cllr Bailey to request to accompany the surveyor and ensure that all trees that were the responsibility of the Parish Council (and Trustee – Adams Pit) were included in the survey, as proposed by Cllr Hannent, seconded by Cllr Good.

11. Grounds Maintenance – To consider / approve refurbishment of the Jubilee Garden

Cllr Shannon highlighted that although the Jubilee Garden was being regularly maintained, the planting and grass areas were not looking great. Following discussion it was **AGREED** with one abstention, to contact Muddy Badger for advice / quote on how to improve the planted area at the Jubilee Garden as proposed by Cllr Good, seconded by Cllr Hannent.

It was **AGREED** with one abstention to seek a free professional survey of the grassed area as proposed by Cllr Good, seconded by Cllr Shannon. A previous proposal by Cllr Shannon was withdrawn.

12. Street Lighting – to receive update on review and approve further action

The Clerk reported that although there had been telephone contact with Northern Gas and Power, who were aware of the PC meeting date and had agreed to send a proposal for consideration ahead of the meeting, advising that prices obtained were only valid for that day, no proposal had been received. It was unanimously **AGREED** not to continue the review with Northern Gas and Power and find another consultant as proposed by Cllr Good, seconded by Cllr Shannon.

13. Breckland Local Plan – To receive update and approve further action

It was understood that the Local Plan was coming back to Breckland's Cabinet Meeting on 13th July for the progress so far to be agreed and to start the following stage (Regulation 19). The papers for the meeting were published on the Breckland Website on the 2nd July for cabinet approval with public consultation from 31st July to 16th September.

It was understood from the papers that Breckland are still advocating at least 120 houses on the Foxley Road. It was unanimously **AGREED** that the Clerk would write to Breckland and reiterate the Parish Council's concerns, making a point that it would appear from the document that no consideration has been taken of the concerns raised by the Parish Council and that instead, Breckland have argued for houses which are unsustainable in this community. It was agreed to request a review of this decision prior to the cabinet meeting as proposed by Cllr Shannon, seconded by Cllr Hartley-Walder. It is expected that Cllr B Borrett will advocate for Bawdeswell at the cabinet meeting.

As there were no scheduled August meeting and given the next consultation dates and suspicion that the allocation would be for 120 houses, it was agreed that, Cllr Shannon would review the Parish Council's objection and circulate a draft response for approval in September.

14. Highway matters – To receive update and consider / approve further action on matters as necessary

A response was received from Norfolk County Council Highways confirming that the road surface at the junction of The Street / Reepham Road did not meet the criteria for repair but they would monitor it as part of routine inspections. It is understood that despite this, a request has been made by the Highways Engineer to add this to the list of junctions for resurfacing. It was noted that the white lining had been replaced including the area previously highlighted by the PC for repair but was still missing from outside the Jubilee Garden

Clerk to contact Highways to highlight the missing white lining and request an early consideration of the junction – The Street / Reepham Road. It was noted that the area resurfaced is superior to most of other roads in the village.

15. 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

It was acknowledged that although the proposed Albanwise synergy cable route does not affect Bawdeswell and the PC would have no objections, there was concern about the route for HGV traffic accessing the Pettywell Solar Farm site, especially given the large volume of HGV traffic through the village from the windfarm cable route. Clerk to submit response to Albanwise Synergy regarding these concerns.

It was also noted that the area of land adjoining A1067 close to the junction with Swanton Morley Road, near Adams Pit has had some work going on with large metal containers in situ, excavation work and the installation of brick pillars and double gates. Clerk to contact Planning to raise concerns as it was acknowledged that there were safety concerns about access on that site.

16. Finance

a) To receive income / expenditure budget figures to 30th June 2026 for consideration and bank reconciliation

The balance of the Community account as at 30th June 2026 was confirmed as £27496.74, Business Money Manager (Earmarked reserves) was £44037.40. budget figures were circulated to Council for consideration. No internal control check could be carried out as Cllr Craven was not present to carry out the quarterly check

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 Hannent, seconded by Cllr Good. The list of payments and receipts were signed by the approved signatories. The Clerk reported that the mandate change was in progress with information submitted to HSBC.

PAYMENTS				
1st June 2026		Muddy Badger - village grounds maintenance inv 0504		115.00
5th June 2026		Bawdeswell Village Hall - Hall hire May meetings		28.80
5th June 2026		May Grounds Maintenance		342.52
8th June 2026		Graham Williamson - Play repair tractor		150.00
19th June 2026		Muddy Badger - Grounds Maintenance		325.00
		Jubilee Garden waste removal / disposal		80.00
30th June 2026		Mrs Jo Boxall - June salary and expenses		605.75
30th June 2026		HMRC Employers NI June		26.81
RECEIPTS				
28 th June 2026		Business Money Manager interest		47.82
FUTURE PYMTS				
		Bawdeswell Village Hall – June & July meetings		28.80 per meeting
		Grounds Maintenance June		279.63
		Mrs Jo Boxall – July salary & exps & HMRC NI		605.75 &
		August salary & exps & HMRC NI		26.81 TBC

17. Correspondence

All correspondence received was circulated to Councillors. An email was received expressing concern about the state of the cemetery which was to be forwarded to the PCC.

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

An email was received from Breckland confirming that they can increase their contribution of the 55p per-mile allowance for this financial year. It was unanimously **AGREED** to request the additional grant funding of £30.00, for ratification in September, as proposed by Cllr Shannon, seconded by Cllr Good. #

Future agenda item to include consideration that the bus stops are maintained twice yearly to make task more manageable, Local Plan and matters as highlighted above.

19. To approve the date of the next Parish Council Meeting as Thursday 3rd September 2026

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 3rd September at 7pm, there was no meeting in August

20. To close the meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 20.55pm.