

**Bawdsey Parish Council
Minutes of Bawdsey Parish Council Meeting
Held Wednesday 20th March 2025 – 7.00pm
At Bawdsey Village Hall**

Present: Cllr Andy Rouse (AnRo) (Chair); Cllr Tod Heyda (ToHe) Cllr Mike Locke (MiLo); Cllr Sue Tappenden (SuTa); Cllr Clare Walker (ClWa); Cllr Jackie Ferguson (JaFe) and Cllr Sam Mann (SaMa)

Cllr Andrew Reid (Suffolk County Council)

Cllr James Mallinder (East Suffolk Council)

Tina Hughes (Parish Clerk)

0 Member of the public

1.	To receive Apologies for absence Cllr Rob Thurkettle (RoTh)
2.	To receive any Declarations of Interest and any Applications for dispensation on Agenda Items (either pecuniary or non-pecuniary) Cllr Mike Locke – School Governor and Trustee of CAS Cllr Andy Rouse; Cllr Tod Heyda and Cllr Clare Walker – DMC Cllr Clare Walker – Trustee CLT Cllr Tod Heyda - VHRGC
3.	Public Participation (10 minutes) – an opportunity for parishioners to briefly raise matters of concern and hear from County and District Councillors No Public Present. Cllr Andrew Reid – Newsletter received ahead of meeting, shared with councillors and added to website, Cllr AnRe spoke about newsletter, does try to concentrate on local area, but wanted to highlight the following: - February agreed budget 2025/26, increase to just over 800 million, increase due to number things, rise in grants to look after most vulnerable in Suffolk, elderly and children, will be spending 77p in every pound on adult social care and children in need, remaining 23p, goes on everything else, for example roads, fire service and libraries. Q. Has the social side been rising each year? Has been growing each year from a children perspective, due to health diagnosis and needs, adults, aging population. Has been more about keeping people in their own homes as much as possible, care packages, Suffolk will be seeing an increase in population over next 40 years.

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Chairs Initials.....

	<p>Devolution and Government Reform – Suffolk and Norfolk one of 6 areas chosen by government, to be fast tracked for devolution, will be every area of UK eventually, anticipate in Suffolk and Norfolk, will have unitary authorities, so County Council and District Council will be abolished, town and parish councils will remain, a new form of local government will be created, County Council have submitted a single unitary interim plan, will become a business case by autumn, other groups of district councils and town councils have developed their own models, advisors will determine the best plan. Q Is there central money for the process? Yes, government will allocate transition funding. Q. Will there be redundancy money? Do not know about this yet. Q. What affect will this have on Parish/Town Councils? Can see there will be more responsibilities passed down.</p> <p>Q. Can you advise why the Council have taken the libraries back in house? Decided this week to bring libraries back in house due to a loss in confidence in the management, have had to bail them out, financially, twice in the last 3 years, received a letter from an insolvency practitioner, who advised if do not renew contract they will be bust, council felt not a good way to run a business, so bought back in house, this way will keep all the libraries (Mobile too), staff and hoping volunteers will stay, council have a lot more they want to do in the libraries and will need volunteers to support with this.</p> <p>Cllr James Mallinder – Newsletter received ahead of meeting, shared with councillors and added to website, Cllr JaMa spoke about newsletter, does try to concentrate on local area, but wanted to highlight the following: -</p> <p>Disappointed going ahead with purchasing more plastic bins. Q. re Tetrapaks, are they going to be collected in future – the plan is for this to be included in recycling from 2026. Q. Will recycling plans still go ahead with the devolution? Yes, all plans will still go ahead.</p> <p>Feel council are doing a lot of vanity projects 3 projects, as examples, re-invented 'Mind the Weeds, we are Feeding the Bees' with 'Nature at Work' at a cost of £49,000, replacing the signs. Also feel ESC should not be spending money on Anxiety projects, finally a grant has been awarded to a charity that provides music to pregnant ladies. Cllr JaMa, only councillor to vote against budget, does not feel they are focussing on the core needs, for example pavements.</p> <p>Managed to get local MP to visit, explained problems and issues, including erosion on coast, did quick tour of area, discussed highways, she did say rural communities across Suffolk are suffering, being cut off from flooding for an example, suggested develop a task force, bringing together, landowners, county council, district council and highway agency, how can resolve highway issues, could be for example replacing signage, repainting markings on road, improving roads, not been touched for years, showed an interest and will see how develops.</p>
4.	<p>To agree & sign Minutes of meetings dated 23rd January 2025 dated as true record.</p> <p>Minutes agreed as a true copy, proposed by Cllr ClWa, seconded by Cllr ToHe, all in agreement</p>

5.	<p>To review actions from previous meeting</p> <p>Gov.uk – Still waiting for 3 councillors to sign up</p> <p>Deben Estuary Questionnaire – Waiting for copy of plan, Clerk to chase</p> <p>Generator for Village Hall – Clerk spoke with Alderton and Emergency Committee, details of plug provided and who installed, need to liaise with VHRGC to see if they would be happy for plug to be installed. Cllr ToHe to raise with VHRGC to see if they would be happy for plug to be installed.</p> <p>Trees – Cllr RoTh to liaise with Brenda to see if any objections to dead tree being removed.</p> <p>School – Cllr ToHe to liaise with VHRGC to see if school can have a key for emergency purposes only.</p> <p>Gradient of Path by Manor Farm – Cllr AnRo to email Orwell for a solution.</p> <p>MailChimp – Waiting for Gov.UK to be completed before can move forward with this.</p> <p>Speedwatch – CIL money to be used to replace old SID and get a second, so can be placed at either end of village, Quotes to be obtained.</p> <p>Separate actions to be completed for CIL</p>
6.	<p>Planning: To receive updates on current applications and consider applications received</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. Consider the following application(s)</p> <p>None</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. To consider any applications received after the publication of the agenda.</p> <p>None</p>
7.	<p>Policies – Review and adopt: -</p> <p>Risk Assessment (Non-Financial)</p> <p>Policy reviewed and agreed to adopt, proposed by Cllr AnRo and seconded by Cllr ToHe all in agreement</p> <p>Internal Control and Agree councillor to review and complete</p> <p>Internal Control agreed and adopted, Cllr SuTa volunteered to complete, proposed by Cllr MiLo, seconded by Cllr ToHe, all in agreement.</p>
8.	<p>Shingle Street – Discuss adopting phone box for de-fib</p> <p>Shingle Street have been advised that the council need to adopt the phone box at Shingle Street for a defibrillator, which will cost £1.00, need to ensure electricity to remain, will need to check if there will be a cost for electricity and who will be liable, will no longer be a phone box,</p>

	Shingles Street residence feel mobile phone coverage is OK now and defib would be preferable, Cllr SaMa proposed, seconded Cllr AnRo, all in agreement.
9.	<p>Village Sign – Discuss previous sign and if should re-visit</p> <p>History of sign, Cllr Andrew Block commissioned someone to design a sign, was shown to villages and was decided against, decision was to go with a bench, less controversial. Bawdsey Parish Council only council in area without a sign. Cllr's felt a more traditional sign, something that represents the village, need consultation with villagers, children at school could be involved, Clerk to put a note in bulletin to ask if feel one is needed and any suggestions on design, picture and explanation to be added, Cllr ClWa to supply list of local signs from CLT.</p>
10.	<p>CIL – Receive an update</p> <p>Cllr's agreed letter to villagers regarding hedges, date for feedback to be end of June 25, clerk to print for delivery with bulletin.</p> <p>AnRo to complete letter to villagers where hedges need more work to be undertaken.</p> <p>Path between Alderton and Bawdsey, clerk reported on SCC highways portal, they said not them, this is ESC, Cllr James Mallinder emailed ESC and they advised did not have equipment or man power to deal with path and for Bawdsey council to contact SCC, Cllr James Mallinder has advised to email Cllr Andrew Reid, happy to start a campaign with the media if do not get a good response. Cllr SuTa suggested highlighting survey from school and people being reluctant to walk, risks to pedestrians, and also money given for paths and highways as mentioned in recent Cllr AnRe newsletter.</p> <p>Clerk shared the PIIP with ESC CIL team and they responded it was good we had engaged with the community and that we are actively tackling issues identified as priorities. They also confirmed we could use money to upgrade village hall. Clerk to share email with Cllrs.</p>
11.	<p>Weather Station – Discuss Davis Annual Charge</p> <p>The weather station has been moved from the compound area on PGL land to the DMC building, council have been informed by Suffolk Coastal CIC that they can no longer afford to pay for the annual licence charge to have the information available on the Davis Weatherlink, currently \$47 and asked if the Parish Council would commit to this charge. The issue is where it is positioned, only gives a partial picture and Helene Burningham, who may be the only one who actually would use this data for scientific interest, has stated that Suffolk Coastal should discontinue the payment, the information is stored within the station and can be downloaded at anytime if needed in the future. Chair to write an email to Helene to confirm she would be in agreement that the data is not needed to be shared on the Weatherlink website and if any data needed we could download direct from the station. As far as the council is concerned, we do not feel it is our responsibility to take on this annual charge.</p>
12.	<p>Progress Reports</p> <p>a. Clerks Correspondence update</p> <p>In the loft in the village hall there are a couple of Annie resuscitation dolls, I'm unsure who paid for these originally, but have spoken to the VHRGC and a couple of other people within the village who may have an interest in these and all felt that they were no longer needed to</p>

	<p>be stored here, suggested may be given to the first responders for them to train with, who agreed and also offered regular CPR training within the village, all in agreement, Clerk to arrange for collection of 'dolls' and training.</p> <p>Have heard that people are not always picking up after their dogs, especially round by the school, did we want to put a new bin by the school and also a note in the bulletin asking people to pick up after their dogs, councillors felt that people who do not pick up after their dogs would probably not take any notice of a note in the bulletin and may be better to mention to people if they see this happening.</p> <p>Email received from a gentleman with concerns about the fence posts put in by the yacht club and the CCTV in this area. Clerk to speak with Yacht club to understand where the CCTV is pointing and ask about the post.</p>
	<p>b. Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee update (Cllr. Tod Heyda)</p> <p>Have new people in the village who are starting to volunteer with the VHRGC, bringing new ideas, especially around the fete, have people who do not want to be involved with the committee, but would be willing to help with the fete. A number of Pop-up-Pubs have been planned so they do not conflict with events happening at The Swan in Alderton, meeting happening at Bawdsey Manor to discuss the fete and volunteers. Are introducing a regular stocktake of everything. PAT testing has been undertaken on all electricals and now up to date.</p>
	<p>c. Coastal Matters: Updates on</p> <p>i. Coastguard report (Cllr. R. Thurkettle)</p> <p>Coastguard report sent through from Cllr RoTh</p> <p>Team numbers remain strong. The team have been very quiet year to date. The coastguard would like to remind everyone of the dangers of cliff erosion which is particularly bad along by the old A site and nearer the Manor end of the beach. The most dangerous time for cliff fall is after heavy rain and at high tide. Some falls have been approximately 200 tonnes in one movement. Walkers and beach goers are reminded to keep the height of the cliffs away from the base of the cliff. So, if the cliffs are 30m high then ideally walk no less than 30m away from base. Due to shingle movement on the beach the high tide now touches the base of the cliff thus making this impossible 2--3 hours either side of high tide.</p> <p>ii. Deben Marine Centre (Cllr. Heyda)</p> <p>947 visits last year, due to open in April, same time as RADAR museum, feel with café closing it will affect numbers. Helene coming down to visit.</p>
	<p>d. Speedwatch</p> <p>No update</p>
	<p>e. Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula Community Partnership (Cllr C Walker)</p> <p>Have £25,000 to give to good causes, reason have CAB in Woodbridge a couple days a week, plus three youth clubs supported, including Alderton, so if anyone has a good cause, money is available.</p>

	<p>f. Update from School (Cllr M Locke)</p> <p>School on schedule to become an academy trust on 1st April 2025.</p> <p>g. Emergency Committee (Cllr. R Thurkettle)</p> <p>No update</p> <p>h. Green Agenda – Trees and Hedges</p> <p>Chair received email today from Suffolk tree warden advising could have up to 50 free trees, fruit, nut, standards, hedgerow trees, first come - first served on Saturday 29th March, need somewhere to put them, can be put anywhere, not necessarily council land, Cllr SaMa offered to go and collect, to be distributed around the village.</p> <p>i. Highway Matters</p> <p>No update</p>
13.	<p>Finance</p> <p>1. To note Bank Balances as of 28th February 2025:</p> <p>a) Current Account - £9355.26 b) Reserve Savings Account - £5345.96 c) CIL Funds Savings Account - £28187.07 d) Projects Savings Account - £7260.89</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>2. To authorise the following Invoices for Payment:</p> <p>a. New payments since last meeting:</p> <p>£6.00 Jan Bank Charge £6.00 Feb Bank Charge £12.50 Domino Emergency Phone £13.98 Cllr Andy Rouse (Root Grow)</p> <p>b. Any new invoices since publication of agenda:</p> <p>£18.65 Bulletin Feb 25 £18.65 Bulletin March 25</p> <p>New payments agreed, proposed by Cllr AnRo and seconded by Cllr ToHe, all in agreement.</p> <p>c. Any new payments received since last meeting:</p> <p>£246.20 VAT claimed</p>

	<p>3. To receive minutes from finance meeting held on 23rd February 2025 and accept recommendations for Asset Register and Internal Control</p> <p>Message received from HMRC advising late receipt of payment, all in agreement that we could pay this before the upcoming meeting and put on the agenda for formal agreement. Asset Register accepted. Proposed by Cllr ToHe, seconded by Cllr SaMa and all in agreement. See item 7 re Internal Control.</p> <p>4. Agree increase to VHRGC to pay towards WiFi</p> <p>Discussed and agreed to accept increased payment to VHRGC, clerk requested that, if possible, any future increases could be advised by November to allow this to be budgeted for and included in the precept. Proposed by Cllr AnRo and seconded by Cllr MiLo, majority in agreement.</p> <p>5. Donations – Discuss donations and decide beneficiaries.</p> <p>Proposed to donate £200 to East Suffolk CAB, who can advise people in these difficult times, proposed by Cllr JaFe, seconded by Cllr ToHe, all in agreement.</p> <p>6. Ferry Passes – 20 for PGL circa £10.00</p> <p>Actual cost is £10 for 50 passes, more are need for villagers, who may be new to village or not collected in past, actual cost would be circa £4.00 for PGL. Agree to pay for 50 passes, 20 for PGL and 30 for any other villagers.</p>
17.	<p>Any matters to be brought to the attention of the Council and to agree date for next meetings.</p> <p>Next Meetings –</p> <p>Annual Parish Meeting 3rd April 2025 at 7pm Annual Meeting Parish Council 22nd May 2025 at 7pm</p>

Chairs Signature.....

Date.....