

Bawdsey Annual Parish Meeting

18th April 2024 7pm

Bawdsey Village Hall

Minutes

1. Welcome

Cllr Andy Rouse welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Signing of the minutes from the 11th May 2023

Minutes signed as a true copy.

Questions and Discussion to follow each item.

3. Reports from: -

a) Suffolk County Councillor Andrew Reid

Councillor Andrew Reid sent his apologies, was unable to attend in person, a report was forwarded and is on the website.

b) East Suffolk District Councillor James Mallinder

Glad to be re-elected as councillor, enjoy helping and supporting parish councils, looking at the wider social issues, environment, connecting communities. East Suffolk Council very different now, there are 16 greens, 15 conservatives, 12 labour, 11 liberal democrats and 1 independent, the greens, lib dems and independent councillors came together to create a coalition. Pleased to see lot of policies created by conservatives will continue, although disappointed to see some environmental policies dropped, e.g. Love East Suffolk Litter Campaign. Am pushing to see more on environmental, as we are seeing very tangible weather changes on peninsula, so need to be focussed more on environment going forward.

Delighted the parking on at the quay has finally been sorted, would like to reassure everyone, this is an ongoing project and could look to tweak it if anything is not working, have had some positive feedback, would welcome anyone getting in contact if feel something is not going right. Conscious gets more litter when weather is nice and more people visit, so again let Cllr James Mallinder know if any issues with this.

Have had the road sweepers out to clear some of the pavements, again can only react if made aware of any issues. Had a concern on road going to Shingle Street,

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where flooding on the road cut-off the residents, working with County Council and Landowners, managed to get this cleared.

Planning application has been put in for a housing development in Hollesley, believe there should be more houses, but felt these were in the wrong position, residents against and not environmentally friendly, so campaigning against. Ramsholt, fought against a pop-up glamping/camping site, especially as have a lot of migratory birds in the area, so need to protect. Fought hard to stop the closure of the surgery in Hollesley, could not get any traction to stop this. Recently spoke out about highways, especially with the Shingle Street in mind and how easy it would be for the community on the Peninsula to be cut off, how do emergency services get out to residents, would like to see a task group consisting of County Council, District Council and Landowners, working as a team to see how can resolve a problem, can only see getting worse, although was pleased to see planting of hedges along edge of field, coming along the road from Sutton Hoo.

Delighted to still be here representing and supporting everyone.

c) Chair of Bawdsey Parish Council

Quay Parking – occupied a lot of attention for council over the year and after a lot of haranguing of both SCC and ESC, as from Easter the area will be patrolled by wardens, suspect it will be low key, due to remoteness of area.

Questions – will it stop people parking overnight? No, did hope for this to be the case, but SCC/ESC decided this was not necessary, hoping the 4-hour restriction, during the day, will deter people from staying overnight. Residents have reported it is much better but will monitor.

Council have been looking at how to spend the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), if do not spend within 5 years will be taken back, consulted with residents and main concern was pedestrian safety through the village, with this in mind consulted SCC highways engineer on what is feasible, not enough room for paths, would have to compulsory purchase residents front gardens, which is very expensive, so looking at other options to slow vehicles down - signage, gate on entrance to village, tidy up to ensure signs are visible. Recently had a traffic survey to establish how fast people are travelling through the village and this did highlight, that it is not as bad as people believe, 7% of traffic going over 30mph, also had Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) recently, was an error, so figures could not be used, but is due again, so hopefully this will help with establishing the speed people are travelling and the offenders will receive a letter from the police, so hopefully deter people from speeding. A survey was conducted with the school and the parents and the main issue from this, was that although the traffic may not be going over the speed

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limit, it is perceived to be too fast, plus the path from Alderton to Bawdsey, has become narrow and people are unable to walk this safely, need to report this to highways to clear, needs to be done every year, so need to report every year.

Trees – Managed to get free trees and hedging, 40 trees and 700 meters of hedging, residents kindly volunteered to help put these along Manor Farm Drive, which are looking well established, also identified hedging along farmers' fields, East Lane and Ferry Road, either missing or needing infill, with the help and support of National Landscape, they managed to plant these. Will look to be doing more next year, so if anyone has any thoughts on areas that could do with trees and hedges, then do get in touch with the Parish Clerk.

Councillor Vacancy – Due to Matt Roche stepping down, still have one vacancy, if anyone is interested, then please do get in touch with the Parish Clerk.

Liz Mark – Would like to mention the sad passing of Liz, who has been a long-standing resident and active in the village, she was a councillor for 30 years, she set up the monthly coffee and chat, if anyone is interested, the funeral will be held on 3rd May at 3pm.

Report on Erosion of cliffs on PGL land, by RADAR museum Stu White – has increased in the last 6 years, since they did the cables and they dug pits into the cliffs face, feel these have degraded the cliffs, plus as the groins have disintegrated material cannot be held on the beach, material is going towards river mouth, with the pace of the cliffs being denuded of vegetation, the fresh water instead of draining towards the marsh, is running down the cliff face, can see the fresh water oozing up on the beach at low tide, feel in 10 years' time the museum will need to be moved, feel the groins need replacing and PGL need approaching.

d) Representative from Bawdsey School

Head Katie Butler was unable to attend the meeting in person, a report was forwarded, which has been added to the website.

e) Representative from Shingle Street

Joint residents view on what community is to be - a 'wild' place, enhance biodiversity and welcome visitors, continue to provide parking on private residents' land, have agreed policies, so have an agreement on how will respond on certain matters, e.g. filming on beach, school bus groups, try to deter this, as would like to keep it wild and untouched, do not want it over populated. Have also removed bin at South end, to try and encourage people to take litter home with them, which has worked out well. Had a really bad issue with flooding, which cut off the community, eventually managed to get SCC highways to do a bit of work, but this was not

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effective, so with the farmers permission and a working group of residents with spades, dug a ditch into the field, which let the water drain away from the road, ESC came out and swept the road, was problematic, with people missing hospital appointments and could have been an issue for emergency services getting to people. Last year at a parish meeting, the farmer had asked for the councillors' thoughts on a possible planning application for turning a field into a paid car park and if it would be supported, since then have negotiated with the farmer and have collectively purchased the land and will be wilding the field. Farmer had also put in a request for a reservoir, this was opposed, and the application was withdrawn. Fencing was also erected 5-7 years ago on a field at the south end of the area and there has been talk by the owner to put in a planning application to put lots on there for campervans, which will be a possible challenge for the future.

Question – Do you have a defibrillator in the area? No, BT did want to remove the phone box, which petitioned against, successfully, so this is a possible option for a defibrillator, still has a working phone.

f) Representative from Church Council

A report from the church was forwarded and this has been added to the website, in addition

Thanked parish council for support with two buttresses on church wall, which was £1000 per buttress, costs were kept low, due to Mike Shanahan giving his time for free to work with the builder. Church belongs to the villagers, if a worshiper or not, like to see people walking through the church grounds and enjoying, very grateful for everyone who supports, be that baking cakes, being at flower festival, coming along to events or being an expert, e.g. Cllr Clare Walker, doing gardeners question time, plus coming along to concert. A busy year last year, hoping the same for this year, looking to do more to encourage people to come and use the building and church yard. Received a silver award for being an eco-church, two people attending a Suffolk Wildlife Trust Day, to find out a bit more about being eco-friendly. Joining with other churches in area, planning an event in Alderton Church for advent, if anyone interested, contact Susan. Now have Rev Simon full time, which is really good, but have to find £5500 a year towards salary and deanery expenses before spending money on other expenses, such as repairing holes in walls.

Very grateful and appreciative for everything the parish do for the church

g) Representative from Village Hall and Recreation Ground

A report from the VHRGC was forwarded and this has been added to the website, in addition: -

As a charity VHRGC have to report to the Charity Commission, who insist it is run as a business, do need to make as much money as possible, have the hall to run and the recreation ground, for example, have spent £6500 on the play area, cleaning and tidying up, fencing is going and needs to be replaced, will cost circa £15,000 to replace, are applying for a grant to cover this cost. Have had to take down the pavilion, will be replacing with a metal shed with a cement base, this will be at a cost of £3000. Groups very small, stopped charging during COVID, just pay for electricity, if start to charge, will not be sustainable for the groups, rely on the Fete to bring in money, need people to help support with this, presently do not have enough people, villagers need to understand, if they do not support, then will not have enough money going forward to continue. May need to look at how promote people supporting, do not get much response via Bawdsey Bulletin, word of mouth, may be better.

Question: Alderton do not have a fence around their play area, is there a need for fencing? Originally carpet was put in when play area was established, this cost over £2000 to clean last year, if take away fencing, then will probably get ruined, alternative is to take away the carpet and put grass in, this would then mean someone would need to cut the grass, which is an ongoing cost, fencing also keeps dogs away from the area.

h) Representative from the Coastguard

Rob Thurkettle unfortunately was unable to attend, he forwarded the following report: -

Have a strong team and have two new recruits for this year along with Pete Sproxtton the station officer starting his 26th year as a volunteer coastguard, on call 24-7

i) Representative from Peninsula Villages Community Land Trust (PVCLT)

PVCLT was instituted in 2017, this was due to Suffolk Coastal Council being given £1.4 million by the government to build affordable homes, affordable means 80% of market value, have managed to buy 4 properties in Martello Close, when set up in 2017 there were two trustees from each of the councils – Alderton, Bawdsey, Hollesley, Boyton, Shottisham and Sutton, but have lost a number of trustees, so are desperately looking for volunteers, very friendly group, meet, on average, once a month, in limbo at moment, ESC have control of money now, still over a £1 million,

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reluctant to give the trust money, so have to build up money from properties trust owns, circa £13,000 per year, which is 50% from rental, Orwell Housing have the other half for managing the properties, so will take a long time to gather enough money to get a mortgage on further properties. Properties are inalienable, meaning they are not subject to Right to Buy, so will remain properties of the villages, the hope is, that as the property's rents are more affordable, people will be able to save up and purchase their own property, would like to build more passive houses.

Also in attendance was representatives from **Deben Marine Centre and First Responders**, who reported: -

j) Deben Marine Centre

Would like to reiterate what has already been said by Stu White, volunteers at the centre help monitor the coast, lot of information and data to look at, have had a very good clean up after high tide, photo posts are also overseen by the centre, to help monitor the coast. Get a lot of people coming off the Ferry, normally heading for the RADAR museum. Very encouraged talking to years 5 & 6 at the school, good to let them know what is happening along the coast, they understand where they live is a unique place, they go down the coast with their teachers, good to see. Do need volunteers for the centre, so if anyone can offer some time, open twice per week.

k) First Responders

First Responders – attended and gave an update: -

Council contacted first responders a little while ago to see if can increase number of first responders in area, as Bawdsey no longer had any, having lost two. Are actively looking for anyone, within the village and surrounding areas, posters have been put on noticeboards in Alderton and Bawdsey, plus the shop window. Recently recruited in Hollesley and have another couple of people interested from the village.

Question – What is the job description? Work on behalf of East of England Ambulance trust, book on/off when available, not 24/7, volunteers, will be alerted to certain tasks/codes, so do not attend all 999 calls, heart attacks, cardiac arrest, stroke, some traumas, chest pains and abdominal pains, initial call will determine if first responders are dispatched. Kit – all carry de-fibs, oxygen, pulsometer, thermometer, blood pressure machine, can do basic checks, whilst waiting for ambulance to attend, then hand over. Have been to calls in Wickham Market, Rendlesham, Bawdsey, Alderton and Shottisham, have not got anyone to cover day call outs, most volunteers work, so will clock on once home and settled. Will cover

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a 5–7-mile radius, currently have 8 volunteers, so do cover a big area. Number of call outs varies. Do have to buy own kit, which can be expensive, circa £2000, mobile phone itself costs £700 and then £250 to run the phone, clerk advised, people in village have offered to fundraise for volunteers, stall offered at village fete for fundraising, could offer sessions to teach CPR and de-fib. Bev in Alderton started the Hollesley Big Breakfast every month and managed to raise funds for 2 kits, so this could be a source of funding. Could be that parish councils, support by each contributing towards a kit, also ESC James Mallinder, may also have funds to contribute.

Chairs Signature.....

Date.....

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