

# Bawdsey Parish Council

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.00pm

Bawdsey Village Hall

<b>In Attendance</b> – Chairman Andrew Block (AB), Jenny Webb (Clerk) SCC Councillor, Andrew Reid, SCDC Councillor Christine Block and 18 parishioners including councillors.	
<i>Meeting called to order by Chair AB at 7.00pm.</i>	
<b>1. Chairman's welcome &amp; apologies for absence from</b> Chris Mann, Susan Temple and Jo Smellie. AB explained that the meeting would include updates from the past year and plans for the coming year covering key areas of concern. Parishioners were welcome to ask questions at any time in the proceedings.	<b>Action:</b>
<b>2. Signing of Minutes as a true record:</b> <i>Annual Parish Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017</i> –The Minutes had been approved by the PC in July 2017 and were duly signed by Chair AB.	
<b>3. Current activities at SCC and SCDC:</b> In his report SCC Cll Reid covered i. Finance ii. Education and iii. Miscellaneous <b>Finance:</b> SCC has raised council tax by 2.99% with a rise in 2% in the adult care precept. <b>Education:</b> Exam results at GCSE are rising with Suffolk now 85 <sup>th</sup> out of 151 authorities instead of 127 <sup>th</sup> last year. 97% of secondary school students got their 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3rd school choices. There are three options for the Home to School transport consultation aimed at saving money; these include charging over 16s for their school transport. <b>Other matters:</b> The Fire and Rescue Service is seeking volunteers for fire safety service. More foster carers are needed with 820 children in care. <b>Cll Reid's full report can be found on</b> <a href="http://www.bawdsey.onesuffolk.net">www.bawdsey.onesuffolk.net</a> <b>under parish council meetings.</b> Questions were then put to Cll Reid. Cll Mark deplored the difficulty in getting respite care for the elderly. Chairman AB wanted clarity as to the mechanism used by Highways to contact local farmers and builders to clear roads in emergency conditions following the snowfall and drifting. Bawdsey and Alderton experienced snow and dirt drifts which weren't cleared for over a week. Cll Reid explained that the online reporting tool is the first port of call. Highways commission local farmers to do clearance work in emergencies. Since resources are limited, local landowners have to take responsibility for some of the clearing up operation. The community warden took three days to come out and assess the problems locally but there were major highways problems all over Suffolk. Chairman AB thanked Cll Reid for his attention over the past year. <b>SCDC report:</b> <b>Coastal matters. Flood risk management:</b> Flood Cell 1 in Bawdsey is very vulnerable to surges and the sea defence wall needs urgent repairs which would be difficult to effect if the sea broke through. £1.3 million pounds is needed. There will be no government funding because of the lack of houses in the area.	

<p><b>Foot ferry:</b> The past year has seen a pilot dial-a-ride all-year-round service subsidised in part by the parish council and the Deben Estuary Partnership. In retrospect the service could have been advertised more widely particularly in the AONB Coast and Heaths newsletter and website targeting cyclists in particular.</p> <p><b>Erosion:</b> Considerable erosion is taking place between the jetty, the mouth of river and the Knolls causing concern. A concerted approach between SCDC, the parish council and PGL will be needed.</p> <p><b>Housing:</b> A national housing initiative, involving the establishment of Community Land Trusts has been set up with government funding. One local CLT has been set up on the peninsula involving Bawdsey and other local villages. The aim is to deliver affordable housing for local people in perpetuity working with local housing associations. The emphasis is to meet local need in terms of size of house and types of accommodation.</p> <p><b>Shingle Street:</b> Following the withdrawal of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) proposing limited access to the beach for dogs, residents of Shingle Street are working with Natural England to decide on remedial measures such as signage in order to safeguard wildlife, and asking owners to keep dogs on leads during nesting season. Visitor management is also an issue with increasing visitors to the area. Grants will be sought from the AONB and from parish councils to fund the signs. There has been some upset also by the installation of a memorial seat in marble.</p> <p><b>Amalgamation between SCDC and Waveney:</b> The merger of these two councils into East Suffolk takes place next May, becoming the largest council in the UK. This will be challenging in terms of finance. There will be an end of government grants and the district council will have to depend solely on business rates and the new homes bonus which will present a challenge delivering local services.</p> <p>District wards will become bigger following a boundary consultation next year. Cll Block envisages being in a ward of 18 parishes rather than the 8 she currently serves. She recommends parishes developing partnerships with their neighbouring parishes and developing a Neighbourhood Plan which carries weight in planning issues.</p> <p>Cll Block concluded by saying that there has been huge changes in her 20 years as a district councillor and that communities are going to have to become more resilient and self sufficient. Chair AB thanked her for her commitment to the parish over the years.</p>	
<p><b>4. Presentation of accounts:</b> Clerk presented the end of year statement of accounts to the meeting. The total balance of three accounts amounted to <b>£10,821.76</b>. Current account ****0571 <b>£2,132.74</b>; BQVC ****7141 <b>£4,668.23</b> Savers Account <b>£4,020.79</b> See enclosed statement. Large amounts appearing on the accounts are due to the installation of mains water at the toilets at the amenity centre which SCDC paid BPC to deliver.</p> <p>The sum of £465 was given to local charities from the regular account: Ipswich and District CAB; East Anglia Air Ambulance; Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS); Felixstowe Volunteer Coast Patrol Rescue Service, SCAR (Suffolk Coast Against Retreat.) A poppy wreath is bought every year. A donation of £250 was given to subsidise the dial-a-ride ferry and £500 was given to the Bawdsey Coastal partnership.</p> <p>Copies of the budget were made available. The precept for 2018-19 was raised from £7,280 to £7,500 to meet current expenditure and to build up reserves. This amounts to a rise of 3.0%.</p>	
<p><b>5. To review main events of 2017/8 and plans for 2018/19</b></p>	

- i. **Housing:** A Community Land Trust has been set up on the peninsula including Bawdsey and neighbouring parish councils. Orwell Housing has put in a planning application for 12 houses on The Street below Bawdsey Farm Estate. Saffron Housing has taken up an option to build houses on School Meadow and proposes changing the original design of the 13 houses to reflect local housing needs. Section 106 discussions have been going on for two years.
- ii. **Scottish Power matters:** EA1 wind farm is under construction. EA3 is being consented. Its construction will follow EA1. Cables from both these wind farms will come ashore at Bawdsey. Drilling is taking place under the cliffs on the seaward side through which the cables from the wind farms will pass. A haul road from the landfall site to the River Deben has been constructed. Ferry Road will be partially closed 14-20 May while a trench is dug across Ferry Road for the cables. This will involve a 15 minute wait for motorists while a steel sheet is put down for them to drive over. Heavy rain has meant that the roads have been very muddy. A road sweeper is permanently onsite. The volume of traffic has now decreased.
- iii. **PGL:** Ashley Jones, centre manager, attended the meeting and reported on the current operations. After a small operation last year, the site will be fully operational this coming season. New facilities such as zip wires are being installed and remodelling of buildings are taking place which are nearing completion. Quad bikes are not used now. A recruitment drive is taking place. One hundred and four staff will be recruited, twenty permanent. Local part time and full time staff has been appointed. The Manor is now in use and will be full in the coming season. PGL is monitoring coastal erosion and Gavin, the maintenance manager is a member of the Bawdsey Coastal Partnership. A new sewage system is being put in at the manor which was welcomed by the parish council. Concerns were expressed about speeding through the village by vehicles with PGL logo on them. Mr Jones will give a contact number to the clerk for villagers to report any incidents of PGL vehicles speeding and he undertook to follow these up. He intimated PGL could give a donation for the purchase of a SID device.
- iv. **Highways Matters:** There was a groundswell of opinion wanting to operate a Speedwatch exercise to deter speeding in the village which has got worse over the past few months. Rob Johnson volunteered to get together a list of volunteers. Attendees also were in favour of a SID device being installed. Chairman AB said it would be put to the council at May's AGM. Concern was expressed that the coastal path now goes along Ferry Road to East Lane and that a sign should be put up indicating it is a designated path. Nikki Berry of Scottish Power has been responding to villagers' concerns about the intrusion of SP vehicles on verges abutting private property. It was noted that farm vehicles are also to blame in this respect.
- v. **Coastal Protection:** See SCDC report on this subject.
- vi. **Amenity Site:** Peter Ross of SCDC Norse will plant marginal plants around the pond at the site which has been dredged and the canopy above thinned to allow more light into the area. The East Suffolk Building Preservation Trust is looking into grant funding to restore the tin chapel on PGL land and possibly refurbish it for use as an information centre. A parking consultation by SCDC took place last year. They are proposing instituting minimal

charges for parking at the amenity site.

- vii. **New Village Sign:** Chairman AB thanked parishioners who had shared their views about the proposed village sign in the shape of a radar tower. Although a majority were in favour of the proposal, a second design will be drawn up reflecting alternative views and both will be exhibited at Bawdsey fete to allow a choice to be made.
- viii. **Emergency Plan Matters:** Jason Horncastle, Chair of this committee gave a report. (on the website) Three walkie -talkies have been purchased for communication between the village, Shingle Street, Alderton and Bawdsey Quay. Clarity is needed as to when the VH can be opened even when a formal emergency has not been declared. Keith Faulkner-Simpson is willing to meet up with members of the VHRGC to give basic emergency training.
- ix. **Website:** Rod Webb apologised for the messy website which occurred following a recent upgrade. Order has now been restored after further training. He recommended it as a useful resource for the village as it has on it all parish council papers including minutes. It also gives details of coastal protection, news items, events and village history. Suggestions are always welcome as are items for inclusion.
- x. **Any other matters:** Rawdon Saunders, Chairman of the VHRGC, explained that the war memorial has been cleaned up and is looking a lot better. The names of the fallen of 1914-18 are still indistinct so he is looking into further action before the 100 year anniversary of the armistice of November 1918. Cll Liz Mark reminded people of the Poppy Project events during the course of the year and distributed post cards highlighting events. The village fete takes place on May Bank Holiday and tombola prizes are being sought. Offers of help are very welcome.

**The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking everyone for coming. Thanks to his fellow councillors and to the Clerk were expressed. He concluded that change is inevitable and he was certain that the village would rise to the challenges ahead.**

*Formal Meeting ended 9.15 pm when refreshments were served.*

Signature: .....

Date: .....