

Bawdsey Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 4th April 2019 at 7.00pm

Bawdsey Village Hall

In Attendance – Chairman Andrew Block (AB), Jenny Webb (Clerk) SCC Councillor, Andrew Reid, SCDC Councillor Christine Block, Edward Rees from Scottish Power and 13 parishioners including councillors.	
<i>Meeting called to order by Chair AB at 7.00pm.</i>	
1. Chairman's welcome. Chairman thanked parishioners for coming and said they were welcome to ask questions at any time in the proceedings. One parishioner requested a 20mph sign along East Lane because of speeding white vans and heavy farm vehicles exceeding the speed limit.	Action:
2. Signing of Minutes as a true record: <i>Annual Parish Meeting 19th April 2018</i> –The Minutes had been approved by the PC in July 2018 and were duly signed by Chair AB.	
3. Current activities at SCC and SCDC: In his report SCC Cll Reid covered i. Finance ii. Education and iii. Infrastructure Finance: SCC has received a fall in central government funding from £800 million down to £520, a drop of two thirds. £10 million a week is spent on core services including children's services and adult care. Demand continues to grow. In 2019-20 savings of £13 million have to be made. SCC is working with the NHS and other agencies to streamline services. General council tax will rise by 2.99% this year. The Council are also applying the final 1% of the six per cent Social Care precept allowed over the years 2017/18 to 2019/20. Education: Suffolk has historically low attainment compared with the national average. Since the initiative Raising the Bar, exam results at GCSE have risen with Suffolk now 47th out of 151 in Maths and English compared with previous attainment of 137th. A' level results are above the national average. Funding for new specialist schools has been obtained for 20120-21 with funds being borrowed and numbers in these schools will increase. Infrastructure: Cll Reid mentioned three areas here: Scottish Power Windfarms, Sizewell C and Broadband initiatives. SCC has considerable objections to the siting of landfall site for EA2 in an area of AONB with proposed substation at Friston which will mean a major industrial complex in a rural area. He commented on Bawdsey's experience as a landfall site and the heavy traffic the village has suffered. He did say that Suffolk could be responsible for 30% of the country's power in the next 10-15 years. Regarding Sizewell C, Stage 3 of the Consultation is completed. Lack of data and supporting evidence for their proposals are an issue and local concerns need to be addressed. The planning authority will not grant permission if concerns have not been allayed. Broadband deficits have largely been met with 98% coverage following a £20 million injection by SCC which was matched by government. An extra £1.5 million grant from Defra has been awarded to install Superfast Broadband for businesses in rural areas. Cll Reid's full report can be found on www.bawdsey.onesuffolk.net under parish council	

meetings.

Chairman AB thanked Cll Reid for his attention over the past year.

SCDC report: Cll Christine Block began her report by announcing her retirement after 24 years as a district councillor. **Merger between SCDC and Waveney:** The merger of these two councils into East Suffolk has made it the largest council in the UK. Each district councillor will now represent 3,500 residents in the newly enlarged district wards. Cll Block recommends parishes develop partnerships with their neighbouring parishes since the new district councillor will find it difficult to cover all parishes.

This will also be challenging in terms of finance. SCDC was debt-free but Waveney was in debt and additional savings will have to be made. There will be an end to government grants and the district council will have to depend solely on business rates and the new homes bonus which will incentivise the building of new homes. Nearly 6,000 new homes are to be built along the Deben Estuary on the Felixstowe side which will affect the numbers of people living in the area and will also increase the number of tourists. Infrastructure will suffer as the A14 is at capacity. With this push for economic development, there is likely to be more traffic on the A14 and A12. A new Local Plan is coming into force with an emphasis on Growth.

Coastal Communities Team: Cll Block will continue working with this agency, applying for government money to help develop sustainable tourism and help local initiatives such as the renovation of the tin chapel. She fears Better Broadband still won't reach remote communities.

4. Presentation of accounts: Clerk presented the end of year statement of accounts to the meeting. The total balance of three accounts amounted to **£16,257.21**.

Current account ****0571 **£2,957.67**; BQVC ****7141 **£7,268.23** Savers Account **£6,031.31** See enclosed statement.

The sum of £465 was given to local charities from the regular account: Felixstowe 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.

Copies of the budget 2019-20 were made available. The precept for 2019-20 was raised from £7,500 to £7,650 to meet current expenditure and to build up reserves. This amounts to a rise of 2.0%.

5. To review main events of 2018/9 and plans for 2019/20

- i. **Scottish Power matters:** Edward Rees, Communications Officer for Scottish Power spoke about the EA1 and EA3 wind farms whose landfall site is Bawdsey. (EA2 is coming in at Sizewell) EA1 consists of 102 turbines producing 714 megawatts an hour. The onshore substation at Bramford, 22 miles away, has been completed. Drilling under the cliffs and under the Deben has been done. Three trenches have been dug under Ferry Road, 2 housing ducts for EA1 and one for EA3. 99% of the trench work is complete.

Work pulling in the offshore cables will take place shortly and is expected to continue until late June. Related work at the Transition Joint Bays (TJBs) within the landfall site compound off Ferry Road will resume. These are the chambers where the offshore and onshore cable sections are joined. The next phase is the reinstatement programme, taking up the haul road and fencing, reinstating the fields. This will probably take place during the summer to

autumn. Replanting will then take place.

Regarding traffic movements, abnormal load deliveries have finished. The passing places may be retained if Highways are willing to adopt them. The parish council would have to request this of Highways. Chair queried whether the damage done to verges will be repaired. It was unclear what these liabilities were, especially as farm traffic was also responsible for damage to verges. Network Assurance team might be able to answer that question. Chairman asked Edward Rees to liaise with the council on this matter. Chair also asked whether the council could use the stone from the haul road for local projects such as tackling the erosion along parking area before the Quay.

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A question was asked from the floor regarding community compensation for the disruption that has taken place. The programme of works has been extended and there has been more disruption than had been anticipated. Could a specific request be made to SP such as a payment towards a new village sign as a lasting thank you? ER preferred the term "community benefit" than "compensation". Other potential recipients could be Bawdsey School which has a needy heating fund and the church wall which has deteriorated. A means of displaying the local archaeological finds would also be welcome. Parishioners could be asked for suggestions via the Bulletin.

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Mr Rees concluded by saying that EA3 works will be less disruptive since all the drilling has been done and jointing activity only will be taking place.

- ii. **Housing Developments:** A Community Land Trust has been set up on the peninsula including Bawdsey and neighbouring parish councils to deliver a modest number of affordable houses which would be offered for rent only and which would be kept in perpetuity. Orwell Housing is offering 8 affordable units on its site below Manor Farm and School Meadow development will offer 4. The trust has been awarded £450,000 for this purpose. This is the first CLT to achieve this. Building on the latter site will take place mid-summer.
- iii. **PGL:** The PC has responded to PGL's planning application to build a lake on marsh land abutting Ferry Road, objecting to the proposal since it was felt the council had to reflect concerns of residents on the Manor Estate. The response included a request for more information about the rationale for the lake. It was felt the issue of noise should be considered separately from this planning application and that if it could not be dealt with via Environmental Protection, the council should consider approaching PGL themselves. The structures nearest the perimeter fence should be repositioned so as to lessen the noise impact to neighbouring properties.
The council has welcomed PGL as a viable business which has the resources to tackle sea defences and feels it is necessary to live and work alongside one another.
- iv. **Bawdsey Quay and Amenity Site Matters:** An under-spend by SCDC 2018-19 means there could be an opportunity to use the money to tackle roadside parking before Bawdsey Quay and to regularise parking on the Quay itself as well as at the amenity site. The Chair has contacted David Chenery of Highways with proposals and plans which date back to 2003. The roadside erosion has worsened and the bank is being torn to shreds. Clearance of the amenity site could produce more parking spaces. However it is uncertain whether this will go ahead. Regarding the tin chapel, which is on the at risk register, the East

Suffolk Building Preservation Trust has obtained grant funding to carry out a feasibility study into possible uses for the chapel such as an information centre.

- v. **Coastal Protection:** A review of the Shoreline Management Plan is taking place. There has been further damage north of East Lane and all the rock armour has now been used up shoring up the sea wall. Bawdsey Coastal Partnership has commissioned Jacobs to see if the “hold the line” designation is viable. A meeting with the SMP team is taking place at the end of April.

Six universities are doing research on aspects of the Deben estuary including high level monitoring of its salt marsh by UCL. The Deben Estuary partnership is reviewing its Plan to align with the new East Suffolk Local Plan. There is a need to review the interaction between river-based and land-based planning which could adversely affect the riverscape. The “Change” agenda of the new council affects the estuary and the whole of the coast. It is necessary to look at ways to mitigate the effects of Change and add value to the landscape. For instance there are only three properties beneath the 5m line from Bawdsey Quay to Ramsholt, making the area less valuable in planning terms but there is a lot of biodiversity and farmland which is valuable to the local economy even though they are not counted as “value.” A new way of thinking is necessary in which the value of the natural landscape is part of the equation. Loose stone from SP works could be used as materials for sea/river defence. This will entail approaching the Environment agency and Natural England.

- vi. **New Village Sign:** Chairman AB thanked parishioners who had shared their views about the proposed village sign in the shape of a radar tower and conceded a more traditional one was probably more generally acceptable. Images of Bawdsey were put on a table and parishioners were invited to choose their favourite ones over refreshments.

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking everyone for coming. Thanks to his Clerk and fellow councillors were expressed with especial thank you to Clls Liz Mark and Rawdon Saunders who were both retiring after 16 years of service and to Cll Christine Block for her long service to the community.

Formal Meeting ended 9.30pm when refreshments were served.

Signature:

Date: