

# Bawdsey Parish Council

## Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council

Thursday 19th March 2020 at 7.00pm

Bawdsey Village Hall

<p><b>In Attendance</b> –Vice Chair Andrew Rouse (AR), Clls Richard Tricker (RT), Chris Mann (CM), Rob Johnson (RJ) Clare Walker (CW), Robert Thurkettle (RJT) Cll James Mallinder (East Suffolk Council), Jenny Webb (Clerk) Apologies from Chair Andrew Block (AB), Clls Brian Johnson (BJ) and SCC Councillor Andrew Reid.</p>
<p><i>Meeting called to order by Vice- Chair AR at 7.00pm.</i></p>
<p><b>1. Open Forum and Chairman’s welcome</b> – Clerk shared concern of resident Liz Mark about the lack of parking spaces for patients at the Peninsula Practice at Alderton. Councillors agreed that the state of affairs was far from ideal and decided the issue be put to the joint meeting of peninsular councils for a co-ordinated response.</p> <p><b>AR asked RJ about preparations to handle the potential effects of Covid 19 virus within the village. See under Emergency Plan.</b></p>
<p><b>2. To co-opt a new councilor for Bawdsey Parish Council and sign Declaration of Interest form:</b> Robert Thurkettle (to be referred to as RJT) introduced himself to councillors and was duly co-opted as a member of the parish council, signing the Declaration of Acceptance.</p>
<p><b>3. To approve appointment of new clerk from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020:</b> Following an interview by Clls AB, BJ and RT, it was recommended that Tiffany Pollock be appointed to the position of parish clerk. A contract will be drawn up and JW will formally hand over the reins at the end of the month. Councillors agreed that SALC will manage her pay roll. Proposed by Cll RT and seconded by RJ. A laptop will be procured for her use. ES Cll JM reminded the council that he has a budget to support any technology needed for council business.</p>
<p><b>4. Councillor’s Declaration of Interests:</b> Clls CM and RT declared an interest in the Scottish Power Windfarm project; Cll AR for Bawdsey Coastal Partnership; Cll CW for CLT.</p>
<p><b>5. Signing of Minutes:</b></p> <p>i. <b>Minutes of January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020</b> were signed as a true record. Proposed by Cll AR, seconded by RJ.</p>
<p><b>6. To receive report from SCC and ESC. No report from Cll AR was received.</b></p> <p><b>East Suffolk Councillor James Mallinder:</b> Cll Mallinder submitted a written report which can be read on the village website. He reminded councillors that the public should not go into East Suffolk offices but access services online due to Covid 19. Norse will be reallocating staff to prioritise bin collections. As cabinet member for the environment he has visited Bawdsey Primary School to encourage recycling and as a member of the AONB committee is promoting environmental improvements. He attended SCAR AGM and is aware of the vulnerability of the cliff along our stretch of coast due to erosion having walked along our stretch with SCC footpath officer. PGL has a planning application for protective works for the beach below the school.</p>
<p><b>7. Progress Reports: i. Clerk’s report, incl. current finance report.</b> The report of correspondence and actions can be read on the village website. There was a balance of <b>£3,240.18</b> in the current account at the end of February. A weather station and a tetrapack bin for the village hall have now been purchased. There is <b>£7,718.23</b> in the BQVC account and <b>£6,031.31</b> in the Savers</p>

Account. Clls CW and RJ have been approved as new signatories.

**ii. Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee update:** The March Pop-Up Pub raised £400 for VH funds. These events will now be suspended for the time being. The fete has been postponed until September. It is hoped that with the suspension of events in the VH, there can be a deep clean of the hall together with redecoration and minor repairs. Insurers have been notified that the hall will not be in use for the foreseeable future although Chair-based exercises have said they might continue. A work party is supposed to convene on Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> to clean the play area which has a slippery surface. There has been a complaint about the moss which needs constant attention. It may be necessary to resurface the area at some stage.

**iii. Coastal Protection Updates: a) DEP:** The DEP has put in an application to the AONB for photo posts to be placed along the coastline in order to monitor the changes occurring along our beaches and coast. Walkers can be part of this community project by taking photos from these specific positions and uploading them on to a website which will inform the ever-changing coastal situation. This will provide the Environment Agency with live data on a regular basis. The grant will be channelled via the PC which has been asked to match fund this project. Ten universities are currently carrying out research on the Deben Estuary and its environment.

It was noted that at a meeting of the Shoreline Management Group, the policy for our stretch of coast was to continue to Hold the Line. However, at the recent SCAR Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020, there was increasing acceptance that "Hold the Line" may only be viable in the short term, and that longer term there is an increasing need to consider the options of Managed Realignment.

**b) BCP update:** At its AGM Chairman Nick Crick resigned and recommended the partnership refocus and integrate more closely with other kindred groups in exploring more innovative adaptations for resilience to coastal erosion.

**c) AOC:** The Alde and Ore Community Partnership (AOC) is the new name for the Estuary Partnership. Currently the Internal Drainage Board is preparing business plans for the upgrading of the upper estuary wall and submission to Environment Agency which will assess the amount of Government grant to be awarded. That process will take several months. On completion of that, the business plan for the southern estuary, which adjoins Bawdsey Coastal area, will be prepared. Best guess for start of work on the northern estuary is Autumn 2020

**iv. Scottish Power:** The dismantling of the Haul Road will not take place until the land has dried out sufficiently to get the plant onto the fields. Once it has started, we are told it should be completed within 3 weeks. However, once the marsh harriers start nesting this could hold up work until the autumn. Many of the cabins have been removed from the landfall site but a few will remain until all work on EA1 has been completed. Regarding EA3 it has been suggested that there are concerns surrounding this project. The generator(s) which operate 24/7 need servicing, and this has been reported to Scottish Power Renewables and will continued to be monitored by the Parish Council. The reinstatement of the hedges by the landfall site will not take place until the Haul Road has been removed together with all plant, etc from the site.

**V. Emergency Committee:** Three new members have joined the committee. Cll R Johnson confirmed that meetings will be held via Skype in the near future to determine actions in the face

<p>of the Covid 19 crisis. A mutual aid leaflet is being printed for residents, giving advice and offering assistance. This will be distributed via the Bulletin and by letter drops. The parish council has endorsed this action and will fund the printing costs. They recommended homeowners do not flag up the fact they are in a vulnerable household by displaying a “red card” but rather contact RJ as set out in the leaflet.</p> <p>Other ongoing concerns are winter flooding and high tides at Bawdsey Quay. In the past few months some visitors have been endangering their safety by walking on the beach before a tidal surge is due. RJ questioned whether a barrier should be put in place before the Quay (by the amenity area) when such a high tide is due. An alternative would be to install an electric flood warning sign which could tie in with the National Coastal Path. The concept would need to be approved by Highways and the Environment Agency.</p> <p><b>vi. Speedwatch:</b> Three sessions with the Speedgun have been missed due to a variety of reasons: Christmas, pavement resurfacing and the need to train more volunteers at Rendlesham. The team intend to add a bracket to the post outside the Old Vicarage so that the SID can be turned around to face the other way from time to time. It has been identified as the best place to monitor traffic in the village.</p> <p><b>vii: Shingle Street Matters:</b> Shingle Street. Two public footpath way marks have rotted and collapsed. Cll B Johnson has notified SCC about one of them. The route of footpath 2 crosses a field and has been sown over and the second way mark is missing. The Council agreed that BJ should follow this up with SCC. The Route of the Coastal Path through Shingle Street has been agreed. BT has agreed to allow continued use of public telephone as an emergency phone.</p>	<b>BJ</b>
<p><b>8. Finance: a) To authorize payments as listed below:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. R Saunders lock for SID £14.95</li> <li>ii. East Suffolk Bulletin (February and March) £57.97</li> <li>iii. Clerk’s PAYE: £148.20</li> <li>iv. Clerk’s Salary (net): £420.30</li> <li>v. Cll Tricker (expenses) £15.30</li> </ul> <p>The above payments were approved by the council. Proposed by Cll C Walker and seconded by Cll A Rouse.</p> <p><b>b) To consider further purchases relating to the weather station:</b> Councillors agreed in principle to provide match funding for the photo posts which the DEP is seeking to install. (See 7iia) This is likely to be in the region of £250. The above payment was approved by the council. Proposed by Cll R Johnson and seconded by Cll C Walker</p> <p><b>c) To decide on charitable donations for 2019-20:</b> The council agreed to give a grant of £100 to The Citizens’ Advice in Leiston, Saxmundham and District which provides an outreach session at Alderton surgery, East Anglian Air Ambulance, SARS (Suffolk Accident Rescue Service) and SCAR (Suffolk Coast Against Retreat- now renamed Suffolk Coast Action Resilience; and £50 to the Disability Advice Service at Martlesham and the children’s hospice EACH. The above payments were approved by the council. Proposed by Cll R Tricker and seconded by Cll C Mann.</p>	

<p><b>9. To receive updates on Planning Issues: i. To review outstanding application: a) School Meadow Development:</b> No update has been received on this development including no date for the building to commence. The name of Martello Close has been chosen by pupils of Bawdsey Primary School and endorsed by BPC. The whole development is now called Forrester's Glade by Crocus Homes. <b>Orwell Housing Development below Manor Farm Estate:</b> The second phase of the development planning permission is still awaiting permission. <b>Mast on Bawdsey Manor Estate:</b> This is now to go to the Planning Committee at East Suffolk. It had been held up by Historic England b) <b>Disabled Access at Boathouse Café:</b> Following talks between PGL and Di Clouting, a new plan to address the lack of disabled access has been formulated and the plan sent into ESC for its approval. A few tables and chairs could be set out below the café and refreshments brought down to disabled customers. Furthermore, a metal structure could be put over the existing steps to make the gradient less challenging. Councillors agreed this would be the best solution to a longstanding problem in addition to the provision of two parking places for the disabled.</p>	
<p><b>10. Weather Station:</b> See 7iia)</p>	
<p><b>11. Bawdsey Quay: Update on financing plans for new parking scheme at Bawdsey Quay:</b> No updates have been received. Measures to warn visitors about the possibility of flood surges at the Quay were discussed such as a flashing electronic flood warning sign or an alternative such as a static flood warning sign. Clerk to contact Highways about the feasibility of the suggested measures.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>12. To receive update on the Tin Chapel:</b> The Trust has asked for the final report from the Cultural Engine to be submitted. The proposal for future administration involves Deben Estuary Partnership (DEP), PGL, Community Land Trust (CLT) BPC and ESC and a Memorandum of Understanding between these bodies has to signed. ESBPT will be arranging a meeting to pursue this. The chapel is seen as a potential Resource Centre for the ten universities conducting research into the Deben Estuary.</p>	
<p><b>13. To receive update on Highways matters:</b> The meeting about flooding with Cll A Reid and the joint peninsular councils was postponed due to the Covid 19 crisis. Councillors expressed their concern at the extent of the damage to banks and verges caused by large farm vehicles, buses and SP trucks. This is especially apparent outside Chestnuts before School Lane and beyond the Orwell Development. The number of potholes and broken up sections of road in the village will be logged and reported to the Highways website. Scottish Power will be asked to address the flooding that regularly occurs opposite the landfall site. Regarding the possible planting of verges, it was pointed out that visibility on our narrow and winding lanes was of greater importance than imposing a limited grass cutting regime.</p>	<p><b>AR</b> <b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>14. Green agenda: a) To receive update from the Bawdsey Green Group:</b> Cll R Tricker has installed a bespoke bin for tetrapacks which is proving to be very popular. A councillor will bring the packs down to Foxhall once the bin is full. The possibility of a community orchard was mooted on land owned by Emma Aldous. Cll Rouse will look into possible sources and the cost of acquiring trees. There would have to be a community team willing to plant and maintain the trees. It is important that the right trees are chosen for the site. An avenue of trees along the road to Manor Farm Estate was also suggested as a possibility.</p>	<p><b>AR</b></p>

<p><b>15. To receive any update about the route of the National Coastal Path:</b> The council has received an updated version of the proposed route of the path from Bawdsey Quay to Ramsholt which brings the path inside the saltmarsh area excluding access to this protected zone. Stock fences will be erected inside the landward side to allow for the pasturage of sheep. Walkers will thus be directed to the bottom of the sea wall out of sight of the river. Councillors voiced concerns that the path goes very near the nesting site of marsh harriers. A new version of the map taking Bawdsey Beach out of the exclusion zone has been received by the Clerk.</p>	
<p><b>16. Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council:</b> Cll Walker highlighted the fact that following East Suffolk Council's decision to allow the construction of the lake at PGL, it is being taken to a judicial review in London in the summer if the courts are sitting. Councillors decided to cancel the Annual Parish Meeting in April and to review May's AGM nearer the time following advice from NALC. Councillors agreed to a request by First Responder, Rod Webb, to allow him to purchase a new battery for the defibrillator in May, a cost normally shared between the PC and the VHRGC.</p>	
<p><b>17. To decide on dates for future meetings:</b> AGM Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May, but likely to be postponed due to Covid-19</p>	
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<p><i>Meeting ended 9.30pm</i></p>	

Signature: .....

Date: .....

*Andrew Block- Chair of Bawdsey Parish Council*