

Bawdsey Parish Council

Mrs Jenny Webb (Clerk to the Parish Council)

5 Fern Terrace, The Street, Bawdsey, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3AH

Minutes of Bawdsey Parish Council Planning Meeting

Held on Wednesday 16th February 2022

at 7pm in Village Hall

Present: Cllr. A Block (Chair), Cllr. A Rouse (Vice-Chair), Cllr. B Johnson, Cllr. R Johnson, Cllr. C Mann, Cllr. R Tricker, Cllr. C Walker, Parish Clerk and 14 residents

To consider planning application DC/21/5480/FUL Coast Protection Scheme along the Bawdsey Manor frontage, incorporating 200m of revetment, 4 No. rock groynes and shingle recharge - Bawdsey Manor Bawdsey Manor Estate Bawdsey IP12 3BH

Welcome: Chairman Andrew Block welcomed councillors and residents and began by giving some background information to this application including the location, its ownership, and the current conditions of coastal protection measures. The ownership of the beach from Bawdsey Quay northward to the A site is PGL at Bawdsey Manor, an important local employer. PGL is responsible for coastal protection and in this application seeks to replace the coastal defences originally installed in the Quilter era. The steel piling and wooden groynes are in an extremely poor condition and no longer carry out their original function, resulting in a considerable loss of material behind the piling as the sea erodes the Pulhamite cliff.

The materials to replace the current groynes would be rock armour which would be brought in by water. Shingle would be sprayed on to the beach to replace shingle which has been swept away. The work would be done in two phases, and it is hoped, carried out this summer over 3-4 months when weather and sea conditions are more stable. This is dependent on receiving the necessary licence from the Marine Management Organisation.

The works will necessarily affect the village. Heavy machinery will be brought in and parked on PGL land nearby. Access to the beach during this time may be limited and safety measures will be put in place. Some noise and dust pollution will be inevitable, and the parish council would expect mitigations to be put in place.

Public Participation: Residents wanted to be assured that there would be a traffic management scheme in place and that any damage to local roads and verges would be put right once the works had been completed. Traffic Management was particularly important in that heavy agricultural vehicles would be on the roads at this time of year as well as daily school traffic.

Questions were asked about the impact the rock groynes might have on The Knolls, the mouth of the estuary and on the coast further north. It was pointed out that coastal protection did not go beyond the existing piling and groynes even though much of the coastal erosion especially of the cliffs was taking place further north as far as East Lane.

It was questioned whether any modelling had been carried out at both ends of the beach on the potential effects of the rock groynes although due regard was given to such studies as HR Wallingford.

Councillor's Decision: After a full discussion, councillors were broadly in agreement with the application given the poor and inadequate condition of the existing measures and the great urgency required to renew coastal protections. Councillors thought the application very weighty and well thought out; it provided detailed plans of the whole scheme demonstrating the huge amount of work carried out on the design.

The council therefore voted to approve the scheme but wished to flag up the very real concerns felt by those councillors most experienced in monitoring coastal processes and those raised by residents. These were:

1. The need to monitor the effects of the scheme on the Knolls and on the mouth of the Deben.
2. The need for a Traffic Management Scheme with road and verge repair to be carried out if necessary. This will be the responsibility of SCC Highways.
3. The need to monitor the area north of the proposed works and to mitigate any negative effects the scheme may have with the possibility of extending the protective measures northwards.
4. Further details of foot access from upper berm to beach as listed in Design Report Section 3.1

The meeting finished at 8.30pm. The council wish to thank Cllr James Mallinder and East Suffolk Council for providing enlarged copies of the plans for the perusal by those present.