

Bawdsey Annual Parish Meeting

11th May 2023 7pm

Bawdsey Village Hall

Minutes

1. Welcome

Cllr Andy Rouse welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Signing of the minutes from the 21st of April 2022

Minutes signed as a true copy.

Questions and Discussion to follow each item.

3. Reports from: -

a. Suffolk County Councillor Andrew Reid

Cllr Andrew Reid highlighted sections of annual report, which has been added to the website.

Question – Highway resurfacing programme highlights an extra 150 miles to be resurfaced, assume this is large blocks of main roads, where does potholes sit on the priority list?

Answer – Potholes are high up the list of priorities, aim is to deal with them quicker, when reported. Money has come from government, specifically to deal with this issue and minor remediation works, 150 miles will be over 173 different sites, dealing with sites where condition of roads really warrant resurfacing, instead of individual patches. New company have been given the contracts for roadworks, going forward looking for a better service and delivery. Important that everyone reports, so they can be dealt with urgently.

Question – Is SCC getting any income from Felixstowe Freeport?

Answer – Freeport not started yet, but plan is that it will generate cash, feel SCC is better placed than many councils, regarding budget, although there are challenges coming in the future, from pay settlements and supplies, like all councils SCC has to balance its books and if it cannot, then it needs to look for savings through reducing services, by achieving savings without reducing services, has allowed SCC to increase provisions in crucial areas of care and community services, which accounts for 75% of SCC spend. Capital budget, which allows for bigger and longer-term projects, this has been conservatively increased, to ensure interest and principal can be repaid.

b. East Suffolk District Councillor James Mallinder

Glad to be voted back in and will adhere to pledges, lot of change at ESC since election, now 16 Green Councillors, 15 Conservatives, 12 Labour, 11 Liberal

Democrats, 1 Independent, envisage there being a pact between Greens and Lib Dem's. Will raise issues, especially around water quality in river Deben and issues important to residents.

Delighted the quay parking has been done by SCC, paperwork will take about 2 months to be completed by SCC and then passed on to ESC, who have the responsibility to control and have car parking officers patrolling, has spoken with Di at café to discuss parking, has been advised no issues, if there are any must let Cllr James Mallinder know, no parking permits to be issued, people who need them, will need to speak with Cllr James Mallinder or system on ESC website, all done on computer now with people's registration. May be teething issues, but this will be addressed as they are highlighted.

If see bins full or a problem (although no longer Cllr James Mallinders responsibility) please advise, as will raise this with relevant department. Moving away from Norse being an independent company and bringing it within ESC. Introduced pilot scheme, microchip on bin in laybys, which will notify when bin is full, which will mean less vehicles on road, if bins are empty or bins being emptied more if filling quickly. Pilot scheme introduced, recycling bins for collecting small electrical items, hoping this will be expanded and bins will be at different places throughout East Suffolk for short periods of time.

Managed to get road sweepers in to clear leaf litter on pavements in Bawdsey, cannot micromanage, so does need to be told if there is a problem.

Still involved with planning, always available to support any residents with planning applications and concerns around planning, currently in discussions with SCC re housing development at Eyke, will affect peninsula with road traffic increase, especially at Wilford Bridge, can SCC improve public transport to ease traffic on roads?

Environmental issues, proud of 'Feeding the Bees' campaign, back again this year, over 100 sites, new campaign this year, 'East Suffolk Blooms', free bulbs supplied, Jubilee celebrations, ESC donated an Oak Tree to all parishes.

ESC investment in Lowestoft and help with the funding for the third crossing, landscaping along promenade and seafront and huts which have been redesigned and are now renting out. Felixstowe, new café, investment to improve landscape. Aldeburgh, introduced pavement recycling bins, people do not always get correct, but need to offer a choice.

Question: - Why do we have to pay for green bins?

Answer: - Historically green waste has been an opt in, common for councils to charge, the process of dealing with this waste is costly. Current legislation going through Westminster, which will change the way waste is collected, will homogenise collections throughout the country.

c. Representative from Bawdsey School

Update given by Katie Butler, head of Bawdsey Primary School - Building in last 6 years has been overhauled, all major works have been done, asbestos has been removed, roof has been done, pinnacle has been replaced this year, a time capsule placed within, and some tiles mended, own filtration system for sewage, more self sufficient and in better shape than have been in past, with no more major works needed. Car park now available for staff, has been tricky with building works traffic, but builders have been helpful and hopefully Crocus will be supporting with some computers for the school.

Academically, doing well, small classes, next year looking to have 4, currently recruiting, new houses are helping with numbers. Children either go to forest school, beach school or learn to cook healthy meals, often from food grown in school, if not sporty, try to get them involved in non-competitive games, also have a programme dealing with mental health, shown different techniques.

Achieved an ECO green flag award and an award from AONB, for looking after East Lane, children go down every week and do beachcombing, collect rubbish, which is weighed, new fencing going in over summer, once up, will display how much rubbish is collected each week, new sculpture being built, designed by one of the children, octopus, legs are made of plastic bottles, idea is to tell people 'Your rubbish is killing wildlife'

Looking at diversity and difference, promoting understanding and talking about differences in the world, have been to a cathedral in the past and a mosque, ensure children see different cultures.

Question: - How do you see the future of the school with small classes, will you be stable and get enough support?

Answer: - Any funding is always welcome, team are good at getting grants and awards, have a healthy bank balance, why can add an additional class

d. Chair of Bawdsey Parish Council

Councillor Andy Rouse report for Council

Elections in May 2023, saw five councillors step down, Andrew Block, Brian Johnson, Chris Mann, Richard Tricker and Rob Johnson, who have all supported and worked hard throughout the years they have been councillors and would like to thank them, have 4 new councillors, which meant the election was uncontested, saving parish substantial funds, and hopefully we have someone who will be co-opted onto the council.

Quiet Lanes have been installed on East Lane and School Lane; Crocus Homes, by the school are nearly coming to an end and people have started moving into the properties; Quay has been main issue council has been concentrating on, the parking issues, this is nearly completed, couple of snagging issues; 20mph speed limits have been discussed for East Lane and School Lane, speed survey has been completed and have met SCC requirements, new SCC highways contractors are due

to take over in October, will then need to discuss the next step, talking with their designers and costs involved. Coastguard noted, no Personal Rescue Equipment at Shingle Street, where a few incidents have occurred due to strong currents in this area, have been working with Shingle Street Residents, Hollesley Parsh Council and ESC to get one installed, looking at early summer, before the busy period.

Going forward – looking at footpath continuity throughout the village; a water fountain at the quay, to reduce plastic water bottle waste.

Comment – Disappointed to see that two of the new parking signs have been knocked and are now bent over, will be interesting to see how long will take to repair?

Answer – Cllr Rouse has a snagging meeting with contractors and ESC traffic enforcement officer, signs that have been knocked were not part of original plan, will discuss if these are necessary.

Comment – Can get down to the quay from East Lane when it is low tide; if tide comes in have to walk back via road, which is quite dangerous, realise, this is a huge extension of pavement, but wondered if there is anything else that could be done, especially near bends, part paved?

Answer – Cllr Rouse, think the cost involved in doing path to quay would be too expensive; thinking more continuity within the village, from Alderton to School Lane junction, will be a challenge, partly due to there being available space, but are innovative ideas and ways to co-use roads, if anyone sees a good idea please take a photo, let us know where it was and share with councillors.

Comment – Whilst on paths, path in front of Martello Tower has been blocked off with a fence?

Answer – This is private land, people's gardens, due to cliff erosion, path was redirected away from cliff, back along East Lane, is in dispute with Natural England and the new Coastal Path, they want path to go along cliff, but due to a number of reasons, including coastal erosion, councillors do not think this is safe and have been trying to evidence this, Natural England seem very determined though, will keep trying to ensure it is safe for all.

e. Deben Marine Centre, Photopost Project and Weather Station

Deben Marine Centre is based down at the quay in the Ferry/Bus Shelter, open in summer, two days per week, Thursday and Sunday, to correspond with the Radar Museum, is there to highlight, coastal erosion and climate change, especially in this area, started back in 2013, when people who then owned the manor were concerned about the erosion in front of the manor, they helped to get a team together. Every Tuesday, all year, at low tide, one or two members of the team will measure from the top of the sheet pile to the beach, they do that at various points, have been able to record how the beach has changed going, mostly going down, these measures are then sent to University College London to a Professor, who collates all the data, which produces graphs showing the changes of the beach over this time, also ties this up with a North Sea buoy, which records wave height. Weather station, which

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Chairs Initials.....

will be up and running again soon, will record wind speed and direction, a tide gauge at end of quay, records the tide and pressure, plus atmospheric pressure, all data is fed into UCL, to try and predict where the erosion is likely to happen, under what weather conditions and what to expect. Is interesting, as everyone thinks when have a big storm and a North Easterly, waves crash up and the cliffs subsides, generally not the case, photo posts recorded a storm, when had lots of rain, cliff did not subside until 10 days after storm, land had become saturated by the rain and water naturally drains towards the sea, it is then that the cliff subsided. All data is available on the website, team are known as the Beach Boys! Have nine photo posts, hoping to put more in this year, currently one at Shingle Street, Tide Mill at Woodbridge, Waldringfield and Felixstowe, there to encourage people to put mobile phone on, take picture and upload photo to website, also have drone, hoping to fly more frequently, from Martello Tower down, lot of erosion on cliff in this area, will be able to pinpoint more accurately. Have also installed a children's toy library, at DMC, lot of buckets, spades, plastic toys, so if anyone has any to donate, would be welcome, idea is for children to borrow and return at the end of the day. If anyone is interested in volunteering to contact Richard Tricker. Natural England have commissioned four different illustrations, e.g., salt marshes, thinking of putting these up in the area, but they will need to establish where, get funding and liaise with landowners and seek permission. Note AONB name changed to Natural Landscapes

f. PGL – Bawdsey Manor

Manmade Lake - now open and are following all the rules for the lake, will start to get busier as more guests arrive, have green canoes, so blend in with landscape, trying to ensure it looks nice, hopefully trees and bushes, will start to grow, lake only 1.2 meters deep, restrictions are in place, maximum participants is 80 Monday to Fridays and 60 on Saturday, 50 on Sunday, only operates between, Mid Feb to Mid Nov, 9am to 5pm, all equipment is to be removed from lake and put in sheds, cannot control children, as they get very excited, but they are enjoying, have no loud speakers, will have raft building, still have a few bits to finish on path around lake

Sea Defences – PGL are currently awaiting a Policy Decision by Historic England on whether support funding resulting from other Offshore Utility Works can be made available to help finance defence works. Cliff walk has been sealed off, no access because the pulhamite is falling away, which is making it very unstable at the moment. Will keep council updated, currently though are trying to get funding.

Question – Do you know if PGL have received the go ahead from Marine Management Organisation?

Answer – Unsure can find out and let you know.

Comment – Would like to thank PGL for the support they offer with the fete and prizes.

g. Representative from Church Council

Please see annual report on website

In addition to report, church has a new priest, Captain Reverend Simon Cake, has been innovative, would like to be more involved with the community and come out among parishioners, have good community links, have a food box at back of church, please donate, taken regularly to Salvation Army, information is regularly included in Bawdsey Bulletin. Continue liaison with school following COVID, assemblies held in church, Forest School in the churchyard, children have twice decorated the East window at Christmas time. Started a series of community coffee mornings, had a very successful lunch, had two seasonal parent/child activity sessions, one easter and the other at Christmas.

Events, had a recent and well supported guitar recital, flower festival will be happening on 25th June 2023, hoping to make this more of an event, planning a concert for later in the year.

Money – first need to raise funds to pay parish share, Bawdsey Church's share is circa £5000, then need to look at maintenance and insurance, very grateful to parish council, who donated £2000 towards the church wall, which is now in hand.

Churchyard remains a special place within the village, please do come along and walk through, smaller paths, if about on Saturday morning, please join, for cake and maybe bring your own secateurs.

h. Representative from Village Hall and Recreation Ground

Report is on the website and noticeboard.

Busy year, pop-up-pubs and fete, important to get people involved and attend.

Recreation area – Tennis courts have been resurfaced and new benches added, had a massive quote from a company to redo the play area surface, fortunate, had someone who goes from one place to another, cleaning war memorials, he cleaned Bawdsey's and Rawdon asked if he would do some other jobs, cleaned surface, which now looks really good. Tree planted and bench installed at back of village hall. Thanked PGL and James Mallinder for all support.

i. Representative from Peninsular Villages Community Land Trust

Provision of affordable housing, now have 4 houses in Martelo Close, 2 two bedroom and 2 one bedroom houses, did not get tenants from the 6 villages, Boyton, Hollesley, Shottisham, Alderton, Bawdsey and Sutton, taken 5 years to get to this point, had problems with ESC, but now have a new housing team at ESC, so will be looking for alternative sites and hoping there will be more money available from community housing fund, were going to fold, but with new money, hope to continue, although do need more volunteers to support.

j. Representative from Coastguard

Coastguard station is based at Bawdsey Manor, now have team 13, plus 2 on waiting list, COVID actually helped, as more people started working from home, so availability during day, very good, Coastguard, try to educate and ensure people enjoy the coast, warn of dangers, especially near cliff and tides, go into Woodbridge schools once a year, teach of dangers, but make it fun. Greatest challenge is erosion and the popularity of fossil hunting, trying to work with groups and educate, that cliffs are valuable resource and should not be dug into, tides change each day and danger of being cut off. On average, 25-30 shouts each year, on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, need to promote, if see anyone in danger on the coast or in the sea, dial 999 and ask for coastguard, working closely with Fire, Police and Ambulance services, are now an assured asset for the ambulance service, good relationship with local landowners, who give access to their gates and locks, try get to know all the tracks down to the coast. Type of shouts had, someone broke leg at East Lane on the shingle, fisherman and people on boats become ill, people stuck in mud in the estuary.

4. BPC award

Bawdsey Parish Council Community Action Awards were given to the following people for their contributions to the village: -

Andrew Block

Christine Block

Richard Tricker

Brian Johnson

Chris Mann

Jo Smellie

Louis Lennard

Chairs Signature.....

Date.....