

Bawdsey Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 19th April 2016 at 7.00pm

Bawdsey Village Hall

<p>In Attendance – Chairman Brian Johnson (BJ), Jenny Webb (Clerk) SCC Councillor, Andrew Reid, SCDC Councillor Christine Block and 23 parishioners including councillors.</p>	
<p><i>Meeting called to order by Chair BJ at 7.00pm.</i></p>	
<p>1. Chairman’s welcome & apologies for absence: Jo Smellie</p>	<p>Action:</p>
<p>2. Signing of Minutes as a true record: <i>Annual Parish Meeting 14th May 2015</i> –The Minutes had been approved by the PC in July 2015 and were duly signed by Chair BJ</p>	
<p>3. Current activities at SCC and SCDC– This preceded item 2) In his report SCC Cll Reid stressed the freezing of Council Tax, improvements to SCC Children’s Services and Educational Attainment; Regional Infrastructure projects in Lowestoft and Ipswich; Anticipated A12 improvements if Sizewell C is built; Targets for better rural broadband provision; Rural Transport Provision with a single phone number for each area; Devolution Plans to combine Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire with a directly elected mayor. He admitted the last item was controversial and needed to be discussed thoroughly. It would involve 27 local authorities and would add another tier to local government. New monies would be forthcoming. In answer to a question from the floor, he conceded that Cambridgeshire was unhappy with the concept. He was unaware of a new sign highlighting the Ipswich Tidal barrier. The full report can be read on the council’s website www.bawdsey.onesuffolk.net SCDC: Cll Christine Block mentioned the slight increase in council tax which is the result of cuts in local government grants. Furthermore a new homes bonus given to local councils is to be phased out over the next few years. Council income is boosted by business rates from BT and Sizewell. However district councils must worry about where the money for basic services is coming from in future years. Cll Block continued the theme of devolution by saying that the requirement for SCDC is to provide 7,900 new homes by 2031. She feared that the prospect of a directly elected Mayor for the combined counties would lead to him/her taking over some functions at County level which could impact at both district and parish level. Parishes may have to take on the duties that District Councils currently carry out under the concept of Enabling/Empowering Communities. SCDC and Waveney are merging in 2019 to become East Suffolk District Council although two sets of offices will be maintained. The Boundary Commission will review boundaries and it is likely that the number of councillors will be cut further. In the last review, the number of councillors was cut from 55 to 42, increasing the workload for councillors. With regard to Planning, the presumption is now in favour of development and parish</p>	

<p>councils must have strong grounds for refusing development. It has been the case that decisions by Senior Planning Officers have been overturned on appeal much to their dismay. This could lead to a potential loss of CIL. AONB is championing policies to secure mitigation when development negatively impacts the coast.</p> <p>With the new district council premises at Wilford Bridge being further away from the centre of the town, customers are being encouraged to go to Woodbridge Library for information. Some good news is that the brown bin collection will continue.</p> <p>Coastal erosion at East Lane and at the mouth of the Deben estuary is becoming more urgent and is likely to cost in the region of £5-6 million. There is a lack of funding for this in SCDC and little central government funding. Questions remain about how coastal and estuary protection will be funded.</p> <p>Cll Block conceded that broadband in the area is very patchy and she supported wireless broadband.</p>	
<p>4. Chairman's Introduction: BJ explained that 6 bi-monthly meetings were held over the year in addition to the APM. Five new members to the council were elected in 2015 in addition to the three councillors who stood again. Of these five, two - David Baker and Tony Osmanski- have resigned; the co-option of Andrew Rouse has been effected, leaving one more position on the council to fill. He mentioned there would be no police report because of the change in the nature of local policing which has entailed the loss of mobile unit visits, closure of Woodbridge police station to the public and the use of the number 101 to report crime and express concerns. Police would visit on an ad hoc basis and will come to PC meetings on request. May 5th sees the election of a Police Commissioner for Suffolk.</p>	
<p>5. Presentation of accounts: Clerk presented the end of year statement of accounts to the meeting. The total balance of three accounts amounted to £4,894.66. Current account ****0571 £1,884.93; BQVC ****7141 £1,008.40; Savers Account £2,001.33 See enclosed statements</p>	
<p>6. Chairman's report: BJ highlighted the use of many more subgroups this year. These include a new Finance Committee, BQVC WG, a Website group, Emergency Planning group and a Scottish Power windfarm monitoring group. Planning is decided upon by full council. It has become apparent that more demands have been put on the clerk who is also Responsible Finance Officer on account of the new Transparency Code. This entails more documentation being put on the website. It has led to the development of the village website overall. All village groups are invited to contribute information on this site.</p> <p>In addition to the six regular meetings, there have been two extraordinary meetings relating to the Bawdsey Quay Visitor Centre and 6 planning meetings including site visits. Results of all these applications are on the website. Three applications have been considered by SCDC planning committee.</p> <p>Councillors have also attended external meetings to SALC (Suffolk Association of Local Councils), Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership (AOEP), Police Forum, Green Print Forum , Suffolk Coast and Heaths (SC&H) East Anglia One and Three (Scottish Power) and Bawdsey Coastal Partnership (BCP).</p> <p>Other planning matters have included a Site Allocations Consultation with a revised physical limits boundary and a decision to allow outline planning for 13 dwellings on School Meadow. BPC is considering a Neighbourhood Plan with Alderton. Responses to</p>	

a Local Housing Needs Survey have been disappointing.
 The precept was raised from £6,600 to £6,900 to meet current expenditure and to build up reserves. This amounts to £36.44 per year for a Band D property.
 Donations to five charities were given 2015-16. Full details of these and the full Chairman's report can be read on the website.

7. Updates:

- i. Bawsdey Quay Visitor Centre Update by Peter Wain:** PW outlined the progress of the VC project from the time SCDC offered to transfer the site to BPC in May 2013 at nil consideration to the present day when the council recommended the business case for the VC to SCDC. To date 30 meetings have been held over the past 3 years with over 1000 hours of voluntary help being expended.
 In order for the project to be sustainable, a cafe and visitor centre was proposed and a business plan has just been approved by BPC and SCDC. Planning consent has been obtained for a green build designed by Modece Architects. Transfer of the site to BPC was subject to installation of a new water supply and sewage system for which SCDC have committed £180,000 with any residue from this amount being ploughed back into the build costs. A number of other grants have been awarded, the latest from the Coastal Revival Fund; local fundraising has amounted to £1,140.73, a testament to the community's enthusiasm for the project.
- ii. Radar Trust Update by Mary Wain:** MW said that this is the 12th year that she has been involved in this project which caught the public's imagination when it was a runner up in the BBC Restoration programme. The Radar Trust has recently been awarded 1.4 million pounds from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a refurbishment of the transmitter block into a modern museum. Historic England (formerly English Heritage) has awarded £196,000 to be spent on cement to shore up the blast walls. Other grants have been awarded by SCDC, Architectural Heritage Fund and by local fund raising. The Trust is now awaiting a lease from Bawdsey manor. There will be a great need for more volunteers by the end of 2017 when the opening days of the museum will be increased to 80 days a year. See www.bawdseyradar.org.uk
- iii. Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee update:** Chairman Rawdon Saunders stressed the body was a charity set up in 2001 under Charity Commission rules. The year has been dominated by Insurance issues. The insurance bill of £1,437 is the largest item of expenditure and is paid for from the proceeds of the annual fete. A new 5 year insurance deal has led to a saving of £400 from the previous plan. Other expenses included pruning trees in the Memorial Gardens and an annual ROSPA playground inspection. The Village Hall is now a designated rest centre in an Emergency. A new calor gas cooker and heating system have been installed. Emergency lighting will follow shortly. The football club which had shown interest in renting out the recreation ground decided against it on the grounds it was too small. This year's fete is on 30th May and RS appealed for volunteers. The full report is published on the website.
- iv. Emergency Planning Report:** Jason Horncastle replaced Brian Johnson as Chair of this Sub-committee last year. JH gave an up-to-date report on Emergency Planning in Bawdsey and Alderton which have a joint plan, 20 pages long, the draft of which has been sent to SCDC for their approval. The Village Hall has already been approved as an Emergency Centre by the Joint Emergency Planning Unit at SCDC and Alderton is installing a similar Calor Gas system to Bawdsey's. Central government has encouraged all parishes to have a plan in place in case of severe weather such as flooding which

could cause power outages. There are ten members on this committee which is looking into buying walkie-talkies for effective communication in an emergency. (Report on website.)

- 8. Reports from Local Groups:**
- Bawdsey Market:** Sue Foster told the meeting about Bawdsey Market, an autonomous body, now in its fourth year which is starting up again in May. There are 17 producers, including 8 from the village producing a range of goods including bread, olive oil, vinegar, pork, honey, vegetables, cards and craft items. All profits are ploughed into advertising. Sue also highlighted the mobile library which comes to the village every month for 20 minutes opposite Red House Lane. Books, CDs and computer games can be ordered in advance. Use it or Lose it was the message.
- Wind Farms:** Cll Richard Tricker reported on the wind farm developments. Richard is also tree warden, a member of the VHRGC and also monitors coastal erosion on a regular basis. Three wind farms are going to be built off the Suffolk coast. Landfall work at Ferry Road begins in January 2017, at a point where sea cables will come ashore and be joined together. There will be continuous drilling day and night for up to a year and HGV vehicles will be on the road from 8am to 6pm. A new access road will be built opposite Ferry Cottages to facilitate works for EA3, the project to be completed by 2025. (See Richard's full report on the website)
- Bawdsey Jazz Record Society:** Tony Pearson sent in the following report. "The Bawdsey Jazz Record Society continues, but like many such niche groups, is always seeking new members. Programmes are themed for various types of jazz, musicians or eras presented on CD or DVD. An article has been sent for inclusion in the next Village Voices magazine to invite new members to come along for a social evening with some good music. Member participation is always welcomed and programmes can be tailored to member's choices". Contact Tony Pearson for more information Tel. 410353
- Craft Group:** Sue Taylor sent in the following report: "We are regularly 20-25 members and numbers are steadily increasing. We have been running for approximately 18 years, possibly a little more. Cost is only £2 per session. It's a good way for new villagers to meet people and provides an activity throughout the year, a place where you can socialise and try something new or just pop on for a cuppa. We try to cover a variety of crafts. In the past year we have done: Knitting/crochet, Encaustic wax, Flower arranging and Holly wreaths. Still to do: Rag Rugging, Beading, Batik, Dream catchers and Tin can lanterns. Last year a grant from SCDC of £400 was obtained and 4 new sewing machines were purchased. Another community grant came from The Yorkshire Building Society Woodbridge of £443 with which another 2 sewing machines and a range of cutting/sewing materials were purchased. An annual coffee morning in December funds most of our sessions. We would like to stress that everyone who helps organise craft group are volunteers and nobody takes any payment."
- Rod Webb from HABBS** reported about the two defibrillator training sessions held in the village hall using a DVD from the British Heart Foundation. A further course will be held in the autumn. More volunteers are needed for HABBS.
- Coffee and Chat:** Liz Mark finished this session by talking about Coffee and Chat which meets on the first Thursday of every month in the Village Hall. It was begun 25 years ago when the shop closed. During the winter months, it was held at the house of Brenda Butterworth. Over the years it has given many donations to local charities through its Bring and Buy. A Christmas dinner is held every year in the VH.
- Bawdsey Coastal Partnership:** A report was sent in after the meeting. See website.

<p>9. Chairman's Closing Remarks: BJ thanked the following people: Parish Councilors for all their hard work within a number of different committees, Jason Horncastle of the Emergency Committee, Peter Wain and all members of the BQVC WG and Di Clouting as Business partner; Tony Osmanski for bringing his experience as former strategic director of SCDC and Vice Chair of BPC; Christine Block for speaking on behalf of BPC in SCDC and for grants from her locality budget; Andrew Reid of SCC for keeping BPC abreast of all matters in SCC and for £1,500 for a new village sign and £8,000 for BQVC; Ray Kay as internal auditor for 10 years; the Parish Clerk for her support. He highlighted the need for volunteers for BQVC. Finally he asked the meeting for ideas for the new decorative village sign.</p>	
<p>10. Open Session-Q and A: No questions were put forward.</p>	
<p><i>Formal Meeting ended 9.15 pm when tea and coffee were served</i></p>	

Signature:

Date:

Brian Johnson

Chair of Bawdsey Parish Council