

Bawdsey Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 14th May 2015 at 7.00pm

Bawdsey Village Hall

In Attendance –Councillors Graham Turner (GT), Brian Johnson (BJ), Liz Mark (LM), Rawdon Saunders (RS), Tony Osmanski, David Baker, Jenny Webb (Clerk) and 20 parishioners	
<i>Meeting called to order by Chair GT at 7.00pm.</i>	
	Action:
1. Chairman’s welcome & apologies for absence – SCC Cllr Andrew Reid (AR), SCDC Cllr Christine Block.	
2. Signing of Minutes as a true record: <i>Annual Parish Meeting 28th May 2014</i> –The Minutes had been approved by the PC in July 2014 and would be signed by the incoming Chair at the AGM on 20 th May.	
3. Current activities at SCC - Report enclosed	
4. Chairman’s Report for year 2014-15 including Coastal Protection issues: The Chairman explained that the point of the evening was to highlight what the council had achieved over the course of the last year and to focus on the challenges facing the village. It was also to allow parishioners to have their say about any issue they may want to raise. For a small parish, Bawdsey faces a number of major challenges such as coastal erosion, coastal flooding and estuary flooding. (See Power Point Presentation on website and Chair’s report for fuller reporting) . Since Bawdsey Quay is a popular destination for day trippers, issues such as parking and litter present themselves. With the handover of both the Amenity Site at Bawdsey Quay and East Lane Car Park from SCDC and SCC respectively, these are now parish council issues. Planning concerns have been at the forefront of council business recently with the new Local Plan review and the School Meadow development (now withdrawn) which has proved controversial and which attracted 77 comments on the council website. The proposed new offshore Wind Farm will entail local works impacting the village in the future. A number of working groups advise the parish council on all the above issues. GT then dealt with income received by the council and showed a breakdown of receipts and expenditure. Both income and expenditure were greatly up from last year due to two major projects, the installation of Calor Gas for the village hall for use as an Emergency Centre and the Amenity Area site. (See Finance Report). The small rise in the precept to £6,600 was to raise contingency funds for future initiatives. Other matters GT mentioned were the positive Ofsted report on Bawdsey School and the Annual Police Report (enclosed). He concluded by musing at the many changes Bawdsey has witnessed since the RAF were stationed at Bawdsey Manor.	

5. Updates:

- i. Emergency Planning Report:** Brian Johnson, Chair of this Sub-committee, gave an up-to-date report on Emergency Planning in Bawdsey and Alderton. The Village Hall has been approved as an Emergency Centre by the Joint Emergency Planning Unit at SCDC. (See enclosed report).
- ii. Amenity Area Update by Peter Wain:** PW described the progress of the amenity project from the time SCDC offered to transfer the site to BPC in May 2013 at nil consideration to the present day when the transfer took place in March this year. In July 2013 a working group was set up with PW as Chair and with members of the PC and other local volunteers. The Terms of Reference were clearly set out together with a Purpose and Vision Statement, and a Risk Assessment was undertaken. This culminated in an Interim Report the recommendations of which were accepted by the PC. Di Clouting came in as a business partner, and planning permission was obtained for a Visitors' Centre and Cafe. Award-winning architect Ralph Carpenter from Modece Architects produced plans for the building and in October 2014 the PC agreed to accept the site on certain conditions relating to the provision of an independent water supply. The District Council agreed to work in partnership with BPC to explore external funding opportunities. A Business Plan was developed and to date £41,000 has been received in grant aid and local fundraising. Another £150,000 will be needed but there is an active subgroup looking into further grant funding including Leader Funding with a focus on rural development and tourism potential. The sale of bat and bird boxes at £20 each is going very well (20 to date) and it is hoped they will eventually be monitored by Bawdsey School pupils. The next stage is tendering for the building of the Visitors' Centre and developing a website, not to mention on-going fundraising. PW is confident that the project will give real value to the community and hopes to engage the whole village community especially young people.
- iii. Radar Trust Update by Mary Wain:** MW confessed that this is the 11th 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 Lottery Fund for a refurbishment of the transmitter block into a modern museum. The Trust does however have to match-fund to the tune of £300,000 which MW conceded was a very daunting task. Since access to Bawdsey Manor is severely limited, the Trust feels the site should be open to all in order to highlight the significance of the place where Radar was developed which is credited for having helped win the Battle of Britain. She mentioned that Radar has also led to such important developments as modern air traffic control systems and the microwave oven. The Lottery money will be spent on Capital Works with the restoration of the blast walls costing the most. New toilets will be built outside the block. The new exhibition will follow the best practice in museum-ology and will

<p>feature non-static displays. There will be a strong educational element with an emphasis on educational activities. The Lottery Commission stresses the importance of making the museum “Sustainable”. At the moment the museum opens 12 times a year as opposed to the projected 80 times a year when it has been revamped. It will rely on one paid member of staff and volunteer labour. MW asked for help from the parish council and the wider community to spread the word. Every little bit helps even tweeting and re-tweeting. Tell friends and businesses. The website has a number of retail opportunities also. See www.bawdseyradar.org.uk She concluded by saying the Trust is looking for a vision for 2020.</p>	
<p>6. Review of Charities. Rod Webb described the work of HABSS, the first responder outfit of which he is local organiser on the peninsula, having taken over from Bev Lambert. It is run by the East of England Ambulance Service and has 81 groups in the region with 364 volunteers. HABSS is always looking for new volunteers. Full training is given over 3 days. The Clerk told the meeting that information on other charities requesting contributions from the Parish Council is displayed on the display boards and that parishioners could “vote” on the ones they found worthy by sticking a coloured dot on to the relevant charity. These include Age UK Suffolk, CAB, DAC, SARS, Suffolk Family Carers, Rural Caravan, Headway Suffolk and MAGPAS.</p> <p>Liz Mark finished this session by talking feelingly about Coffee and Chat which meets on the first Thursday of every month in the Village Hall. Over the years it has given many donations to local charities more recently to the Amenity Centre and to the VHRC committee, supplementing the range of utensils for the new Calor Gas Oven. She was given a round of applause for all her work she does for the village.</p>	
<p>7. Open Session-Q and A: No questions were put forward. TO thanked GT for all his hard work over the years and GT received a round of applause.</p>	
<p><i>Formal Meeting ended 8:45pm when wine and nibbles were served</i></p>	

Signature:

Date:

Brian Johnson

Chair of Bawdsey Parish Council