

Bawdsey Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council

Wednesday 15th March 2017 at 6.00pm

Bawdsey Village Hall

<p>In Attendance –Chairman Brian Johnson (BJ), Clls Liz Mark (LM), Mark Dovey (MD), Richard Tricker (RT), Andrew Rouse (AR), R Saunders, A Block and C Mann, SCDC Cllr Christine Block (CB), SCC Cll Andrew Reid, Jenny Webb (Clerk)</p>	
<p><i>Meeting called to order by Chair BJ at 6.00pm.</i></p>	
<p>1. Open Forum-No issues were raised</p>	
<p>2. Annual Report from SCC and SCDC –Andrew Reid summarised his report, highlighting a number of issues. Full report is on the council website. One is a campaign to prevent suicides in Suffolk. Dedicated campaign materials can be had by any individual or organisation visiting the website www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/suffolklivesmatter A new heritage centre is being built on the waterfront in Ipswich called The Hold which will include all the material from the Suffolk Record Office. Cll Reid is involved in helping set up a meeting between Scottish Power and the villages along the B1073. The Financial Budget of SCC agreed in February has been affected by a cut of £38 million, necessitating calling on its reserves to deliver services. The council tax has been left the same but a rise of 3% next year is envisaged. He admitted the care system needs much more money. This issue is being reviewed by central government. Concerns were expressed by councillors about the inadequacy of social services and the council’s commitment to ensure all works projects across the board are minimising their carbon footprint, not just Highways. A representative from SCC on the Greenprint Forum was regarded as desirable.</p> <p>Report from SCDC Councillor Christine Block: Cll Block highlighted the rise in council tax by 3.25% in the light of a dramatic fall in the level of rate support grant by government. New money for affordable housing in coastal areas has been announced with five sites listed including Bawdsey. The £1.5 million grant will be used to purchase land. A requirement is that it is managed by a Community Land Trust run by local people. Further details will be forthcoming and Cll Block intends to set up a meeting to explore this initiative. It was noted that HASTO Housing Association has a good record of managing properties.</p>	<p>Cll Block</p>
<p>3. Presentation about the Bawdsey Coastal Partnership by Nick Crick: Mr Crick explained the constitution and the aims of this organisation which is to secure hard and fast measures to secure the safety of the coast against flooding. Its remit is the 5 mile stretch of coast between the Ore and the Deben. It is converting to a CIC (Community Interest Company). He asked the council to contribute towards a study to design an engineering solution to protect the coast along this stretch, working with SCDC, SCC and the Environment Agency. The Shoreline Management Plan is currently under review by the EA and Mr Crick thought any design study could feed into this review.</p>	
<p>4. Chairman’s welcome and Apologies: Chairman BJ was pleased to see a full house of councillors. Cll Andrew Block asked to be excused at 7.15pm.</p>	

<p>5. Councillor's Declaration of Interests: Clls RT, CM and AB declared an interest in the Scottish Power Windfarm project.</p>	
<p>6. Signing of Minutes as a true record: The Minutes of 18th January were signed as a true record.</p> <p>7. i. To receive a finance report: In the light of requests for donations to protect the coast, the clerk produced budget figures for 2016-17 to see what monies remained at the end of the current financial year. An under-spend of approximately £200 was forecast. Clerk pointed out that current reserves included £1,000 for coastal protection.</p> <p>ii. To make decisions about donating to Bawdsey Coastal partnership and SCAR (Suffolk Coast against Retreat) In the light of Mr Crick's earlier presentation it was decided by 6 votes to 1 to give BCP £500. It was felt that the original request for £1,000 was too much for a small council. Chairman BJ proposed donating £50 to SCAR as it pulls above its weight and does very useful work on a small budget. This was unanimously agreed. BJ proposed inviting the Environment agency to speak to the council at some time in the future concerning their view on future proposals for coastal protection</p> <p>iii. To consider financing other flood-related issues: Cll Christine Block updated the council on the situation at Flood Cell 1 along the Deben which is causing concern and which will need money spent on it. The situation is being monitored by SCDC including the interrelation between what is happening at the mouth of the Deben and the frontage at Felixstowe Ferry and Flood Cell 1 further up river. Further research is being undertaken with electronic floats to look at tidal flows. The measurements being done by Cll Tricker and his team below Bawdsey Manor have also been very useful and have been instrumental in the apportioning of additional finance by SCDC on investigating this problem. Flood Cell 1 is very strategic as its resilience is key to protecting Woodbridge. The sea wall needs strengthening in order to defend agricultural land and the rest of the estuary to a 1 in 75 protection level. The two landowners are Adeanes (80%) and C Manns (20%) but few properties are affected. No detailed costings have been undertaken but could rise to £1.3-1.5 million with some government grants forthcoming. A shortfall is evident and some enabling development is probable but there will not be any personal benefit to landowners and their farms. Sites could involve Ramsholt Road in Alderton and Shottisham and Ferry Road in Bawdsey. The need for transparency will be of paramount importance.</p> <p>Other related issues to be considered in the future are funding for an all year round ferry service and the route of a coastal path.</p>	<p>BJ</p>
<p>8. To receive an update on Scottish Power's Highways Plans: Clls Block and Reid are facilitating a meeting between SP and the parishes affected by the movement of machinery along the B1083. (Now Tuesday 28th at Sutton VH) Blue posts have been put up along the route to mark possible passing places or lay-bys. These have been approved by Highways but are not set in stone. Cll Tricker asked for the cliff at the landfall site to be surveyed and photographed before and after SP works.</p> <p>9. i. Clerk's report plus financial update. These were circulated to all councillors and can be found on the website. Finances are in a healthy state with £3,100.16 in our current account; £12,547.90 in the BQVC account and £4,013.12 in our Savers Account. Items highlighted in Clerk's report were the vandalism at East Lane including graffiti on the gun emplacement site and damage to parking posts. This has been reported to the WSNT. Cll C Block will ask Norse if they can empty bins before the weekend. The AONB grant of £4,500 has been withdrawn because it hasn't been spent in the right time</p>	

<p>frame.</p> <p>ii. Village Hall and Recreation Ground Report: Cll Saunders gave an update about the recreation ground. The supports of the zip wire have been repaired at a cost of £1,000. This amount has been recovered from the Playspace Scheme which holds £7,000 for use in Bawdsey. More work has to be done on the equipment which is showing signs of corrosion and which needs painting. Also the imitation grass on the slope from the tennis courts to the playground is slippery and will need replacing.</p> <p>iii. Coastal Protection Update: a) Bawdsey Coastal Partnership: See item 3. b) Deben Estuary Partnership. See 7iii for Cll Christine's Block's report</p> <p>iv. Emergency Planning: Jason Horncastle sent in a report which can be found on the website. The group is in a good state of preparedness and the purchase of walkie-talkie radios is one of the final items to be bought for communication between Shingle Street, Bawdsey, Bawdsey Quay and Alderton. A large saucepan is also needed. Councillors approved the purchase of one from Tesco at a cost of £28.</p>	<p>Cll LM</p>
<p>10. BQVC Update: Following SCDC's decision to hold fire on its original offer to transfer the amenity site to Bawdsey, BJ wrote to Andrew Jarvis with more ideas of how BPC could contribute to the amelioration of the amenity site. The reply was not encouraging, hinging as it did on the outcome of the sale of Bawdsey Manor. However SCDC would help with staffing resources for wildlife provision and the outdoor classroom. A meeting was held with Laura Hack about installing the water at the site which will begin on 27th March and last 8 weeks. The case of updating the sewage provision was however still up in the air and portaloos are likely to be necessary this summer. Reconnection to the Manor is being looked into by SCDC.</p> <p>Peter Wain Chair of the WG has identified the renewal of the pond on the site as a possible project in the interim. It would be finite and would enhance the area with possible seating. LH reacted positively to this suggestion and the parish council unanimously agreed that it would be an excellent project. Suffolk Norse could provide labour for this or a working party from AONB. Once dredged, the pond could be leased to the Suffolk Wildlife Trust who could administer it along with the outdoor classroom, paying a running fee to BPC.</p> <p>SCDC has withdrawn its offer of £10,000 capital grant towards the build of the VC. A new grant fund will be available called Exemplar.</p> <p>Three offers for the Manor were considered and negotiations with one body have begun on heads of agreement. Breaking News: The Adventure Holiday firm PGL has emerged as the buyer and are already advertising holidays at Bawdsey Manor for this summer. See http://www.pgl.co.uk/en-gb/news-hub</p>	
<p>11. Decorative Sign: Cll Dovey will bring his design to the Annual Parish Meeting next month for review.</p> <p>12. To review Highways Issues including consideration of measures to control speeding: A list of possible measures including wheelie bin stickers and Speedwatch initiative will be presented to the APM for debate.</p>	
<p>13. Finance: a) Payments listed below were authorized.</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Clerk's wages: £480.00 (£384 after tax) ii. Clerk's expenses: £29.99 iii. Income Tax: £192 iv. SCAR £50.00 	
<p>14. To receive any updates on Planning Issues or any new Planning Applications received after the publication of the Agenda: Councillors were given an update on the latest planning decisions including a dismissal of the development of Cranes Garage as it stands, balconies on two houses on the Manor Farm Estate and the legitimacy of the fence at Shingle Street which should be taken down. Further planning decisions can be found on the village website under Planning. A new planning application was received: DC/17/0927/FUL Lark Cottage, Shingle Street, Bawdsey: Extensions and Alterations. An envelope with the plans was sent round for councillors' comments.</p>	
<p>15. To agree topics for the Annual Parish Meeting: Councillors suggested Traffic Management, New Village Sign, BQVC and Heritage matters to be discussed with parishioners views sought. A Q and A format was deemed a useful manner in which to proceed.</p>	
<p>16. Matters to be brought to the attention of the council: Cll Dovey shared information from a Heritage morning at the Suffolk Preservation Society.</p>	
<p>Dates of next meetings: Annual Parish Meeting 26th April at 7pm, 17th May, 19th July, 20th September, 15th November.</p>	
<p><i>Meeting ended 9.15 pm</i></p>	

Signature:

Date:

Brian Johnson - Chair of Bawdsey Parish Council