

Bardwell Parish Council

Chairman: David Ruffles

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd November 2021, commencing at 7pm

Venue: The Tithe Barn, Up Street, Bardwell IP31 1AA (Bardwell Village Hall)

Parish Cllrs Present: John Babraff; Ali Compton; Geoff Clough; David Ruffles (Chairman); Peter Sanderson; Andrew Smith (also Ward Cllr); Tony Stokes.

Also present: Suffolk County Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE; 6 Members of the Public for part of the meeting); Clerk/RFO: Pauline Smith

1. **To receive apologies for absence:** None
Approval for absences: N/A
2. **To receive declarations of interests** (pecuniary, local non pecuniary and personal interests).
Cllr Smith: Pecuniary interest – finance re Clerk/RFO salary. Cllr Smith did not vote on this item.
No requests for dispensations were received.
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held 5th October 2021.**
The Minutes were unanimously approved and signed as an accurate record by the Chairman.
4. **Public participation session**
 - 4.1 A resident from Ixworth Thorpe Road, seeking parish council support for a reduction in the speed limit, described the rationale for his request relating to issues of motorists driving at inappropriate speeds resulting in danger caused to children, horse riders, dog walkers, and other road users. See 7.1
 - 4.2 A resident requested a grit bin on the corner of The Croft/Quaker Lane.
[Agenda item December/Clerk](#)
 - 4.3 Drain at bend opposite Bardwell Hall ‘sits’ above Highway and requires attention
[Contact SCC/Clerk](#)
 - 4.4 Concerns regarding River Blackbourn/vegetation requires attention etc (following up from previous meeting). Response from Environment Agency attached.
[Clerk to provide hard copies of response from EA to resident.](#)
[Detailed information provided by EA is included within the Clerk’s reports/notes attached.](#)

5. **To receive reports from County Councillor and West Suffolk Councillor**

5.1 **County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE**

Footbridge across River Black Bourn at Church Meadow: a report from the SCC bridges structural team is expected soon, which will identify the necessary repairs and likely length of closure.

Land owner of Church Meadow to be asked whether he would be prepared to permit walkers to walk along the river in this vicinity on a temporary basis.

[Clerk to provide landowner’s contact details to Cllr Spicer for this purpose \(SCC will write to him\).](#)

A1088: Cllr Spicer explained that there are temporary lights on the road bridge at Stowlangtoft on the A1088, which is collapsing into the river. This has impacted local HGV businesses who currently have licences to use this road.

Blocked drain at Low Street: Investigation by SCC continues to be awaited to establish cause of blockage and requisite remedial work.

Weedkilling/Verges: In response to a question, Cllr Spicer explained that SCC now only carry out weedkilling once a year on pavements due to the Green Agenda, and there is a desire to cease weedkilling completely. Similarly, verges are now only cut once per year.

5.2 **West Suffolk Councillor, Andrew Smith:** Report previously circulated - see attached.

6. Bardwell Speed watch

Cllr Compton reported that the team had carried out some sessions during October, but nothing of concern to report. The team will be out again during December.

7. Highways issues: Correspondence received from residents

7.1 **Ixworth Thorpe Road - Speeding Concerns:** A resident of Ixworth Thorpe Road sought parish council support for an extension to the existing 30mph speed limit from the junction with Church Road to a point beyond Place Farm on safety grounds. (Currently national speed limit applies). Cllr Spicer explained that the road does not meet the criteria for lowering the speed limit and therefore the chances of success are very low. The police will not normally support such requests because they don't have the capacity to enforce in such locations. If the parish council wishes to pursue the request it will initially need, and be liable for the costs of, the traffic monitoring survey (which is initially required) (£365) and all costs of the application including legal costs of implementation if successful, likely to be in the region of £1000 - £1500. Alternative options could be implemented such as road markings "Slow". A suggestion of applying to designate the road as a "Quiet Lane was also mentioned. (One resident had put this forward as a suggestion for Ixworth Thorpe Road when the QL consultation was held for Knox Lane/Davey's Lane/Wyken Road.)

Response: Councillors agreed that enquiries will be made to establish the feasibility/likely chances of success and costs of an application to Suffolk County Council, for an extension to the existing 30mph limit from the junction with Church Road to a point beyond Place Farm.

The outcome of the enquiries will be discussed at the December meeting.

Cllr Compton will investigate the possibility of using the VAS along Ixworth Thorpe Road.

7.2 **School Lane: Parking issues** were discussed, following correspondence and photographs received from a resident (previously circulated to councillors). Drivers dropping off/picking up children at the school and also those visiting the Windmill bakery are asked to park appropriately at all times to avoid causing difficulties for other road users. Parking on the pavement/kerb results in difficulties/danger for pedestrians, particularly disabled people or parents with push chairs who are forced to walk into the road and around the vehicles. It is an offence for vehicles to park on the pavement if they are causing an obstruction.

Resolution: It is believed that that several vehicles regularly parked during the day in School Lane belong to staff members. It was suggested that if staff could park in the Tilian House car park that this would provide extra capacity for other motorists. The Chairman will monitor the vehicles parked during the day in School Lane, following which a letter will be sent to the Head teacher.

10. Planning

10.1 DC/21/1999 EIASC Scoping – The parish council has previously confirmed its agreement that scoping opinion is required, it will now submit the details of what it considers should be included.

The majority of councillors raised no objections to the following applications and therefore the parish council response submitted to West Suffolk Council planning department stated No comments/no objections:

10.2 DC/21/1938/HH – The Guildhall, Quaker Lane: Swimming Pond.

10.3 DC/21/1996/HH – Frimley House, HH application Single storey rear extension

10.4 Planning Application Decisions: At the time of the meeting, there were no planning application decisions to report.

11. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee: To consider suggestions received

11.1 **Concert of British Music to be held in the church**

Awaiting further information

11.2 **Proms concert on the playing field:** This is a possibility but would take considerable organising. Has the resident who has made the suggestion realised that they would be required to 'take ownership' and responsibility for organising the event?

11.3 The Chairman has written to Michelle Boyd, deputy head of Bardwell School, who has expressed a keen willingness for the school children to be involved in local celebrations. Further information awaited.

Resolution: Carry item forward to December agenda

12. Consultations received

12.1 Police review

12.2 West Suffolk Markets Review

Resolution: Both consultations are web based. It was decided that councillors, should they wish to do so, will respond individually.

12.3 Lorry Route Plan Review: Cllr Spicer asked the parish council to seriously consider the impact of Lorry's on our roads and to respond to this consultation. Deadline 17th December 2021, particularly being mindful of the impact that the closure of the A143 has at anytime there is an accident, resulting in lorries travelling into/through the village.

Resolution: Include on December agenda:

[Lorry Route Plan review in Suffolk | Suffolk County Council](#)

13. Correspondence not previously circulated

13.1 **Tilbrook's landscape contractor: Clerk to Acknowledge/**No action required

13.2 **Eforests: Free trees for Suffolk : Clerk to acknowledge/**No trees currently required

14. To consider Chairman's proposal that Bardwell Parish Council should take responsibility for the play area on the community field (currently the responsibility of the BPFA)

A decision regarding a proposal to transfer this asset to the parish council from the BPFA was deferred to the December meeting pending further information to include the ongoing liability/how the asset would be managed: value of the asset, maintenance and impact on the 'public purse' (potential precept increase).

The individual items of play equipment were briefly discussed and various concerns/questions asked: particular concern was raised about the roundabout.

It is noted that there is a monthly inspection carried out by a qualified person from WSC and a more detailed annual report by an independent surveyor: The reports are circulated to councillors.

The BPFA has been extremely effective at maintaining the play equipment to-date.

Resolution: Chairman to provide a detailed written proposal at the December meeting

15. Community Field

Cllr Smith thanked Cllr Sanderson for arranging with Havebury to extend the grant for the sheds to the end of March 2022. The contractor has committed to the time frame.

16. **Finance:** To receive financial report, including payments for authorisation: See attached

16.1 **Payments** totalling £636.50 were approved for payment (including \$137 charitable donations: £350)

16.2 **The draft budget** will be given further consideration at the December meeting.

17. **S137 Charitable Donations:** Recipients for consideration
Resolution: It was agreed that donations of £50.00 will be made to the same recipients as 2020/21, with the addition of Headway, due to Age UK Suffolk (previous recipient) no longer operating.

Reports from Parish Council representatives on Village Organisations

18. **Bardwell Charity Trustees:** No report
19. **Bardwell Playing Fields Association**
A very successful quiz was held on Thursday 28th October.
All hedges have been cut around the overflow carpark and playing field.
Fireworks display: 5th November at the playing field - sponsored by several organisations/businesses and a grant from Bardwell Parish Council.
See full report attached.
20. **Bardwell Village Hall:** No report
21. **Clerk's Report : See attached**
Tree Wardens: The parish council is grateful to Barry Felton, Bardwell's Tree Warden for many years.
Sue Grey and Peter Newson have expressed an interest in taking over the roll.

Resolution: It was agreed to invite both to take on/share the roll.Action: Clerk

Information about the Suffolk Tree Warden Network is included in the Clerk's report attached

22. **Meetings other than parish council meetings** attended, or to be attended by councillors:
None
23. **Chairman's report and Questions to the Chair**
- 23.1 **Chairman's report: Alleged Drug Activity:** The Chairman had received details from a concerned resident who wished to remain anonymous, regarding alleged drug/county lines activity at the community field car park.
Cllr Sanderson also describe an incident of alleged drug activity at the playing field, which had been reported to the police.
If anybody has evidence of drug activity, they should provide this information directly to the police.
Reports can also be made anonymously to Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.
Resolution/Action Clerk It was agreed that the police should be contacted regarding alleged drug activity in the village.
- 23.2 **Questions to the Chair:** None
24. **The next meeting** of Bardwell Parish Council is on Tuesday 1st February 2021 at 7.00pm, in the Tithe Barn, Bardwell's Village Hall, Up Street, Bardwell.

The meeting closed at : 9.15pm

Ref Agenda Item 5.2

District Councillor Parish Report Tuesday 2 November 2021

As you may have seen in the press Suffolk has just been granted the extra national resources that it asked for to help fight the rising number of cases of COVID-19 that we are facing. By way of some further detail:-

The Leader of West Suffolk District Council was involved in the Suffolk Local Outbreak Engagement Board discussions that backed this request to Government and was on the call with the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Vaccines and Public Health Maggie Throup when the additional support, funding and resources to help the NHS avoid unsustainable pressure, were agreed.

The additional support includes: _

- Extra localised COVID-19 testing, often known as ‘surge testing’
- Logistical support to maximise vaccine take up and help deliver door knocking campaigns
- Additional control measures in schools
- Communications funding and support
- Fast tracked escalation of issues through the Government’s emergency response decision making processes

The move sees Suffolk, alongside Cambridgeshire and Peterborough become an ‘**enhanced response area**’ (ERA) for up to five weeks as has already been used in other parts of the country to help reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission within the community.

It should be noted that the ERA support is on top of the measures already introduced to slow the spread of the virus, particularly in schools.

These latest measures do not bring any additional restrictions on people’s movements or actions. It is not like the tiering system that was trialled in England in 2020. Instead, it will boost the county’s ability to raise awareness, tackle outbreaks and encourage people to get vaccinated.

Ref: Agenda item 19

BPFA Report for the Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 2 November 2021

A very successful Quiz was held on Thursday evening, the first for a couple of years. It was great to see a wide age range of those present including two teams of footballers.

All the hedges around both the overflow carpark and the playing field have been cut during the last two weeks. Thanks are due to all the volunteers involved in completing this work.

It is planned to improve the hedge on the roadside by laying it in the traditional manner. This will benefit wildlife when the hedge grows next spring as well as reduce the shading on the MUGA court that causes the playing surface to be quite slippery when wet. The court has been pressure washed recently which has also reduced that problem.

The firework display will take place next Friday. Sponsorship has been kindly provided by several organisations with operations in the village together with the grant provided by the Parish Council.