

Bardwell Parish Council

Chairman: David Ruffles

Minutes of a meeting of Bardwell Parish Council held on
Tuesday 5th April 2022, commencing at 7.00pm
Venue: The Tithe Barn, Bardwell Village Hall, Up Street, Bardwell IP31 1AA

Present: Cllr David Ruffles (Chairman); Cllr John Babraff; Cllr Ali Compton; Cllr Geoff Clough;
Cllr Peter Sanderson; Cllr Andrew Smith (also West Suffolk District Cllr); Cllr Tony Stokes;
Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE (Suffolk County Cllr).

1. **Apologies for absence:** No apologies were received from Councillors
Clerk/RFO absent (attending funeral)
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Smith has an ongoing pecuniary interest at item 14.1 in relation
to payment to Clerk/RFO re salary.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** To approve minutes of the meeting held 1st March 2022
The minutes were taken as read and signed as an accurate record by the Chairman.
4. **Public Participation Session:** No members of the public were present.
5. **To receive report from West Suffolk District Councillor, Andrew Smith**
Brown bin collection charges are increasing from £43.00 to £45.00 wef 1st April.
They have remained at £43.00 for the past three years.
6. **To receive report from Suffolk County Councillor, Joanna Spicer MBE**
Stanton speed limit changes along A143: Changes have been implemented, a couple of signs
require amendment.
Footbridge across river Black Bourn at Church Meadow: No further information available.
Cllr Spicer continues to reiterate the importance of this route to SCC, and the desire for
necessary work to be completed so that the bridge be reopened in advance of Bardfest
(beginning of July). However, this cannot be guaranteed.
County Farms Holdings: Cllr Spicer attended the Annual General Meeting of the tenants of
Suffolk County Farms on 3rd April 2022.
SCC leases 6 areas of land to tenants in Bardwell: 2 areas of land at School Lane; an area of
land at Stanton Road; Spring Road car park (originally leased as overflow carpark for playing
field and also now used as community field car-park); Spring Road Community Field; School
Playing Field (adj community field).

Several years ago there was discussion about potential wind farms on SCC land.
Cllrs Smith and Sanderson are aware of a feasibility study carried out a number of years ago,
for wind turbines on land behind Manor Farm.

Cllr Spicer is currently unaware of any potential windfarms in Bury St Edmunds but explained
that SCC is trying to have a clear review of all sustainable energy projects.

Minutes signed as a true record 030522 by Chairman following 1 amendment at item 6.

Councillors had a general discussion highlighting the number of existing and potential new solar farm sites locally, including the Bardwell site being progressed by Boom Power (on Euston Estate land). The application has been submitted to West Suffolk Council but at the time of the meeting this was going through the validation process and had not been issued for consultation.

The extensive, and controversial, Sunnica site will be decided by Government. SCC supports the Sunnica site in principle although its former objection was related to highway issues.

Note: amendment added at meeting 3.5.22 prior to signing minutes: "SCC did not support the application". File copy shows amendment initialled by Chairman

It was noted that planning permission for a 5000-acre site (twice the size of the Sunnica application), is currently being sought in Lincolnshire.

7. **Chairman's Report**

Nothing further to report/All matters covered within other agenda items

8. **Highways matters**

Drainage work has been carried out in the vicinity of Blackwater Farm which will hopefully resolve flooding issues in this location.

The Chairman had noted a vehicle clearing the gulleys during the previous week.

9. **Spring Road Lighting Enquiries:** Update from Cllr Smith

Cllr Smith and the Clerk had met with one of SCC's street lighting engineers:

Question: What would be the recommended minimum number of street lighting columns from Dove Cottage to the pavilion.

Answer: 3

Question: Could lighting bollards be used instead of street lighting columns

Answer: Yes, but these are significantly more expensive than street lighting columns

Question: Solar Powered bollards?

Answer : Suffolk County Council will not consider solar powered lighting.

Estimate of costs: At the present time more information is awaited. However, a realistic estimate is likely to be c.£2,500 per column. This however is dependent on the route of the UK power network/where the columns can be connected into.

Cllr Smith explained that a significant proportion of the cost is the excavation to provide the power. (e.g. the pipework installation under Spring Road from the meter to the allotments, a 2 minute walk, was estimated to cost £5,000).

Cllr Sanderson highlighted that there is a terminal on a pole opposite the entrance to the playing field.

Now awaiting detailed quote from the street lighting engineer.

Also awaiting advice from WSC as to whether or not they would be willing to adopt the street lights, if not the parish council would remain responsible for ongoing costs ie: electricity, insurance, maintenance.

Realistically, the parish council would be unable to fund £7,500 for street lighting and

therefore if it wishes to progress with the installation of street lighting in this location it will need to apply for funding/grants.

Resolution: To await factual details re costs before deciding whether/how to proceed.

- 10. Church Road: Concern about Steps** vicinity of 27/29 Church Road. Update from Cllr Smith. John Feveyear from Havebury Housing has confirmed that the steps are the responsibility of SCC.

Cllr Smith had noted that the concrete appears consistent with the public footpath and some of the driveways into the properties. As the steps are SCC responsibility Havebury is not willing to become involved.

Cllr Spicer advised if SCC was to be approached it is likely that it would expect the costs to be taken from her locality budget. Cllr Spicer may be willing to provide a small contribution to repairs but advised that the residents should be consulted for their opinion in the first instance. It was also highlighted that there have been no reported accidents to the parish council and no residents have approached the pc asking for work to be carried out.

The chairman also highlighted a potential issue of an uneven surface which is a potential danger, also close to one of the sets of steps. It is thought that the footpath is Havebury responsibility.

Cllr Smith advised that he has briefly spoken to one resident who confirmed that the steps are regularly used.

Resolution/Action: It was agreed that the Chairman will again speak with the same resident as Cllr Smith for further information.

- 11. Planning Application consultations received**

11.1 DC/22/0454/TCA St Peter and St Paul's Church, Church Road, Bardwell
Tree in a conservation area notification – one Yew (T50 on plan) fell.

There was a detailed discussion including the background and history of both the tree (planted 1754) by Revd Dunlap and the wall first mentioned in 1877, built by Mr Corley resident of Bell House (see attached).

During their discussion, Councillors considered the comments submitted to the parish council by the Bardwell Tree Wardens and the subsequent response by David Ray on behalf of Bardwell Church.

Resolution: It was determined that the comments received from both of the aforementioned would be submitted to WSC and that the decision should then be left to WSC tree officer as arbiter, who it is believed will make their determination also taking into account advice provided by the conservation officer.

11.2 Planning Applications decided by planning authority since March meeting for noting.

DC/22/0219/TCA: Trees in a conservation area notification. Maple Cottage, Up Street, Bardwell: Decision No objections – 28/03/22

11.3 Planning application received 4th April 2022, too late for consideration at this meeting. *A requested extension of time to the May meeting was submitted, but due to timescales this is not feasible.*

12. Community Field

12.1 Play area update

Chairman/Cllr Sanderson

Cllrs Ruffles and Sanderson have been carrying out some of the repairs. However, several of the parts sent were incorrect. Cllrs Sanderson has been liaising with Wicksted to obtain the correct parts.

Roundabout: Work will be undertaken during the 1st week of May. The play area will be closed whilst this work is being undertaken. It is expected to take one day.

Cllr Babraff suggested fertilizing the play area whilst it is closed.

Cllr Smith was thanked for the £1000.00 from his District Councillor's locality budget, which has been received towards the cost of repairs at the play area.

12.2. Allotments - Installation of Sheds

Cllr Smith

4 bases have been installed.

There is a surplus of stone: this will be used elsewhere within the allotments.

The sheds will be delivered and installed (same day). It is hoped that this will be during April.

12.3 Allotments -Tenancy changes to note:

Clerk

There have been 2 tenancy changes wef 1st April 2022. There are no vacant plots.

12.4 Grass cutting – The first cut of the season has been undertaken.

Chairman

The contractor had advised that he had to remove a significant number of bottles around the football pitch (believed to have been left following matches that same morning) which he had to remove prior to carrying out his work. This is disappointing, particularly given the proximity of the large waste bins at the community field entrance.

12.5 Cllr Sanderson advised that he has received confirmation from WSC that they will continue to inspect the play equipment free of charge for the coming financial year.

13. Finance

Clerk/RFO

13.1 Financial report and invoices since March meeting for approval. *Details attached:*

Invoices £3,135.80 (ex vat) plus vat (recoverable) £100.80 Total:£3,135.80.

A question was raised about the cost of membership to Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) £364.86, however following a brief discussion and explanation, approval for this payment was given.

13.2 Audit arrangements – see attached

14. Clerk's report – Mainly background information related to items on the agenda/see attached.

15. Village Litterpick 26th March 2022: Report

A very good turn out: We were extremely grateful to the 31 people including a family of 4 with two children who joined the Litterpick this year. It was good to see some new faces. We were fortunate with the weather, although it is very disappointing that so much litter is discarded in the countryside. Cider bottles were prevalent this year.

Litterpick Equipment: Consideration to purchase additional equipment. The parish council was fortunate to have been able to borrow additional equipment from the Sicon Foundation - siconfoundation.co.uk, who have kindly offered the loan of equipment for future litter picks. However, does the parish council consider it would be beneficial to replenish its own equipment supplies in preference to being dependent on others?

In addition, would the parish council be agreeable to purchasing a single 6ft Litter picking stick which would be useful for retrieving items from ditches.

Information re costings provided within agenda pack.

Resolution Following discussion: The majority general view was that a 6ft litterpicking stick is not necessary; the 2 minute litterpicking A-boards were not considered appropriate/necessary for the community field.

It was suggested that the cost of the equipment (albeit good quality) detailed by the Clerk, may be on the high side.

It was resolved in principle to give further consideration to the purchase of additional litterpicking sticks and hoops (to increase the existing stock) at the May meeting, having reviewed costs and requirements in the meanwhile (Clerk).

16. **Defibrillator training:** 20th and 27th April, **7.00pm** subject to demand, there will be either one or two sessions, to be held in the Tithe Barn. Information has been provided in the April issue of Bardwell Village News. Further information to be made available on social media. Sarah Gooderham will be carrying out the training.

17. **Queen's Jubilee – Update** Chairman

25 lamp post signs have been ordered from RBLI as agreed at March meeting. Not yet received.

There has been no interest in furthering the idea of a jubilee picnic.

A suggestion of providing planters to celebrate the occasion at a location in the village was discussed. It was agreed that these would need to be constructed of a material to ensure longevity. Metal with a liner was suggested. Enquiries re costs to be made and reported back to next meeting.

The suggested location at the corner of The Croft - visible to everybody - is feasible but would require permission from WSC: Chairman to forward photos to Cllr Smith re potential location for enquiry to WSC.

An alternative suggestion of the community field was put forward: this may be a more sustainable location due to proximity of water supply and perhaps allotment tenants may be prepared to tend to the plants.

The £300 grant previously offered by District Cllr Smith towards the cost of Jubilee celebrations has not yet been applied for due to the lack of interest shown in organising the picnic, however Cllr Smith has advised that funds could instead be used towards the cost of planters and the lamp-post signs.

It was resolved that enquiries will be made relating to the various options and brought to the May meeting for discussion/decision.

Other village Jubilee activities: Flower Festival in the Church; a Jubilee themed performance by Bardwell school children on the stage during the Cars on the Green Event.

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18. **Correspondence** requiring consideration/response not previously dealt with: None

Reports from parish council representatives to village organisations.

19. **Bardwell Charity Trustees** Cllr Stokes (Trustee)

The first grass cut of the season has been carried out.

The fair is due in May

20. **Bardwell Playing Fields Association** Cllrs Sanderson and Clough (Trustees)

The laid hedge is already beginning to show signs of growth.

21. **Bardwell Speed Watch** Cllr Compton

Nothing to report.

22. **Bardwell Village Hall** Cllr Smith (Trustee)

Theatre Groups returning to perform:

6th October 2022 Common Ground Theatre Group: The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe;

Easter 2023: Spinning Wheel Theatre Group: The Velveteen Rabbit

Other village activities: 1st October - Friends of Bardwell Church fundraising event: Jazz concert in the Church with Chris Ingham

23. **Annual Village Meeting** – 9th May 2022 in the Tithe Barn, Bardwell Village Hall commencing at 7pm

24. **Suffolk Association of Local Councils** – report: Area meeting 15th March 2022: attended by Cllrs Stokes (Chair of WS area), Smith and Clerk via zoom.

The meeting was poorly attended.

The main focus of the meeting related to Environmental Concerns, however, comments ‘from the floor’ suggested that at present the majority of the general public is more focussed on the current high utility and increasing food and fuel bills and that constantly pushing the green agenda/initiatives under these circumstances could be counterproductive.

25. **Questions to the Chair.**

Cllr Sanderson highlighted that the BPFA is currently exploring options for doubling the existing number of solar panels on the pavilion roof.

26. **Next meeting 3 May 2022, commencing at 7pm**

Venue: The Tithe Barn, Bardwell’s Village Hall, Up Street, Bardwell

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Draft created from recording 14/04/22

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