

## Bardwell Parish Council

Chairman: David Ruffles

### Minutes of the meeting of Bardwell Parish Council held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023, commencing at 7:00pm.

Venue: The Tithe Barn, Bardwell's Village Hall, Up Street, Bardwell IP31 1AA

#### Present:

Councillors: David Ruffles (Chairman); John Babraff; Ali Compton; Geoff Clough;  
Peter Sanderson; Andrew Smith (also West Suffolk District Cllr); Tony Stokes.  
Clerk/RFO: Pauline Smith, Members of the public: 9

- 1. Apologies for absence** were received from Suffolk County Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE
- 2. Declarations of interest:** Cllr Smith – ongoing declaration ref: finance item 13, invoices for payment (approval of Clerk's salary).
- 3. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022.**  
The minutes were unanimously approved as an accurate record by those present at the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

Cllr Sanderson had not been present at that meeting and raised a 'matter arising' from item 10.3 relating to the alternative budget proposal that he had submitted for councillors attention that had sought an increase to the grants paid to the BPPFA and Tithe Barn, which could have been financed by reducing the suggested budget increase for the community field, resulting in a neutral budget. He considers that the reasons for the refusal whilst allowing for an increase in funding to the community field are inconsistent and was displeased that the proposal had been rejected.

*(Note: See minutes December 2022 item 10.3 for the explanation ref the decision not to increase the funding to BPPFA or Tithe Barn during 2023/24 together with the option that either organisation will be able to submit, as required, a grant application to the pc for consideration, at a future date.)*

#### 4. Public Participation Session

**Resident 1** Complained about the length of time it is taking for the footbridge to be repaired/replaced and asked whether the village could fund the requisite work, by applying for grants.

**Response:** This is an SCC project being followed up by Cllr Spicer see item 5.1

**Resident 1** Reiterated his ongoing complaints about trees falling into the River Black Bourn.

**Response:** Trees in the river - It is believed that some work is being/has been undertaken. **Clerk will continue to follow up.**

**Resident 2:** Complained about the poor road surface in Knox Lane:

**Response:** Already reported see SCC website: 24 January 2023 report no: 386824

**Resident 2:** Complained about motorists driving at excessive speeds along Davey's Lane/Wyken Road/Stanton Road/Glassfield Road. See item 15.1

**Resident 3:** Expressed gratitude for the work carried out along Low Street, to cut

back the trees and clear the brambles along the bank which had been falling across the path, causing difficulties for pedestrians.

**5. Report from County Councillor Joanna Spicer**

Cllr Spicer was unable to attend the meeting but had submitted a report which had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting: see attached.

**5.1 Footbridge over River Black Bourn:** The SCC report detailing work required was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. No details re costs or timeframe for new bridge were provided.

It is hoped that there will be an update available at the March meeting.

**5.2 Meeting of Chairman, Cllr Spicer and the Community Highways Engineer, Andy Moore on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023:** See attached summary/outcome of meeting from Cllr Spicer.

The Chairman reported on the meeting with Cllr Spicer and Andy Moore, the SCC Community engineer for Bardwell, on 25<sup>th</sup> January:

**Damaged signage in School Lane:** The sign has been removed and there are no plans to reinstate it.

**Overhanging trees in School Lane:** Some work will be undertaken to cut back trees along the field edge/highway along School Lane which are hitting the buses.

**Quaker Lane road surface:** Highway surrounding rear of grassed utility area. Some repairs will be carried out here. However, SCC consider this to be an access road and there are no plans for major works/resurfacing in the foreseeable future.

**The Green/Up Street:** Potential blockage in pipework - Jetting and camera to assess the problem is to be carried out.

The parish council is grateful to Andy Moore, SCC Community Engineer, for his proactive assistance in resolving the issues raised.

**6. Report from West Suffolk District Councillor Andrew Smith**

**6.1 Mallard View:**

A decision is yet to be made on whether any further Planning Permission is required. The owner is being co-operative and has agreed to tidy the site (this may take a little while). There is currently no definitive evidence that a business is being operated from the site at this time.

(Note: The owner of Mallard View was present at the meeting and confirmed that this is a true representation of the current situation)

**6.2 The Birches Glassfield Road:**

West Suffolk Council is aware of the reoccupation of land at the Birches and have spoken to the occupants. At this moment in time the Council is considering its options. It is important that these are considered fully, and the matter carefully reviewed so not to prejudice any further action that the Council may take. Rest assured however that the matter is a priority and will be dealt with accordingly.

### 6.3 Local Plan:

There has been an adjustment to the timetable. This is so the next stage of the draft document can include changes to national policy announced by the Government shortly before Christmas. In essence this means that West Suffolk will be consulting on stage three of the Local Plan in Autumn or Winter 2023 rather than summer 2023.

West Suffolk Council has sufficient sites in its plan and therefore will not be calling for additional sites to be submitted.

### 7. Chairman's Report (see also Cllr Spicer's report)

The Chairman reported that he had attended the Bardwell School Nativity during December and been very impressed by the enthusiasm of the children.

Mrs Boyd has been confirmed as the Head Teacher.

**Resolution/Action:** Clerk to write letter of congratulations to Mrs Boyd.

There have been recent changes at the Bardwell Sports Club: The Chairman advised that the Sports Club wish to re-engage with the village and that now is the time for the Parish Council to also re-engage with the Sports Club.

The Chairman expressed disappointment at the suggestion by a number of residents that the parish council hadn't organised anything for the Jubilee. He reminded those present that this was not as a result of a lack of trying but was as a result of a lack of interest from members of the community to actually get involved and help. Several suggestions had been received but the necessary practical help was not forthcoming. He pointed out that many residents were involved in the Cars on the Green Jubilee event and the Church Jubilee event which had been on the Jubilee weekend and that the parish council organised and paid for a substantial planter on the community field as a lasting tribute to HM The Queen.

*The Parish Council was pleased to hear from two relative newcomers to the village who have submitted a draft proposal for a village picnic during the King's Coronation weekend (see item 9.)*

### 8. Highway's Matters

**Low Street Hedge and overhanging bramble:** To note that the work agreed during the December meeting has been carried out. A grant in the sum of £150.00 to cover the cost (ex vat), has been provided by Cllr Spicer (locality grant).

The Chairman thanked the volunteers involved in assisting with this work, which has resulted in clear access for pedestrians.

The parish council appreciates Cllr Spicer's financial assistance which covered the cost of the contractor's invoice.

**School Lane:** Omission of Yellow Lines: **Action:** Clerk to follow up.

### 9. King's Coronation: To consider suggestions for celebrating the King's coronation

Two residents, Margaret Birrell and Kit Harding presented a draft proposal for a

village picnic to be held on the Playing Field on either Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> or Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023. (see attached). Costs were estimated at £160.00  
If the weather is inclement on the day the suggestion is that the pavilion could be used.

No other suggestions or proposals have been received.

**Resolution:** Cllrs agreed to the proposals

**Funding proposal:** Cllr Smith proposed that up to £500 should be made available to the organisers for the event with additional funding to be considered if required  
The proposal was seconded by Cllr Stokes

**Resolution:** The funding proposal was unanimously agreed..

**Actions:** The Clerk will discuss payment arrangements with MB and KH.  
MB and KH will speak with the Andrew Perkins, Chairman of the BPFA, and Mike Allum (The Grumpy Goat), to establish the date.

MB and KH were thanked for their presentation.

## 10. Planning Matters

### 10.1 Planning Application: Consultation documents received from West Suffolk Council

**DC/22/2133/HH | Beech Farm, The Green, Bardwell IP31 1AW**

Householder planning application - a. raise roof of existing two-storey rear projection; b. single storey and two storey rear extensions; c. change roof tiles and alterations to exterior fenestration

**The response to this application was made outside of the meeting** due to the timeframe re deadline. Parish Councillors were consulted: Several issues were raised, causing the parish council to be unable to support this application.  
(see attached)

### 10.2 Planning Matters in neighbouring parish for consideration:

**DC/22/2190/HYB COPART: Land at Shepherds Grove Bury Road, Stanton, Suffolk**

Bardwell Parish Council (as have all local pc's) has received correspondence from Walsham-le Willows Parish Council detailing their objections to this planning application and asking for the support of Bardwell PC (together with other parish councils in responding to the consultation documents. Likewise, Hepworth Parish Council has also been in contact. (Correspondence previously circulated)

DC/22/2190/HYB | Hybrid planning application - (A) (i) Full application on 27.56 ha of the site for the storage, distribution and processing of accident damaged and non-damaged motor vehicles, together with the erection of ancillary buildings (B8 Use Class), perimeter fencing and landscaping works  
(ii) Full application for a new roundabout /road and additional landscaping on circa 5.37 ha of the application site - (B) (i) Outline application for commercial/roadside uses (Use Classes B2, B8, C1, E (excluding E(a)), and a hot food takeaway and pub/restaurant) on circa 2.7 ha of the application site (Plots A, B and C) (ii) Outline

application for general employment uses (Use Classes B2, B8 and E(g)) on circa 1.37ha of the application site (Plot D)  
(Details previously circulated. Please view plans on website.)

During the discussion Cllrs agreed that the only positive element of the application is the link road which will help Stanton. However, whilst this is an industrial site, Copart is not considered to be an appropriate business for multiple reasons including:

Noise resulting from dismantling vehicles

Traffic impact on A143 and all approach roads, and villages.

Road links are not good enough, Copart will have more traffic movements than Ikea (a previous company who had obtained permission for the site a number of years ago).

Environmental impact: light pollution; road infrastructure is not there; over the years the A143 has become increasingly busy and whenever there are accidents the villages are grid-locked.

Impact on the villages.

**Resolution:** Following discussion of the application which had been carefully reviewed by Cllr Stokes, the unanimous decision of councillors is an objection to this application.

6 objections (1 abstention – Cllr Smith due to role as Chairman of DCC).

**Action:** Clerk will liaise with Cllr Stokes re the parish council's submission to WSC

**10.3 To Note Planning Application Decisions** by West Suffolk District Council since December meeting (see attached).

**11. Local Plan – School Lane Site:** To consider response to correspondence, previously circulated, requesting that the parish council review its opinion and considers an alternative option at Bardwell Community Field.

In summary: The suggested option received is that the facilities at the community field should be moved to the land at School Lane currently submitted by Suffolk County Farms to the Local Plan (for up to 15 homes) and that the proposed homes should be built on the existing community field.

**Resolution:** Whilst understanding the concerns of the resident, councillors consider that this request is not feasible.

Councillors have had 2 site visits with Suffolk County Farms to the proposed site at School Lane during which the concerns of residents about the loss of the visual amenity across this site have been very carefully considered and explained. Suffolk County Farms have shown a genuine willingness to cooperate and work with the parish council and community when designing the site to ensure that it is appropriate for the location whilst minimizing the impact upon the existing visual amenity. The parish council has asked that the development is sited towards Ixworth Thorpe Road and is not a ribbon development adjacent to School Lane from Church Road/Ixworth Thorpe Road to Skinners Lane.

Both Cllr Ruffles and Babraff have previously separately described/shown the resident the parish council's preferred location for the properties and are willing to do so again.

Very significant financial resources: grants, donations and parish council funds, donations of play equipment, together with the incredible level of volunteer time which has created this resource is not transferrable to another location. Work to create this resource commenced in 2016 and the work to create what we now have has evolved over that time, including trees, such as the community orchard and woodland area, shrubs, plants, bulbs and wildflowers, together with the allotments and water supply. The parish council has a lease through to 10<sup>th</sup> October 2046, with the exception of the area hatched in blue shown on the attached plan which includes the allotments on which SCC has a break clause of 1 year subject to it obtaining residential planning permission for that location.

**Action:** Clerk to advise resident.

## **12. Community Field**

### **12.1 To consider action/response** to correspondence, previously circulated, about footballer urinating in public view at the Community Field.

Correspondence from the Bardwell Football Club has been forwarded to the residents explaining the actions taken to ensure that these circumstances do not occur, which the residents have acknowledged (please see attached).

Whilst it is hoped that this will not occur again in the future, it is not possible to guarantee.

**Resolution:** Clerk to write to residents asking to be informed in the event of future incidents, with a view to be taken regarding the pc writing directly to the relevant club.

### **12.2 Review of work recently undertaken** and any future planned work

Gate for play area from Hardwick Heath: WS District Cllr has confirmed that Bardwell PC can have the gate removed from a former play area at Nowton Park.

**Resolution/Action:** Clerk to contact and enquire when gate will be available and arrangements for collection.

**Note:** Clerk spoke to WSC 8 February: Gate will be delivered during week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> March.

**Tree guards:** 50 additional guards have been placed around trees: more are required.

**Resolution/Action:** Clerk to purchase 25 Tubex tree guards from Green-tech.

**Note:** Tree guards have been ordered/confirmation of order recd 10Feb.

### **12.3 Community Field: Planning anomalies**

**Resolution/Action:** Clerk to work in association with Cllr Stokes to draw up a revised plan and resolve a number of anomalies.



**13. Financial Report and invoices for approval:** Details attached.

Bank statements for the period 6 December 2022 – 7 February 2023 had been emailed to councillors.

A summary of all bank balance totals together with a breakdown of earmarked reserves were provided to councillors at the meeting.

Approval was given for payment of 3 invoices detailed at the meeting totalling £514.54 plus agreement for an additional payment of £36.00 for an SSL (secure certificate) for the Bardwell Parish Council website. SSL certificate will resolve a ongoing issue which, depending on browser being used, causes a message to be shown informing potential visitors that the website is insecure and could be attempting to steal financial information.

**14. Clerk's report:** No report given: majority of matters already dealt with within other items.

**15. Correspondence**

**15.1 Davey's Lane:** Request re potential reduced speed limit/signage to warn re no passing places/high banks, by resident following recent accident (details of accident previously circulated – copy attached). Note: Davey's Lane has been designated as a Quiet Lane: signs awaited.

Reports are regularly received from walkers about motorists driving at inappropriate speeds along Davey's Lane and other roads in the vicinity.

The parish council has made enquiries about extending the 30mph limit along Davey's Lane previously. However, the response at the time was that Davey's Lane does not fulfil the relevant criteria for a 30mph limit, in addition the process to do this is extremely costly.

Motorists driving at inappropriate speeds along Davey's Lane and other local roads are unlikely to change their behaviour as a result of a reduced speed limit as is evidenced by the fact that a. locals (not all) are regularly the 'guilty' parties in these circumstances; b. the recent incident referred to in this item was a local who knows the road and yet was driving at an inappropriate speed; it was noted that the latest speed report for the 30mph limit along Spring Road identifies a vehicle driving at 71mph as well as other motorists driving at speeds in excess of 30mph.

Education seems to be the only way to encourage safe driving because without the benefit of legal enforcement, those motorists who choose to drive at speeds inappropriate for the conditions will not change their ways.

It is hoped that the new 'Quiet Lane' signs will cause motorists to be more considerate/aware/slow down.

**Resolution/Action:** The parish council does not consider it worthwhile to pursue a reduction in speed limit for Davey's Lane at this time.

Quiet Lane Signs will be installed and the impact of these will be reviewed at future

meetings. **The Clerk will chase up the Quiet Lane signs.**

- 15.2 Complaint received from resident regarding unauthorised use of Havebury residents' car park, School Lane** by parents dropping off/picking up children at school. (Note: Details of complaint have been passed to the school.)

The school has included an item in the weekly newsletter asking parents not to park in the Havebury car park. They have also included details of alternative parking locations at The Dun Cow and the Church

The resident who has made this complaint is now in direct contact with the school.

**Resolution:** No action required. The matter is being handled by/has been resolved by the school.

**16. Reports from Organisations on which the parish council has representation.**

**16.1 Bardwell Speed Watch (AC)**

Reports have been circulated: see attached.

The speed watch team is pleased to have welcomed two new recruits.

Data from the Suffolk ANPR speed camera project has not yet been received.

**Action: Cllr Compton will follow up.**

**16.2 Bardwell Playing Fields Association (PS/GC)**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 – Quiz in the pavilion

**16.3 Bardwell Charity Trustees (TS/AS)**

Report: (received from Barry Felton, Chairman)

**Deep Water Sign** - following comments to the PC from the owner of Cleveland House, we've taken a look at the sign and can't really see what the issue is. It may be possible to lower the sign but I think a meeting with the owner is probably the best course of action to start with.

**Dead Willow** – There was some dialogue over Christmas with the Tree Surgeon. He was due to meet with UKPN to organise a date but nothing has been heard since. It's feasible the cold weather may have had some impact.

**Stocks Fair** - Having checked with your Chair that there is no planned events for The Green in early May, I have agreed with Roberta Stocks that the Fair can visit from Tuesday 2nd May until Sunday 14th May. This should leave two full weeks before COTG. I have invited David to accompany me on our inspection of The Green on Sunday 14th, along with Stocks, to identify any making good.

**16.4 Bardwell Village Hall Management Committee (AS)**

It is hoped that the planning application will be submitted soon and will be received by the pc in advance of its April meeting.

The committee is pleased to have welcomed several new members.

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 11am (1 hour duration) : The Velveteen Rabbit performed by



Spinning wheel Theatre Company. This is a free event and it is hoped that the majority of the audience will comprise young children (with their parents) from Bardwell.

Sponsorship is being sought towards the costs of the performance.

Warm Spaces: Every Tuesday – a free event in the Tithe Barn: Everybody welcome. This event is becoming very popular.

#### **16.5 Suffolk Association of Local Councils (TS)**

The regular bulletins received via email cover most things. Nothing further to report currently.

#### **17. Parish Council Elections 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023: Schedule and Arrangements**

First Meeting of the New Council will be Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023

It is important for voters to remember that if they are voting in person they must have photo ID, from a list of options, which is being widely circulated.

Postal voters do not need photo ID.

Notice of election will be posted 22 March 2023

Confirmation of when papers can be downloaded from WSC website awaited

Deadline for submitting papers 4pm on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023

There will be the opportunity to submit papers for checking via email but actual papers must be submitted in person at West Suffolk House (can be by a trusted person). There will be an appointments system for taking papers into WS House. The Clerk will book one appointment, date to be advised, and will take papers for anybody who wishes to en-bloc.

#### **18. Bardwell Annual Village Meeting: To confirm date and arrangements.**

To review and take positive action following feedback from attendees at 2022 meeting, when considering arrangements for this event.

It was resolved that the Annual Village Meeting will be held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 10am – noon.

Venue: The Tithe Barn

Reports: Village Organisations are welcome to submit reports in advance, which will be collated and available online. No reports will be read out at the meeting.

‘Hard’ copies will be provided on request.

A speaker will be invited to open the meeting: Suggested Suffolk WildLife Trust: Knettishall Heath progress. Questions will be welcomed.

**Action** Clerk to issue invitation (**Note:** Invite issued: awaiting response)

Following speaker residents are invited to make any comments or submit suggestions regarding village life: issues/what they would like to see in the village/how they would like to see the village evolve over the next few years.

Ideas and suggestions all welcome.

19. **Bardwell Litter pick:** Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023.  
Tithe Barn: 9.30am Refreshments will be available for volunteers in the Tithe Barn after the event.
20. **Questions to the Chair:** None
21. **Date of next meeting: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023**  
Note later start time on this occasion: **7:30pm**

**The meeting ended at 9:00pm**