

BAWDRIP PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Bawdrip Parish Council was held in the Parish Hall, Eastside Lane, Bawdrip, on Tuesday, 4th November 2014 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Parish Councillors: Mr R Williams (Chairman), Mr R Culverhouse, Mrs S Greaves, Mr G Norman and Mrs A Williams; **Ward County Councillor** Mr D Hall; **Ward District Councillor** Mr D Alder; Clerk, Graham Jarvis together with fourteen members of the public.

71. **Apologies for Absence and Disclosures of Interest**

There were no apologies for absence. Councillor Alder disclosed that as a Member of the District Council's Development Committee he was unable to comment on any planning related matters and stated that he was Chairman of the charity Sedgemoor Community Transport.

72. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th October 2014 were presented; following an amendment to replace "tanks" with "tank" in Minute 60 b, the Minutes were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

73. **Matters Arising**

- a) **61) Acquisition of Railway Embankment and associated land, Shaw's Orchard** – The Clerk reported that the procedure agreed at the last meeting had been followed and that the Transfer Agreement, as originally drafted, had been signed and sent to the Council's Solicitor. The Chairman mentioned that he had been in contact with the Sedgemoor Conservation Volunteer group regarding maintenance works which could be undertaken once the ownership was transferred. A meeting with a representative of the Group would be arranged.
- b) **60 b) Open Space Shaw's Orchard use of RLT2 Funds** – The Clerk reported that following consultation with SDC, it was confirmed that RLT2 Funds could only be released for projects in an area associated with play facilities. Accordingly, an application for park benches on a new site would not fall within the remit of the scheme unless it was part of a larger project which included play equipment.

The Chairman referred to a letter received signed by twelve residents of Shaw's Orchard. He had handed copies of the letter to other Parish Councillors. The letter sought an assurance from the Parish Council that the land would remain an open space and no play area/equipment would be erected. The Chairman stated that the present Parish Council constitutionally could not give a perpetual guarantee, as decisions can be reversed by future administrations. He noted that the present Council would be dissolved in May 2015. There was general agreement that due to the topography, the site was unsuitable for traditional play equipment. An invitation was given to the residents of

Shaw's Orchard attending the meeting to let the Chairman know of any suggestions of how the site could be enhanced which could then be considered by Councillors.

74. Planning Matters - None

75. Knowle Hall, (Formerly BIBIC Premises)

The Chairman reported on a productive meeting held with a representative of the new owners. The organisation had been active since 2006 and once modifications to be the building were complete (probably autumn 2015) the premises would be occupied by some 100 students from China. A smaller scheme was already operating in Chedzoy.

76. District Councillor Report

Mr Alder gave a report and included reference to the expansion of Bridgwater, and the Council endeavouring to balance the budget.

77. County Councillor Report

Mr Hall reported that the provision of Superfast broadband to the Village had been delayed by a month and was now expected to be available in December. The Environment Agency had recently completed the dredging of sections of the rivers Parrett and Tone. However, long term revenue funding for maintenance was at present uncertain.

78. Training

After a discussion there was agreement that adequate provision would be made in the 2015/16 budget in order for Members of the new Council (which would hold office following the elections in May 2015) to receive appropriate training. It was noted that the fees levied by SALC for training events were under review.

79. Financial Matters

a) The following payment was approved:

Mendip Community Transport – Grant £40.00 – Cheque No. 470
(Agreed that the payment be made under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972)

b) Other financial matters - None

80. Roads and Footpaths

a) Sustran Track – Bradney Bridge to Parchey Bridge

Further to Minute 67 a – 7th October 2014; the Clerk read an email from Rupert Crosbee, Area Manager for Sustans. The message stated that an inspection had revealed that the narrowing of the track was due to verdant grasses growing from the edges rather than erosion. The path surface (which was the only type acceptable by the Environment

Agency for the area) was prone to vegetation creep. The edges were sprayed with “Roundup” every spring and some three years ago the vegetation on the edges were scraped-off and resurfaced. Given the nature of the problem and after taking account of budgetary constraints, Mr Crosbee was unable to justify any immediate action. However, consideration would be given to an additional treatment in the summer. Reference was also made to some slippage of the path edge above The Drain next to the Environment Agency Depot which was on the list for attention next year. Agreed that the situation be noted.

b) Footpath BW2/43

A Member reported that a bridge had collapsed along the path. Agreed that Clerk would report the situation to County Highways.

81. Correspondence

The Clerk reported that the following items had been received:-

a) Sedgemoor District Council:

- i) Minutes of Polden Hills Parish Cluster Group held 26th August 2014.
- ii) Details of RLT3 Application from Woolavington Parish Council to be considered at Cluster group meeting on 2nd December.

b) Somerset County Council: Library Services Consultation.

c) SALC: Presentation slides from Local Government Finance Seminar held 16th October attended by Clerk.

d) Somerset Waste Partnership: Monthly Briefing – October 2014.

e) Somerset Community Council: Newsletter from Yvonne Kay, Village Agent.

f) Somerset Playing Fields’ Association: October Flyer.

g) Hags SMP: Play equipment leaflet.

h) Play & Leisure: Play equipment leaflet.

i) Wicksteed Leisure Limited: Play equipment leaflet.

j) Clerk and Councils Direct: September and November Editions.

(These items would be circulated to Members in the blue box)

82. Topics for Future Meetings

- i) **Review of Financial Regulations.**
- ii) **Update on use of Health and Well Being Grant.**
- iii) **Parish Path Liaison Officer.**

83. Date and time of next meeting – Tuesday, 2nd December 2014 at 7.30 pm.

Meeting Closed at 8.16 pm.

Chairman