

# BAWD RIP PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Bawdrip Parish Council was held in the Parish Hall, Eastside Lane, Bawdrip, on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> October 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 five members of the public.

Public Speaking Time – Subjects raised included:

- i) **Damaged Railings:** Satisfaction expressed that the railings had been replaced and a chevron added in the interests of road safety.
- ii) **Railway Bridge Tree Growth:** The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to BRB (Residuary) Limited in August. A reminder would be sent.

## **58. 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.

## **59. Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014 were presented, confirmed as a correct record and signed.

## **60. Matters Arising**

a) **48) Communication with Village Residents** – Mr Culverhouse presented a summary of the comments received from the twenty responses made following the questionnaire which was distributed with the first issue of Bawdrip Life and available on the website. In general Bawdrip was considered a pleasant place to live due to aspects such as its peaceful rural location, friendly neighbours with foot and cycle paths providing easy access to the Levels and moors. The absence of public transport, a children's' play area and a village shop/post office together with traffic congestion at school starting and closing times were some of the negative factors mentioned. In addition to addressing these items there was a desire for a more modern Community Hall, improvements in mobile phone signal and broadband coverage. A copy of the document would be appended to the signed copy of these minutes.

Mr Culverhouse also handed to Councillors a draft Welcome Pack (which was intended to be given to new residents) and asked that any comments be emailed to him. There was agreement that in future Bawdrip Life would be published three times a year.

b) **55 a v) RLT2 Funds** – Reference was made that of the £8,583 funds held by SDC, £773 was likely to be lost if not spent on an approved project by 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014. The mechanics of the scheme were explained by the Clerk. The topography of the land and the presence of a submerged WWA tank posed technical problems in placing item(s)

of play equipment on the recreation area / open space owned by the Parish Council. However, in the interim the Clerk was asked to enquire if the provision of wooden park benches (so that pedestrians could enjoy the vista) and the provision of hand rails to flights of concrete steps on footpaths leading from both sides of the embankment were within the scope of the scheme.

**61. Future Ownership of Railway Embankment and Associated Land, North of the Shaw's Orchard Development**

Further to Minute 49 – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014; the Clerk referred to a letter from the Solicitors acting for the Parish Council which had been forwarded Members prior to the meeting. The area to be transferred had been amended to include a small triangle of land adjacent to the area previous conveyed to the Parish Council. The Chairman mentioned that he had approached a charity who had indicated that they would be willing to undertake maintenance work free of charge – subject re-imburement of expenses. Written confirmation regarding possible terms of engagement was awaited.

**After a discussion it was resolved that:**

- a) That the Clerk would email a copy of the draft transfer to document to all Parish Councillors.
- b) Any comments on the proposed transfer (based on the documents supplied) should be sent to the Chairman (copied to the Clerk) by Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014.
- c) Based on any comments received as result of (b above) unless a majority of Parish Councillors agree to defer a decision, notified by email, on the acquisition; the conveyance would proceed being signed on behalf of the Parish Council by the Chairman and Vice Chairman – with signatures witnessed by the Clerk in accordance with the Council's Standing Order 14.

**62. Planning Matters**

- a) **Applications – None**
- b) **Decisions notified by Planning Authority: – None**
- c) **Other Planning Matters - None**

**63. District Councillor Report**

Mr Alder reported that the District Council had begun the budgeting process for the next financial year.

**64. County Councillor Report**

Mr Hall reported that the provision of Superfast broadband to the Village was imminent and mentioned that residents could check the availability, based on post code by visiting the Connecting Devon and Somerset website - [www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk](http://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk). An updated on the proposed Hinkley C was also given.

**65. Community Health and Wellbeing Fund 2014/15**

After a discussion there was agreement that no application would be made by the Parish Council.

**66. Financial Matters**

- a) **The following payments were approved:-**
  - i) Bawdrip PCC – Room Hire £18.00 – Cheque No. 469
  - ii) SDC - Dog bin empties £501.70 (deducted from Precept)
- b) **Other financial matters - None**

**67. Roads and Footpaths**

- a) **Sustran Track**  
A Member mentioned that the path between Bradney Bridge and Parchey Bridge had narrowed due to erosion. The Clerk was asked to contact Sustran.
- b) **Blocked Culvert, Crankcombe Lane**  
The Chairman mentioned that he would report the problem to SCC.

**68. Correspondence**

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

- a) **Somerset County Council:** Community Health and Wellbeing Grants Scheme – Press Release.
- b) **Community Council for Somerset:** October 2014 Newsletter.
- c) **Somerset Waste Partnership:** Monthly Briefing – September 2014.
- d) **Bridgwater & District Civic Society:** Invitation for Council to become an Affiliate Member.
- e) **Classic Restorations:** Product and Services leaflet.
- f) **Edington GP Surgery/Bridgwater College:** Opportunity for Apprenticeship – Customer Services Representative.

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

**69. Topics for Future Meetings**

- i) **Future of BIBIC site** – Chairman to report on meeting with representative of owner.
- ii) **Training** – Members and Clerk

**70. Date and time of next meeting** – Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 7.30 pm

Meeting Closed at 9.02 pm

Chairman