

# BAWDRIP PARISH COUNCIL

A remote extraordinary meeting of Bawdrip Parish Council was held via Zoom on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 7.30 pm.

**Present: Parish Councillors:** Mr R Culverhouse, Mr R Atkins (Vice Chairman), Mrs G Burfett, Mr P Clarke and Mr D Rayner; **Ward County Councillor,** Mr D Hall; **Ward District Councillor** Mr A Betty, Clerk, Graham Jarvis together with four members of the public.

**Public Speaking Time:** Topics raised included:-

- Recent resurfacing of a section of the A39 appreciation on quality of work.
- National Grid Hinkley C Connection project.

\* \* \* \* \*

- 1. Apologies for Absence, Disclosures of Interest and Dispensations.**  
An apology for absence was received from Ward District Councillor Ms Perry. No disclosures of interests were made or dispensations recorded.
- 2. 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WW2 – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020.**  
Mr Clarke reported that although some events had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus Pandemic all the remaining events had proceeded as planned. These included joining the national two minutes silence, the afternoon countrywide toast, playing of period music and songs – an enjoyable time was had by all – social distancing was duly observed. Thanks were expressed to all who contributed to the events.
- 3. Coronavirus Pandemic.**  
There was agreement the Council had done the best given the circumstances. Although it was hoped that the peak had passed, residents who were self-isolating and/or classed as shielded may still require assistance. Appreciation was expressed to all residents who had helped. The Clerk reported that a letter of thanks had been received from Age UK for the grant awarded at the previous meeting.
- 4. County Councillor's Report.**  
Mr Hall referred to the recent resurfacing of a section of the A39 east of Crandon Bridge which was a considerable improvement. There had been no new recent cases of Covid-19 reported at the Hinkley Point C construction site, the number of site workers had increased to just under 3,000. Registration services had been suspended due to the pandemic and guidance was awaited from Central Government as to when the service could be fully resumed. At present there were over 2,200 unregistered births in the County. Reference was also made to the expected phased re-opening of public libraries and the removal of some restrictions at local recycling centres.

(Mr Hall left the meeting).

**5. District Councillor's Report.**

Mr Betty reported that there had been a high demand from businesses and organisations for grants available on schemes established to provide financial assistance due to the pandemic. Applications were being analysed and processed as quickly as possible. Charges in SDC car parks were being reintroduced on 15<sup>th</sup> June which coincided with the reopening of non-essential shops. Payment methods were to be increased and ticket machines cleaned regularly. Mr Betty also referred to a countywide survey on electric vehicles and encouraged residents to participate.

**6. Planning Matters.**

**a) Application 04/20/0003**

Proposal: Erection of a general purpose agricultural building for the storage of fodder at Peasey Farm, Bradney Lane.

Applicants: A E & P J Bradford.

Resolved that no comment be made to the Local Planning Authority on the application as submitted.

**b) Decision made by Local Planning Authority and noted:**

04/20/00002 – 304 Bath Road, Bawdrip – Approved (Delegated Authority).

**c) Any other planning matters – None.**

**7. Financial Matters.**

**a) The following Payments were approved:**

i) Sedgemoor District Council - Dog waste bin collection: £501.70 (£418.08 + £83.62 VAT) – Cheque No. 615.

ii) Clerk's Salary/Expenses/Re-imbursments - £925.42 (£924.01 + £1.41 VAT) – Cheque No. 616.

iii) Mr R Culverhouse – Re-imbusement – Defibrillator cabinet replacement (£556.80 (£464.00 + £92.80 VAT) – Cheque No. 617. (Agreed replacement battery would be ordered for the device).

**b) Closing of Accounts 2019/20:**

**i) Risk Management Report.**

The report for the year 2019/20 was presented and approved.

**ii) Annual Return Section 1 – Governance Statement.**

Members had received copies with the agenda - agreed that replies to Questions 1 to 8 be "Yes" and "Not Applicable" to Question 9.

The page was then signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

**iii) Financial Statement.**

The Council considered the documents prepared the Clerk including Section 2 of the Annual Return. These were approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

- v) **Asset Register as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.**  
The Register recording assets valued at cost of £12,781 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 was approved.
  
  - vi) **External Audit.**  
Resolved: That for the Financial Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 Bawdrip Parish Council is an exempt Authority within the definition contained in the Local Authority (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.  
Accordingly, an exemption certificate was signed by the Chairman and Clerk which would be sent to the External Auditors. In addition appropriate information to comply with the regulations would be published on the Parish website in due course.
  
  - vii) **Internal Audit.**  
The Clerk read a letter from the Council's Internal Auditor which stated that there were no matters he wished to draw to the attention of Members.
- c) **Other Financial Matters – None.**

**8. Roads and Footpaths.**

- a) **Signage – Eastside Lane to Sustrans Cycle path.**  
Mr Rayner reported on correspondence he had with a representative of Sustrans as he was aware of incidents where cyclists looking for the link with Eastside Lane had been misguided by the signage and become lost. He had erected a home-made temporary sign which appeared to have solved the problem. County Highways had been copied the correspondence. Sustrans had invited County's views on a suggested site for a new permanent sign. There was agreement to support the proposal.
  
- b) Mr Atkins reported that his neighbours had undertaken a voluntary litter clearance on the verges of the A39 and had collected five sacks of rubbish. Mr Atkins, on behalf of the Parish Council, was asked to thank the residents involved. It was noted that the annual village tidy-up which had been arranged for 21<sup>st</sup> March had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.
  
- c) **Parish Path Liaison Officer.**  
The Chairman mentioned that it was over a year since Gina Bury unfortunately had to relinquish the role due to mobility problems. Although the vacancy had been made known, to date no one had volunteered for the role. In the circumstances it was agreed to re-advertise the position.
  
- d) **Speed Indicating Devices (SID)**  
In view of the newly resurfaced section of the A39 there was renewed concern about vehicles travelling at excessive speeds. The Chairman reported that he had already undertaken some

research about the prospect of acquiring a SID and the regulations governing deployment. Further enquiries would be made and details given at a future meeting.

**9. Maintenance of Council Owned Land,**

**a) Management Plan.**

Further to Minute 78a – 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019; the Chairman reported that he had recently been in contact with Mr Chris Smith who had started preparing the plan. He intended to visit the area as soon as possible after the current Covid-19 restrictions were lifted.

**b) Encroachment on Council Owned Land.**

Pursuant to Minute 91e – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019; disappointment was expressed that an undertaking given by a resident to remove appropriate items from the designated open space by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, following the Council's letter of 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019, had not transpired. Resolved that the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman should write to the resident concerned giving a revised deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020 and refer to the consequences that may ensue if no action is taken.

**10. Topic for future Meetings:-** SID's, Proposed Local Government Reform.

**11. Date of next Meeting –** Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7.30 pm.

Meeting Closed 9.00 pm

Chairman