

BAWD RIP PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Bawdrip Parish Council was held in the Parish Hall, Eastside Lane, Bawdrip on Tuesday, 7th April, 2026 at 8.38 pm.

Present:- Parish Councillors: Mrs K Bradley (Chair), Mr P Clarke, Mr E Crane, Mr R Culverhouse and Mr D Rayner; **Ward Somerset Councillor** Mr D Rodrigues, **Clerk** Graham Jarvis together with eight members of the public.

Public Speaking Time: Topics raised:-

Gratitude expressed for grant to Bawdrip PCC.

Cost of Living issues – Mr Rodrigues to forward details of Somerset Council's Household Support Fund.

* * * * *

144. Apologies for Absence, Disclosures of Interest and Dispensations.

No apologies for absence had been received. Mr Crane disclosed an interest in planning application 04/26/00001 due to a business arrangement with the applicant. Mr Culverhouse held dispensations from the Code of Conduct relating to the Village Website and issues associated with planning application 04/21/00007.

145. Minutes of Previous Meeting. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd March 2026 were presented. The minutes were approved and signed as a complete and correct record.

146. Matters Arising not included in agenda items below:-

140e – Annual Village Litter Pick - Mr Culverhouse gave a report on the event which took place on 28th March. The activity was well supported and ran smoothly. Thanks were expressed to the volunteers, support provided by the Environment Agency, Somerset Council for supplying the equipment and collecting the material gathered. Co-operation from the Community Cafe was also appreciated. The possibility of holding the event a few weeks earlier next year would be considered in due course together with the merits of also having an autumn tidy-up.

147. Local Emergency Planning Arrangements.

Mrs Bradley reported that a draft plan had been completed and if agreed by committee members would be presented for adoption at a future meeting of the Parish Council.

148. Climate Emergency Activities.

Mrs Bradley referred to the £1,000 grant received in April 2025 from the Health and Wellbeing Fund (administered by the Somerset Association of Local Councils) to establish a community garden. Conditions attached to the grant included that the funds should be spent by April 2026 and a report on the project submitted to SALC. Unfortunately, due to the unexpected lack of volunteers the project did not begin last spring as intended. A new group of volunteers had recently been formed with the same objective. An apple tree, top soil and some large logs (for seating) had been

donated. It was agreed that Mrs Bradley would explain the situation to the grant provider and seek an extension of time for the funds to be used.

149. Planning Matters.

a) Applications

i) 04/26/00001

Location: Land, Stocklands Farm, Bath Road, Bawdrip.

Proposal: Change of use of winery and bonded wine store to Class E use with installation of roller shutter door to the West elevation, creation of 3 No. parking spaces, installation of 1 No. electric vehicle charging point (EVPC), and erection of bin and bicycle stores.

Applicant: Mr S Larder.

The Council resolved to support the application as submitted as it was considered to be in-keeping with the surrounding area.

(Mr Crane having disclosed an interest was absent from the room whilst the above application was discussed).

ii) 04/25/00007 (Revised)

Proposed Development at Knowle Hall, Bath Road, Bawdrip

Further to Minute 136a - 3rd March 2026; notification had been received of significant amendments to the proposal. After a discussion there was agreement that the Council did not wish to alter the observations previously made to the Local Planning Authority.

iii) 54/25/00014

Proposed Housing Development on land to the North of Coombe Lane and East of Woolavington Hill, Woolavington.

Pursuant to Minute 123a ii – 3rd February 2026; the Clerk reported that the application had been further amended mainly to improve road safety on Woolavington Hill. The Council resolved to express their disappointment that this second revision had still not addressed the need to improve the A39 / B3141 junction and that the Parish Council's existing objection was still considered legitimate.

b) Decisions notified by the Local Planning Authority and recorded:-

54/25/00011 – Development North of Cossington Lane, Woolavington – Approved subject to a Section 106 Agreement (Committee Decision).

150. Bawdrip Village Website and Assertion 10 Compliance

Further to Minute 137 – 3rd March 2026; Mr Culverhouse referred to his report which had been circulated to Councillors. The report contained details of three potential providers for a replacement website, a comparison of the services available and related costs. After a discussion a decision was made to engage the services of Parish Online which would include transfer of data to a new site to comply with the accessibility requirements together with a gov.uk domain and email service. The cost for the first year was £250 and £350 per year thereafter. This was the lowest cost of the three providers approached and considered the most suitable option for the Parish Council.

151 Financial Matters.

a) Payment of Creditors - None

b) Statement of Internal Control for the year ended 31st March 2026 and Risk Management Report 2025/26.

The documents were approved as presented.

c) Other Financial Matters.

The Clerk reported that the precept for 2026/27 had been received.

152. Reports from Parish Councillors and the Clerk on events attended or planned.

Mrs Bradley and Mr Rayner gave a report on their attendance at the Bridgwater Constituency Parish Council Summit held on 14th March. Topics covered included Planning, Broadband and Policing in Rural areas. Mr Crane intended to attend the Gravity Local Community Forum on 14th April.

153. Roads and Footpaths.

a) Outdoor Gym Area – Potential Improvements.

Mr Clarke mentioned that the project was in abeyance pending a funding review by the Environment Agency. It was noted that the Annual Safety Inspection arranged via the Somerset Playing Fields' Association was scheduled for the following month.

b) Potential donation of land to the Parish Council – Deferred.

c) Report from the Parish Path Liaison Officers.

Mr Clarke read the report dated 3rd April 2026. The Village Walk on 29th March was the most popular yet attracting seventeen walkers and covered a distance of 5 miles in just over 2 ½ hours. The next walk (the 17th) was planned for 10th May – Rogation Sunday.

(A copy the report is appended to the signed copy of the minutes of this meeting).

The report prompted further discussion on the design of pedestrian gates which posed a risk of trapping deer. Mr Rayner had designed safety mesh cover sheets which could be retro fitted to two different types of gates. Prototypes had been made and one already fitted with the landowner's agreement. The cost was £26.50 per unit and it was agreed that the Parish Council would fund the cost to make the two prototypes, the situation would be reviewed at a future meeting.

d) Donation of Bench by Sedgemoor Ramblers.

Further Minute 140c – 3rd March 2026 – Disappointment was expressed at the absence of an agreement to locate the bench at a suitable site.

e) Damage caused by Heavy Goods Vehicles.

Mrs Bradley agreed to research the process for the implementation of weight restrictions on roads as a potential way to reduce damage to the highway.

f) Flooding Issues.

Pursuant to Minute 140f - 3rd March 2026; Mr Rayer mentioned that the clearance of roadside ditches in Eastside Lane had revealed a pipe which went

under the road. There had been no heavy rainfall since the work was completed but it was expected that the work to the ditches would reduce the risk of road surface flooding in that area. The Clerk was asked to write to the farmer to express the Parish Council's gratitude for the clearance work.

g) Tree – Former Railway Embankment.

Further to Minute 140g – 3rd March 2026; Mrs Bradley reported that Chris Sizewell, an arboriculturist at Somerset Council had visited the site. His report recommended that a tree which had partially split with a branch hanging in adjacent trees be removed at ground level. By using Somerset Council's in-house team, the cost of the work would be £576 + VAT. There was also need to seek consent from the Local Planning Authority as the area was subject to a blanket Tree Preservation Order. There was agreement that the work be commissioned from the in-house team subject to a successful TPO application. Mrs Bradley to notify Mr Sizewell of the decision.

154. Correspondence.

The Clerk reported that since the previous meeting the following items had been circulated to members by email: -

a) Somerset Council.

- i) Invitation to presentations for City, Town and Parishes Briefing on 16th March - Local Plan and Local Transport Plan. (Presentation slides forwarded after the meeting).
- ii) Temporary Road Closures:-
Eastside Lane, Bawdrip 25th – 27th March (Wessex Water to repair leak).
Bath Road, Shapwick, Ashcott, Catcott and Moorlinch 24th – 25th March.
Chilton Polden Hill, Stawell 24th – 25th March.
- iii) Notice of Health and Wellbeing Survey: 2nd March – 27th April.

b) Environment Agency – Flood Recovery Guide.

c) Local Government Boundary Commission - Final Recommendations for Somerset Wards.

d) Mark Weston for Sir Ashley Fox MP – Update on issues raised at Parish Summit.

e) Councillor Diogo Rodrigues:-

- i) Notice that a Somerset Local Plan Timetable, Notice of intent to commence and scoping consultation would be discussed at Somerset Council's Planning and Transport Policy sub-Committee on 8th April.
- ii) Planning and Planning Enforcement update.

f) Councillor L Redman – Presentation slides on nuclear waste supplied by the Nuclear Waste Services.

g) Somerset Association of Local Councils: -

- i) Details of training events – Spring/Summer. .
- ii) Notice of Step, Ride, Thrive Steering Group meeting 16th March.

- iii) Notice of Discover Nature fortnight (18th – 31st May) running across 23 Parishes within the Avalon and Poldens LCN as part of the Step, Ride, Thrive – The Active Travel Project.
- iv) March Newsletter.

h) **Gravity** – Invitation to Gravity Local Community Forum – 14th April. (*Mr Crane to attend*).

i) **Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance** – March Newsletter.

j) **Items available for viewing:** -

i) **Clerks & Councils Direct** – March Issue

ii) **Campaign to Protect Rural England (Somerset)** –Spring Newsletter.

155. **Topics for future Meetings:** – None.

156. **Date of next Meeting** – Tuesday, 5th May 2026 at 7.30 pm (Annual Parish Council Meeting).

Meeting Closed 10.00 pm.

Chair