

# **BAWD RIP PARISH COUNCIL**

The Annual Meeting of Bawdrip Parish Council was held in the Parish Hall, Eastside Lane, Bawdrip on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2026 at 7.30 pm.

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

**Public Speaking Time:** No Topics raised.

\* \* \* \* \*

1. **Apologies for Absence, Disclosures of Interest and Dispensations.**  
Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Mr Crane due to illness (accepted) and from Ward Somerset Councillor Mr D Rodrigues. Mr Culverhouse held dispensations from the Code of Conduct relating to the Village Website and issues associated with planning application 04/21/00007.
2. **Appointment of Chair for the Municipal Year 2026/27.**  
Mrs K Bradley was proposed by Mr Clarke, seconded by Mr Rayner; there being no other nominations Mrs Bradley was duly elected and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
3. **Appointment of Vice Chairman for the Municipal year 2026/27.**  
Mr P Clarke was proposed by Mrs Bradley, seconded by Mr Culverhouse; there being no other nominations Mr Clarke was duly elected and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
4. **Appointment of Representative on the Hinkley Point B Site Stakeholder Group.**  
There was agreement that Mr Hewson's kind offer to continue to be the Parish Council's representative be accepted.
5. **Minutes of Previous Meeting.** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026 were presented. The minutes were approved and signed as a complete and correct record.
6. **Matters Arising not included in agenda items below: -**
  - a) **150 – Website Update** – Mr Culverhouse reported that the new website *bawdrripparishcouncil.gov.uk* was now live. Data transferred from the old site was being reviewed and updated including a revised resident's pack. The transfer had gone smoothly. Each Parish Councillor had been allocated their own email under the ".gov.uk" domain, other refinements would follow. The old site would remain accessible for the time being. Mr Culverhouse was thanked for undertaking the work involved.
  - b) **153f – Flooding Issues** – The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent expressing thanks for the ditch clearance.

**7. Somerset Councillor's Report.**

Mr Dingwall referred an assessment on Special Educations Needs and Disability services (SEND) provided by the Authority. The Council has recent bought ten highway gritters which brought the fleet to 23. Reference was also made to the next phase of the Local Plan – Housing Needs Assessments and the virtues of Parishes having a Neighbourhood Plan.

**8. Local Emergency Planning Arrangements – No further news.**

**9. Climate Emergency Activities.**

Further to Minute 148 – 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026; Mrs Bradley reported that a meeting of the new volunteer group for the community garden had taken place. At present there were six volunteers. The raised beds were expected to be installed within a month. Mrs Bradley would also contact SALC regarding the grant situation.

**10. Planning Matters.**

**a) Decision notified by the Local Planning Authority and recorded: -**  
**04/26/00001 – Stocklands Farm, Bath Road - Approved (Delegated Authority)**

**b) Other Planning Matters – None.**

**11. Review of Insurance.**

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's insurance policy was due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026. Members considered that the indemnities provided by the policy were considered satisfactory to meet the Council's requirements and that the renewal terms offered by Zurich Municipal be accepted.

**12. Financial Matters.**

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

- i) Zurich Municipal – Insurance Premium - £490.01 – Cheque No. 799.**
- ii) Local Authority Technology CIC (Parish OnLine) – Website services - £300.00 (£250.00 + £50.00 VAT) – Cheque No. 800.**

**b) Closing of Accounts 2025/26.**

**i) Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) - Section 1 Annual Governance Statement.**

Members had received a copy prior to the meeting - agreed that questions 1 to 8 and 10 be answered "Yes" and "Not Applicable" to question 9.

**ii) Financial Statements.**

The Council considered and approved documents prepared by the Clerk including Section 2 of the AGAR.

**iii) Asset Register as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.**

The Asset Register as presented was approved.

**iv) External Audit Exemption.**

Proposed by Mr Clarke and seconded by Mr Culverhouse it was unanimously resolved that for the Financial Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 Bawdrip Parish Council was an exempt Authority within the definition contained in the Local Authority (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.

**c) Other Financial Matters - None.**

**13. Reports from Parish Councillors and the Clerk on events attended or planned - None.**

**14. Roads and Footpaths.**

**a) Outdoor Gym Area – Potential Improvements.**

Mr Clarke reported that a meeting had been arranged with the Environment Agency for the following week.

**b) Report from the Parish Path Liaison Officers.**

Mr Clarke read the report dated 4<sup>th</sup> May prepared by Jackie Curtis and Jo Stanhope-White. The next scheduled walk was planned for 10<sup>th</sup> May (Rogation Sunday) and organised in conjunction with the Parochial Church Council.

References was also made of the two prototype mesh grids designed by Mr Rayner (which the Parish Council had agreed to fund) with the aim of preventing young deer being trapped in gates had been fitted with landowners' consent

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

The Clerk had notified the Council's insurers of the situation who had replied seeking further information. In turn Mr Rayner had contacted the gate manufacture and a reply was awaited. In the circumstances it was agreed that no further action be taken until the outstanding information had been supplied to the insurance company and their response considered.

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

**c) Potential donation of land to the Parish Council – Deferred pending further information.**

**d) Former Railway Bridge.**

The Clerk was asked to contact Highways England to obtain a copy of the report following the annual inspection which was usually undertaken in the Spring.

**e) Possible Blocked Culvert – Shaws Orchard Area**

Mrs Bradley and Mr Clarke agreed to visit the area to investigate the notion that a culvert was blocked.

**f) Flooding Issues – None.**

**15. Correspondence.**

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

**a) Somerset Council.**

- i)** Avalon and Poldens Local Community Network.  
Health and Wellbeing Working Group – Reminder for meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> April, Agenda for 30<sup>th</sup> April meeting.

Highways Working Group – Notes of meeting 24<sup>th</sup> February. Next meeting 20<sup>th</sup> May.

Step, Ride Thrive Steering Group – Notes of meeting 30<sup>th</sup> March.

- ii) Temporary Road Closures: -
  - New Road Bawdrip – 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> April (To repair water leak).
  - Chilton Polden Hill, Stawell and Chilton Polden – 10<sup>th</sup> May.
  - Chilton Polden Hill, Edington, Catcott, Stawell and Moorlinch – 10<sup>th</sup> May.
  - Woolavington – Various Roads – 11<sup>th</sup> May for 19 nights.
  - New Road Bawdrip – 18<sup>th</sup> May (2 nights).
  - Bawdrip Lane, Bawdrip – 20<sup>th</sup> May (2 nights).
- iii) Update on the Enhanced Highways Maintenance Scheme.
- iv) Parish Information Sheet – Planning Committee Reforms: Statutory Consultation on Draft Regulations and Guidance.
- v) Somerset's Health and Wellbeing Survey – Reminder of closing date (27<sup>th</sup> April).

b) **Environment Agency** – Flood Wardens Spring Newsletter.

c) **National Grid**: HPC Connection Project – Spring newsletter.

d) **Somerset Association of Local Councils**: -

- i) Details of training events – April – June.
- ii) Notice of Step, Ride, Thrive Steering Group meeting 16<sup>th</sup> March.
- iii) Discover Nature fortnight (18<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May) - Update.
- iv) Community Health and Wellbeing Newsletter.

e) **Item available for viewing - Clerks & Councils Direct** – May Issue

**16. Topics for future Meetings:** – Logistics of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

**17. Date of next Meeting** – Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026 at 7.30 pm.

Meeting Closed 9.05 pm.

Chair