BAWDRIP PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Bawdrip Parish Council was held in the Parish Hall, Eastside Lane, Bawdrip on Tuesday, 1st September 2026 at 7.30 pm.

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

Public Speaking Time: Topics raised:
Planning Issues – Potential Data Centre.
Highways – Speed Limits.

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51. Apologies for Absence, Disclosures of Interest and Dispensations Noted - None.

52. Minutes of Previous Meeting. The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 7th and 22nd July 2026 were presented. The minutes were approved and signed as a complete and correct record.

53. Matters Arising not included in agenda items below: -
a) 43 – Appointment of New Clerk & RFO – An advertisement of the forthcoming vacancy was due to be published on the SALC website the next day. The closing date for applications being 21st September.
b) 44 – Potential Additional Defibrillator – Members acknowledged the benefits to the community of having another unit in the Parish. Mr Clarke agreed to investigate possible sites and report back to a future meeting when further consideration would be given including cost implications.

54. Somerset Councillors' Report - None.

55. Incident Management Plan.
Mrs Bradley gave an outline of the plan which had been circulated to Parish Councillors previously. There was agreement that an item would appear on the village website and *WhatsApp* seeking volunteers. The document would also be submitted for peer review.

56 Website Mapping Functions.
As agreed at the June meeting (Minute 20 refers) Parish Councillors considered a report prepared by Mr Culverhouse on the extensive mapping functions which could be added to the website. In a trial period provided by Parish Online Mr Culverhouse had imposed various layers to the basic map which were illustrated in the report. The trial period would end on 3rd September. There was agreement to subscribe to mapping functions, the cost for the first year was £64.80 + VAT which included a 10% complimentary discount.

57. Climate Emergency Activities.

Further to Minute 37 – 7th July 2026**;** Mrs Bradley reported that the Community Garden was progressing well with planting in the raised beds. A report giving an update on the project had been prepared for SALC as required under the terms of the Grant received. Wessex Water had been approached about a water supply to the site, a reply was awaited. The possibility of holding a meeting of the Polden Environmental Network in Bawdrip next year regarding how to adapt gardens due to climate change would be investigated by Mrs Earnshaw.

58. Planning Matters.

a) Application 54/25/00014 (Revised)

Type: **Outline**.

Location: Land, to the North of Coombe Lane and Land to the East of, Woolavington Hill, Woolavington.

Proposal: Outline application with some matters reserved, except access, for residential development to provide up to 100No. dwellings including affordable housing, public open space including dedicated ecological areas, and associated access, drainage, landscaping and ancillary works and demolition of existing dwelling.

Applicant: South West Strategic Developments Ltd.

The Council noted that this was the third revision of the proposal which has still failed to address the need to improve the A39 / B3141 junction. Given the circumstances the Parish Council's existing objection was still considered valid.

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

i) **04/26/00003 –** 300 Bath Road, Bawdrip – Approved (Delegated Authority).

ii) **09/24/00002 –** Travellers Site, Horsey Lane, Bridgwater Without – Refused (Delegated Authority).

c) Other Planning Matters

Application 54/25/00011 - Outline Land North of Cossington Lane, Woolavington.

Further to Minute 149b - 7th April 2026; the Clerk reported that the proposal was due to be considered at a meeting of Planning North Committee on 8th September on a technical matter. There was agreement that the situation be noted and that the Parish Council wouldn't appoint a representative to address the Committee.

59. Financial Matters.

a) Nation Association of Local Councils Circular – Local Government Pay Agreement 2026-27 – Noted.

b) The following Payments were approved: -

i) Somerset Playing Fields Association – Inspection Report - £100.00 – Cheque No. 808.

ii) Clerk's Salary re-imbursements etc **-** £1,038.56 (£1,037.89 + £0.67 VAT) – Cheque No. 809.

iii) HM Revenue & Customs – Employment Related - £217.80 – Cheque No.810.

iv) Mr & Mrs Clarke Re-imbursement Soil - £244.79 (£203.99 + £40.80 VAT) – Paid by Bank Transfer.

***c*) Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 30th June 2026.**
The Clerk presented a statement together with supporting papers, these were examined by Members and agreed as correct.

d) Banking Arrangements.
In view of some practical difficulties experienced following the closure of the local branch of NatWest, it was agreed that the Council's banking arrangement would be reviewed. Options would be discussed at a future meeting including the option of on-line banking.

60 Reports from Parish Councillors and the Clerk on events attended or planned.
Mrs Earnshaw would be representing the Parish Council at the on-line workshop re Transport on 3rd September. Mrs Bradley had been invited to attend the Somerset Chair's Awards on 16th October and the Clerk would be attending the Somerset Parishes Conference on 8th October.

61. Roads and Footpaths.

a) Railway Bridge Repairs.
Mrs Bradley reported that she and Mr Clarke had visited the site earlier that evening. The scaffolding was still in place but was expected to be removed shortly before the school re-opened after the summer holiday. Some work was still to be completed. There had been some complaints from residents about the disruption, noise and dust during the works and disappointment expressed that the Parish Council had not been given advance notice of the works scheduled by the bridge owner.

Overall, the Parish Council were pleased that bridge, which was considered as an important part of the village's heritage, was receiving essential maintenance. However, there was likely to be an ongoing problem with roots from vegetation penetrating the former track bed. The Clerk was asked to write to Highways England thanking them for the work with a suggestion that serious consideration be given to the fitting of a membrane on the track bed to stop root growth. Such action would be a long-term solution and save on regular maintenance costs.

The Council gratefully acknowledged the actions of Peacey Farm who had cut the grass verge between the Farm and the Environment Agency Depot. This had allowed pedestrians to safely leave the road to avoid the extra passing traffic generated by the road closure under the bridge.

b) Eastside Lane.
Further to Minute 41g - 7th July 2026; resurfacing of the road had been completed the previous week. The new surface was considered to be bumpy and concern expressed about the steep sides to the verges. The "unsuitable for cars" signs were still in place.

c) Outdoor Gym Area – Potential Improvements and the Annual Inspection Report.

Mr Clarke mentioned that there was no further progress on the potential improvements to the area. The Annual Inspection Report of the site arranged via the Somerset Playing Fields' Association had been circulated to members. The report raised no issues of concern and the contents were duly noted.

d) Report from the Parish Path Liaison Officers.

Mr Clarke read the report dated 30th August prepared by Jackie Curtis and Jo Stanhope-White. The excessive summer heat had restricted the distances walked but some clearance work had been achieved was able. Village walks were expected to resume in October. (A copy of the report is appended to the signed copy of these minutes).

e) Flooding Issues – None.

62. Correspondence.

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

a) Somerset Council.

i) Avalon and Poldens Local Community Network.

a) Notes of LCN AGM held on 2nd July.
b) Health and Wellbeing Working Group – Notes of meeting held 1st July – next meeting 29th July.
c) Highways Working Group – Notice of meeting 9th September.
d) Invitation to join on-line workshop – Somerset Connectivity and Integrated Transport Strategy (SCITS) consultation on 3rd September.
e) Highway Structural Maintenance – List of works scheduled in Avalon & Poldens LCN area.
f) Flooding/Flood Resilience – Offer to arrange workshops.
g) Gravity Local Community Forum – Meeting arranged for 22nd July.
h) Information about the Nelson Trust.

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ii) Somerset Coastal Challenge Walk – 80 miles in eight days (19th to 26th September).

iii) Somerset Local Plan: - Regulation 20 Scoping Consultation – extended until 9th August. 2026.

iv) Parish Information Sheets: -

a) Update on Street numbering and naming.
b) Appointment of new Chief Financial Officer from 31st July.
c) Polling District and Polling Places Review.

v) Temporary Road Closures – Various**.**

b) Ward Councillor Daigo Rogrigues – Forwarded email from contactor Hammond about repairs in progress to railway bridge.

c) **Environment Agency –** Summary of Previous Food Warning Lunch and Learn sessions.

d) **Wessex Water -** Introduction of hose pipe ban from 18th August.

e) **Somerset Association of Local Councils: -**
- **i)** Details of training events: August, September & October.
- **ii)** Health and Wellbeing Newsletter – August Edition
- iii) Newsletter – July.

f) **Somerset Bus Partnership –** Summer Newsletter**.**

g) **Somerset Rivers Authority –** Annual Report 2025-26.

h) **SSG Secretariat –** Invitation to book visit Hinkley A & B Sites on 8th September.

i) **Save Somerset Rural Communities (SCRAPP) –** Notice of meeting 30th September.

63. Topics for future Meetings: – Delays in deliveries by Royal Mail.
Parish Council Records.

64. Date of next Meeting – Tuesday, 6th October 2026 at 7.30 pm.

Meeting Closed 9.10 pm.

Chair