

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bardwell Parish Council
held by video conference, on Tuesday 4th August 2020 commencing at 7.00pm**

In attendance: Cllr David Ruffles (Chair), Cllr Andrew Smith Vice Chair and Ward Councillor; Cllr Ali Compton, Cllr John Babraff, Cllr Peter Sanderson, Cllr Tony Stokes, Cllr Geoff Clough, County Cllr Joanna Spicer MBE.

Clerk/RFO: Pauline Smith

1 member of the public

1. Apologies and approval of absences: None received
2. **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Smith - ongoing pecuniary re finance item 10 (Clerk/RFO salary approval); No other declarations were received.
3. **To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2020 :**
The minutes were unanimously confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.
4. **Public participation session:** No comments received
5. **To receive report from Suffolk County Councillor, Joanna Spicer MBE**
SCC recycling centre, Bury St Edmunds Cllr Spicer reported that the booking scheme at the SCC recycling centre is being phased out.
Ixworth library is open and running well, thanks to the Friends of Ixworth Library.
Bardwell Primary School At the time of the meeting a number of places remain available for September.
SCC offices: There is no immediate date set for SCC staff currently working at home to return to full time office based working. The open plan design of SCC offices and 'hot-desking' working arrangements means that only 30% of all staff can be accommodated at any time.
Highways: Work to resolve flooding around The Green and also Ixworth Road in the vicinity of the Bardwell Equestrian Centre has been completed. Cllr Spicer has thanked SCC for the work carried out.
The Chairman also expressed the parish council's gratitude and is hopeful that the work/repairs carried out - which appear to have been done to a very high standard - will be prove to have been successful in resolving the flooding issues.
6. **To receive report from Ward Councillor Andrew Smith**
Bury St Edmunds Post Office Building work is expected to commence in September and will comprise apartments and retail units. The contractor is Barnes Construction. West Suffolk Council is well aware of the difficulties faced by retailers, particularly as a consequence of Covid-19.
Parking Following a question from Cllr Babraff, the Ward Cllr will report back to the PC about future parking provision in Bury St Edmunds.
Recent planning law changes, such as those for permitted development/prior approval are being consulted upon. The Ward Cllr will provide details when the outcome is known.
Lammas Close - antisocial behaviour: Advised that as at 28th July Havebury Housing had received one complaint, and that the next case review would be on 18th August.
7. **Chairman's report**
 - 7.1 The Croft: Complaint received re overgrown vegetation and rubbish dumped at rear of a property.

Both SCC and WSC have been contacted to establish who is responsible for maintaining location, which is shown as hard surface as opposed to grassed amenity area. Google image 2010 clearly shows this area was not grassed/no vegetation.
Response awaited.

To determine the parish council's action in approaching the owner to request that they dispose of their rubbish in an appropriate manner.

Decision: To await outcome of responsibility for area

(Clerk's note: Since the meeting SCC has advised that WSC is responsible for the area - awaiting update from WSC)

- 8. Finance - Financial Regulations Review:** The reviewed document was unanimously approved, without changes.
- 9. Annual Accountability and Governance Return 2019/20 - Unaudited accounts**
- 9.1 **Part 1.** The Annual Governance Statement (Part 3) was unanimously approved by Bardwell Parish Council and signed by the Clerk, Pauline Smith and Chairman, Cllr David Ruffles
- 9.2 **Part 2.** The Accounting Statements 2019/20 (Part 3) were unanimously approved by Bardwell Parish Council and signed by the Chairman.
- 9.3 **Annual Internal Audit Report 2019/20** At the time of the meeting the 'books' were with the internal auditor.
(Clerk/RFO note: Since the meeting the internal audit report has been received No issues of concern have been raised. The Notice of Public rights has been published and covers the period 10 August 2020 - 22 September 2020)
- 10. Financial Report**
- 10.1 Details of expenditure/Payments for approval:** since 26th May were provided to Councillors and duly approved: Total £2,409.02
Total of all bank accounts as at 4 August 2020: £35,504.42
(Detailed information on excel spreadsheet circulated)
- 10.2 Signing of payments/Checking accounts through the year**
The Clerk/RFO highlighted the need to ensure that the same person does not authorise all payments at all times, in accordance with financial regulations.
Cllr Sanderson stated that this is unnecessarily bureaucratic and that he is quite satisfied that the Chairman approves all payments.
Clerk/RFO also advised that arrangements should be in place for the accounts/dockets should be checked more regularly by councillors in addition to receiving the reports provided by the Clerk/RFO.
The Clerk /RFO considered Councillors have misunderstood the rationale behind this item, but didn't discuss any further.
- 11. Police: Crime and antisocial behaviour**
- 11.1 Dog thefts: To note** correspondence from the police received 29 July (previously circulated). A number of residents have reported chalk marks on their property, causing concern. To date, there have been no reported dog thefts in Bardwell.
- 11.2 Antisocial behaviour at the Community Field:** Although the main parts of the children's play equipment had been opened in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines, it is not feasible for the BPFA to sanitize the inside of the slide and therefore that section had remained closed. On 2 occasions person or persons unknown have removed the closure tapes and damaged the metal stakes - throwing all to the ground. It was considered that replacing again would be futile.
Cllr Sanderson had spoken to some parents and is satisfied they understand the risks and ensure that their children are using hand sanitizer/wipes before and after using the equipment.
Appropriate signage remains in situ

New picnic table/bench set: Minor damage (scratching) has occurred on the table surface which Cllr Babraff has repaired/varnished. However it is getting well used and so it is inevitable that signs of wear and tear will occur.

11.3 Neighbourhood Watch: The updated website: suffolknwa.co.uk includes wide ranging information relevant to the community

11.4 A GPS system has been stolen from a farm vehicle in Bardwell.

Any residents seeing suspicious activity should be reported immediately to the police.

12. Planning matters

12.1 New Applications

The Old Rectory Up Street Bardwell IP31 1AA Ref. No: DC/20/1182/TPO

TPO 302 (1973) Tree Preservation Order- (i) 4no. Horse Chestnut (marked yellow on plan and within G3 on on order) fell (ii) 2no. Beech (marked pink on plan and within G3 on order) crown reduction to top by up to 2 metres

Whilst not submitting an objection to this application, in view of the reasons given for removal of the trees covered by TPO's, for which no replacement trees are detailed as having been proposed, Bardwell Parish Council considers that it would be appropriate for the Tree Officer to carry out a site visit.

12.2 DC/20/1125/FUL Planning Application - Pinn Field Glassfield Road Stanton IP31
1no. livestock unit.
Details previously circulated

Whilst not submitting an objection to this application: The Parish Council is concerned that the report may not reflect the true number of vehicles and their movements to and from the site. Within the report it states that:

1900 piglets will arrive in one lorry
1900 pigs (20kg ea.) will be taken away in three lorries.

There is no mention of the straw delivery within the report, which is changed each batch, or the number of vehicle movements required to remove the waste material and slurry.

If there are inaccuracies or omissions within the figures stated then the actual number of vehicle movements could be significantly higher than stated.

(Since the meeting: WSC contacted the applicant for further information to address the parish council's concerns. Further information was received and circulated to councillors and subsequently a follow up email to the officer confirming that the parish council does not object to the application was submitted.)

12.3 To note responses to planning application consultations considered and responded to prior to meeting were provided (attached).

12.4 Decisions by planning authority since meeting held on 26th May 2020: (attached)

13. Other Planning Matters

13.1 Glassfield Road

The parish council has been advised that a third mobile home is in situ on this site. The Chairman (alone) had visited the site with the owner Adrian Ashford on the day of the meeting.

Originally there were two mobile homes.

In December 2019, one has been exchanged for a new mobile home (same size) whilst the old one has been moved to another area of the site. This mobile home is now unoccupied, has no services or water: it has been sold and is awaiting removal by the new owner.

Suggested Decision: To keep a watching brief for 2/3 months: Review October 2020.

It was highlighted that there are 2 issues with this suggested decision

- i. Whilst the parish council might keep a watching brief, residents could contact WSC and the original situation would begin again.
- ii. Consistency and fairness - taking into account similar situations near by (ie Sunnyside, which certain residents were very vocal about even though the owners were already working with WSC (outcome was a successful resolution of the issues).

CLlr Stokes recounted advice from SALC (he is the pc representative),

If details of a breach of planning permission or building regulations are brought to the attention of the parish council, then it should consider at a meeting whether to report the matter to the planning authority.

If it decides not to report it then it is of course open to the members of the public or indeed individual councillors to report it, providing that they do so purely in a private capacity.

However, it is not recommended that parish councils or individual councillors engage with the public directly over possible breaches.

It is essential that Councillors should strive to be consistent in their approach to avoid any hint of bias or favouritism.

Decision: Review situation October 2020

Decision: It is agreed that a consistent approach must be taken at all times - in all circumstances - to avoid any hint of bias or favouritism.

13.2 Knox Lane - Conservation Area

Concern raised by resident re swimming pool being constructed: Proximity to property boundary.

The initial contact was from a third party, no further contact/direct request from the householder affected has been received.

Decision: Unless a request for assistance is received directly from the resident: No action required.

14. Covid-19

14.1 Signage at Community Field: it is essential that everybody continues to adhere to Government advice relating to social distancing and that all appropriate necessary procedures are implemented

“To consider additional clear signage at the community field together with approval for the requisite statement on the website”

It was highlighted that the signage whilst detailed is small. However, the majority of councillors considered that it is adequate.

Decision: No addition signage to that already in situ required.

The requisite statement including that advice that the equipment is not sanitised and that play equipment and adult expertise equipment is used at owners own risk, will be published on the parish council website.

Action Clerk

14.2 Village prescription service:

The service has been well used is throughout the lockdown period, with a noticeable reduction in recent requests. In view of government guidance and the lessening of restrictions on lockdown wef 1st August 2020:

Decision: It was agreed that the service be withdrawn/suspended for the present time with the option to reinstate should circumstances change in the future. (There are a small number of vulnerable residents for whom prescription collections will continue on request.)

Volunteer Database: Although the outcome to-date has been that very few volunteers on the database were called upon during this period of lockdown:

Decision: It was agreed that all are asked whether they are willing for Bardwell Parish Council to continue to hold their details for the purposes of resurrecting the service should circumstances change.

14.3 Social Media - Community Help Facebook Site:

To consider proposal put forward by Cllr Ruffles that the Parish Council backed Facebook site set up specifically for the purposes of communicating with residents during the pandemic, should be repurposed/renamed to become a general Bardwell community Facebook site/group.

There have been various opinions expressed by some members of the group who are keen to change the name now, whilst others have expressed caution with the preference to retain the current name which provides a focus on the current purpose until such time as the pandemic is over.

Councillors are asked to take into account that If the purpose of the site is changed to a general Facebook community site then the Parish Council must determine whether it is prepared to continue to assume overall responsibility for the content of the site, or whether to remove itself from this responsibility.

Decision: The proposal to rename/repurpose this site as a general Bardwell community facebook site/group is not considered appropriate at the current time as we are not through the pandemic.
The site should remain as per its original purpose: This will be reviewed early Spring 2021 subject to circumstances.

15. Community Field

When the community field committee/working party was 'stood down' the parish council assumed responsibility for implementing the approved plans - as designed - following extensive consultation and discussion with the entire community. It was promised that the members would be kept updated with progress and invited to meet and provide input and advice as required. To date only one meeting has taken place - during which the plans were reconfirmed and since when there has been limited progress.

Existing funds (comprising grant funding and other donations) are ring fenced for the purposes of ensuring the previously agreed plans and intentions can be successfully completed and achieved.

The grant funding received from the Lottery should have been used by 19th July 2020. Not all funding has been used due to the project being delayed due weather conditions and then Covid-19

Cllr Sanderson has been in communication with The Lottery to extend this period of

time and has also discussed with them changing the purpose for which the funds were originally requested (see item 17 - to enclose the play area with fencing)

The Clerk expressed concern to councillors about changing the original plans that had been designed by Tom Hoblyn in association with the original steering group and consultation with the community, highlighting the 'faux' wetland and quiet/sensory areas.

Cllr Smith stated that he is not in favour of diverting funds away from the 'faux' wetland area/sensory area. Whilst there are cut paths within the plans these are not necessarily accessible to disabled people using wheelchairs during the wet months of the year. £950 is ring fenced from Cllr Smith's locality budget for planting of the faux wetland/sensory area.

Cllr Smith considered strongly that until decisions are taken relating to project as per the original plan that item 17 should not be considered.

It is proposed that members of the previously community field committee be invited to reconvene in September, via Zoom, for a progress update.

Decision: It was agreed that a meeting should be convened. [Action Clerk](#)

Since the meeting : TH advised that he was meeting with Cllrs Sanderson and Babraff the following Saturday, 22nd August, at the Community Field. Also present: Cllr Ruffles and Graham Hunt.

Details from that meeting will now be discussed during the pc meeting on 1st September.

16. Community Field : Seating

An offer to provide funding for two benches of the type/design detailed within the attached details has been received c.£250 each.

There is currently a sum ring fenced (donations) for seating within the community field account; another resident who has recently moved also wishes to provide a sum of money, as yet unspecified, towards the cost of seating .

Decision: The parish council appreciates and accepts the generous offer from Mr & Mrs J Ruffles. Cllr Ruffles has confirmed to Mr and Mrs Ruffles.

(Clerk's notes: Since the Meeting Cllr Ruffles has ordered the two benches, which have been paid for via internet banking: Total £537.60 (inc vat £89.60). Payment authorised by Cllr Stokes

Benches (flat packs) collected 28 August by Cllr Ruffles.

Cheque received from Mr and Mrs Ruffles 29 August for the sum of £448.00 towards cost of the two benches:

Action *Letter of thanks to Mr and Mrs Ruffles* [Action Clerk](#))

17. Proposal from Cllr Ruffles: To enclose play area at Community Field

We need to move this project forward and hopefully complete the project, as so far we have made very good progress but do now need to finish matters as far as we can.

Over time I have received endless praise from parents whose children use the very popular play equipment, but one subject which keeps coming up, is the question why is the play area not fenced off, as parents feel this would give a sense of security that children were in an enclosed area and could not wander off, added into this dogs and other wild animals which at present can enter this area, and finally not forgetting stray footballs, which can come at a considerable speed when hit by an adult from the nearby football pitch. Looking at children's play areas across the country it is normal practice that these areas are fenced off.

item 17. Play area fencing proposal contd.

Proposal: That a sum of £5112.60 (ex vat) is allocated from funds in the community field account, a quotation provided by Cllr Sanderson is attached, which is for similar steel fencing already around the play area on the playing field, and that once the fencing is erected that a ban on dogs entering the play area is put in place.

Please note: See attachment page 6

1. Please refer to attached information which clearly details why the play area is not enclosed, plus additional details.
2. The play equipment is the responsibility of, maintained and insured by, the BPFA

Although given consideration, the reasons detailed within item 1 were not accepted by the majority as sufficient grounds for refusing this proposal. Cllr Babraffs and Sanderson considered/explained several contrary views to those detailed within the item 1.

As health and safety is the issue being considered Cllr Stokes raised the point about the dangers of being hit by footballs behind the goals. He raised the requirement for a H&S risk assessment to be required by the parish council from BPFA/Football Club.

Vote: 5 in favour; 2 against

Cllr Smith voted against the proposal because he considers if a fence is required it should be separately funded and not connected in any way to the funds currently held for the project.

Cllr Stokes voted against the proposal: does not object to the fencing but considers that funding should not be taken from the grant to fund the fencing as this is the BPFA responsibility.

Decision: That dogs urinating against the play equipment/defecating within the play area is a serious health risk to children and that on the grounds of health and safety the area will be surrounded by fencing and dogs will not be permitted within the area.

Dogs will continue to be permitted on other areas of the Community Field.

The decision re funding/whether it will be permissible for funds to be drawn from the lottery grant is **not confirmed.**

18. *Proposal submitted by Cllr Clough - Item withdrawn*

19. *Proposal submitted by Cllr Ruffles*

Fireworks Display October 31st 2020 With all the village events being cancelled this year due to Coronavirus, it has been suggested that some sort of event be organised to give villagers a little something to look forward to.

For this reason that is why a fireworks display is hopefully going to be possible on Halloween night Saturday October 31st at the Playing Field, the one aim of the event is that it must be free admission and non profit making, food and drink will be available from the Pavilion which will not be free. The School PTA has shown a willingness to be involved as well. Whilst very much guided by HM Government regulations on the virus at present, should this sort of event not be allowed it will not take place.

There is a cost involved in putting a display on, and for this reason there is a request to the parish council for a grant of £400.00 towards these costs.

Proposal for agreement in principle: That the parish council provide a grant of £400.00 towards the costs, but not given until it is certain the event can go ahead.

Note: *Cllr Ruffles is currently exploring available finance for this event in a private capacity* If the above agreement in principle is given, a formal grant application to the PC will be required by the Lead Organiser".

Cllr Ruffles had previously circulated costings of £2,500 + vat for this event (see attached) however during the meeting he indicated that the costs would be much less (the indication being that the grant required from the pc may also be reduced).

A comment re the parish council being seen to encourage an event where social distancing could be difficult did not receive a response; likewise might there be a more suitable time a little later whether there is something to celebrate rather than at the present time when things are so unpredictable?

Cllr Ruffles stated that it would be a non-profit making scheme: the Sports and Community Club would be providing food and so would have the opportunity to raise funds; the school PTA have expressed an interest in participating. The BPFA will be considering whether to take on responsibility for the 'lead' at its forthcoming meeting.

In favour: 5 Against: 2

Reasons against

Cllr Smith i. Timing is wrong

Cllr Stokes ii. Insufficient information, no 'concrete' details.

Decision: In principle the majority of the Parish Council agreed to provide a grant of up to £400 subject to appropriate/necessary requirements being met (an appropriate lead organisation).

20. Reports/Updates from Village organisations

20.1 Community Speed Watch: Have not been out for some time due to Covid-19.

Permission has now been received to hold sessions again subject to observing necessary precautions: three are willing so currently preparing to carry out sessions over the next few weeks.

Cllr Clough advised he had spare wipes that had been used on the play equipment prior to opening that he will provide to the Speedwatch team.

20.2 Bardwell Village Hall: Lease has been approved by the charity Commission through to 2067

20.3 BPFA: Cricket matches have been held during the previous 5/6 weekends.

Everybody is delighted with the new pavilion facilities

A meeting will be held on Tuesday 11th August.

21. Clerk's Report

New Code of conduct Response: The Clerk responded personally as did several councillors. It is an important document and therefore any who haven't responded are asked to do so.

There was no indication from Cllrs that they wish to submit a corporate response (as requested by SALC)

22. Questions to the Chair

Cllr Smith raised the suggestion that, having not met every month during covid-19 perhaps monthly meetings are not necessary.

Bardwell PC is the only council within the ward that meets 10 times per year.

Action: Clerk - to be included on next agenda for discussion.

23 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 1st September 2020, 7.00pm - via Zoom.

Meeting ended at 10pm

Attachments

Attachment Item 11. Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

From Angela Puiy - Suffolk Police Police Message and Cold Callers recent increase

I can see there have been several reports of :
chalk markings left near to people's houses with BSE SNT policing area mainly rural villages and not BSE town,
enquiries regarding dogs again mainly rural locations
and persons offering fish for sale again rural locations
(or a mixture of all three).

But timely reasons for the following advice:

Leaving chalk marks or signs at a site could be a modius operandi of a criminal but equally could be coincidence. Take a photograph and remove the chalk mark or emblem immediately. Report any suspicious persons or vehicles, take photographs if you are safe to do so.

Please find attached useful advice and support posters and useful links below as to who to report your concerns to regarding cold callers, passing sales persons.

A generic press release has gone out with particular advice in relation to reports of possible dog thefts. Luckily I don't think BSE SNT have suffered any.

Always encourage suspicious trading reports to

Suffolk Trading Standards Website [suffolk.gov.uk](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk) and Citizens Advice consumer Service 08082231133

Please do not engage with any sellers. Simply say "No thank you" and close your door.

Report any sightings to us via 0808 223 1133.

Here's some top tips for dealing with doorstep callers: [https://imsva91-ctp.trendmicro.com:443/wis/clicktime/v1/query?](https://imsva91-ctp.trendmicro.com:443/wis/clicktime/v1/query?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.suffolk.gov.uk%2fcommunity%2dand%2dsafety%2fsuffolk%2dtrading%2dstandards%2ffair%2dtrading%2dfrogue%2dtraders&umid=013F145E-ABAA-2D05-B2BA-E804036802CC&auth=76a36a0301cf7179612a4414203a61368905a968-28fc1f8edc4d3dfa29859f38b9ec7dca67f6dc3e)

[url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.suffolk.gov.uk%2fcommunity%2dand%2dsafety%2fsuffolk%2dtrading%2dstandards%2ffair%2dtrading%2dfrogue%2dtraders&umid=013F145E-ABAA-2D05-B2BA-E804036802CC&auth=76a36a0301cf7179612a4414203a61368905a968-28fc1f8edc4d3dfa29859f38b9ec7dca67f6dc3e](https://imsva91-ctp.trendmicro.com:443/wis/clicktime/v1/query?url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.suffolk.gov.uk%2fcommunity%2dand%2dsafety%2fsuffolk%2dtrading%2dstandards%2ffair%2dtrading%2dfrogue%2dtraders&umid=013F145E-ABAA-2D05-B2BA-E804036802CC&auth=76a36a0301cf7179612a4414203a61368905a968-28fc1f8edc4d3dfa29859f38b9ec7dca67f6dc3e)

If you would like a No Cold Callers sticker for your door, email tradingstandards@suffolk.gov.uk with your address.

Send vehicle details to Crime Stoppers 0800555111 or on line [crimestoppers.org.uk](https://www.crimestoppers.org.uk)

Or more suspicious persons On line reporting to Suffolk Constabulary Website www.suffolkpolice.uk

Or further support from the following

1st Principles Crime Prevention Advice on various topics

[Suffolk.police.uk/firstprinciple](https://www.suffolkpolice.uk/firstprinciple)

Safe Neighbourhood Team at Bury St Edmunds email address is

SNBurystedmunds@suffolk.pnn.police.uk

Suffolk Constabulary Web Site

www.suffolkpolice.uk

Information and support in relation to any police matters

www.askthe.police.uk

Attachment: RE item 17: Proposal to fence play area at Community Field

Please see detailed information below - provided by Sarah Allman who was very actively involved in the community field steering group/committee

From my and John Babraff's meeting of 18 Sept 2015 with St Edmundsbury Council's Parks Infrastructure Officer and the Operations Manager for leisure, parks and communities (Simon Collin and Damien Parker): ***Fenced play areas encourage parents to leave children unsupervised and also make children feel that they are only 'allowed' to use part of their playing field. They are a relatively recent phenomenon (brought in when all public areas were open to dogs, to keep dog mess off play areas) and now parents have got used to them.***

They also told us that in all their recent developments of public leisure spaces in the more urban areas of BSE (and they gave us other examples in, I think, Haverhill or Sudbury), they had not fenced in any of the children's areas. Instead they used natural boundaries such as small inclines, willow structures, etc. to give a sense of enclosure but without forming an actual boundary.

Within that meeting they also gave advice on the existing (i.e. older) play area relating to reducing the risk of antisocial behaviour:

We discussed the potential locations for the play area and he suggested that an area shifted along from our favoured location (i.e. towards the existing pavilion) might be worth considering as it would give greater visibility from the road - this helps allay residents' concerns about anti-social behaviour. All noted that this had not been an issue in Bardwell in the past but that with the increases in population it ought to be a consideration for the future.

So, given that we've actually experienced antisocial behaviour on the Community Field, I'd suggest that anything that reduces visibility is not to be encouraged.

The main reason that the older play area **was** fenced in was because - contrary to the community's wishes - it was moved to an area directly adjacent to the car park and the road. Parents that John and I spoke to within our advisory panel had expressed their desire for the play area to be located away from both these areas **and** to be visible from the new pavilion but, unfortunately, the then BPFA committee decided to ignore them.

Coincidentally, I've just walked into the village with a friend who has a 5 yr old and I raised it with her without telling her why. Her response: "I don't really see why it needs to be, it is nice that you can have one on the play equipment and an older one playing football or whatever. It's not like it's near a road or anything, you can see for miles."

When I explained why I was asking her, she said that she felt it was unnecessary.

http://www.childrensplayadvisoryservice.org.uk/pdf_files/Publications/Gates%20and%20Fences%20in%20Playgrounds.pdf?document_id=1469 also gives some interesting reasons for why/why not to use fences.

This quote is also pertinent, "Young children like to play where they can see and be seen. In trying to tackle childhood obesity, our society is concentrating too much on health matters, such as diet and sessions in the gym, rather than the increasingly restricted environment." <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2006/dec/06/childrensservices.guardiansocietysupplement>

With the current focus on obesity, every effort should be made by the Parish Council to encourage children and families to use *the whole field*. Limiting the 'children's area' to one section is likely to lead to less use of other areas of the CF. I know that when I last took Ted to meet friends there, they spent as long playing a role play complicated game on and around the earth mound as they did on the play equipment.

In summary, my thoughts are that fencing in the play area on the Community Field is not necessary or desirable for the following reasons:

- It is a rural location far away from car parks and busy roads. If children run off, their carers have plenty of time/space to get to them before they can get to any danger.
- Fencing will be expensive and will need maintenance.
- Metal fencing will look dated, very municipal and out of keeping with the rural environment.
- It will potentially encourage parents to sit away from their children and therefore supervise less closely - therefore increased risk of accident/injury on the play equipment.
- If used with hedging, it will restrict visibility and thus encourage anti social behaviour.
- Dogs are not an issue in that area specifically, as they are allowed across the whole Community Field area.
- Children should be encouraged to see the whole of the CF as their space and to be able to move freely from one area to another.
- The general trend in leisure space design, even in urban environments, is to use natural features to delineate spaces and create porous boundaries.

In short, I think it will cause more problems than it solves and that the money (whether public or donated) allocated to it could be better spent.

A final note - you and the rest of the Parish Council are aware that John and I spent a great deal of time liaising and consulting with Bardwell residents as to their views/wishes on the two play areas only to then have these ignored by the then BPFA committee with regard to the older play area. This caused an erosion of trust and a lack of will to become involved again - I've had the conversation about this with friends who were very disappointed that they had given up time in the consultations only to be wilfully ignored. So, whilst I appreciate that you have taken the time to ask me for my opinion on this occasion, I will find it frustrating and disappointing if the PC decides to go ahead with fencing regardless of me making a very compelling case not to.

Information provided by Sarah Allman 28 July 2020

Clerk's Note: More information to follow

Attachment Item 17 – Costings for fencing

Community Field Bardwell

Cost estimates for Fencing around the Play Equipment

		£
FH Brundle	Fencing 89.6 metres	3,225.60
RW Engineering	Automatic gate	987.00
<u>Ivan Bailey</u>	<u>Installation</u>	<u>900.00</u>
Total		£5,112.60 ex Vat

The fencing and gate incur Vat but not installation.

The fencing cost is taken from the FH Brundle website. This company supplied the fencing for the old Play Area at the Playing Field and now surrounds the existing facility.

Ivan Bailey installed the 60 metres required for £600. This is a verbal quotation from him for the 90 metres including the gate.

**Please see agenda item 16.
Community Field Seating**



John Ruffles has kindly offered to purchase 2 benches of the type in the attached photograph.

Community Field - Offer of donation to purchase benches of the type style below: David has suggested that his father would provide the funds ex vat and the pc would then purchase.

If the pc did not consider that this style to be appropriate he may withdraw the offer: this comment is likely due to me highlighting the need for seating to be appropriate to the surrounds (I had not seen the photo at the time I made my comments) - and also thinking about longevity and vulnerability in an open space which may lead the pc to choose an alternative recycled construction - albeit these tend to be at a higher cost.

“From David: Benches: Please see photo of proposed bench attached, which is made of Oak. My Father has offered to buy a couple of these, whilst not sticking up for him, this is a kind offer and should I go back to him with reply that his preferred benches is not acceptable, don't be surprised if the offer is withdrawn.”

Additional attachments to follow

Items: Finance 8, 9, 10

items: 12.1, 12.2, 12.3: Planning (included on email as separate item)

Item 17 - Proposal to fence play area: additional information

Bardwell Parish Council

Chairman: David Ruffles

Vice Chairman: Andrew Smith