

Bacton Parish Council

MINUTES

of the meeting held at Bacton Village Hall, on

Monday 12th December 2022 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: David Chambers (Chairman), Philip Jeffries, Vanessa Kingsley, Graham Macausland, Gail Wigglesworth and Paul Wigglesworth

In attendance: Maximilian Clay - Clerk to the Council
District Cllr Mellen and County Cllr Stringer
Three members of the public

Dec22-1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Robert Black and Bernard Coxhead, and the Council resolved to approve the reasons.

Dec22-2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation considerations

No declarations were made.

Dec22-3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Council resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on the 14th November were a true record and that the Chairman be authorised to sign them as such.

Dec22-4. District & County Councillor Reports

a. District Cllr Mellen reported that his locality fund is now exhausted; Bacton (in the form of the Parish Council for Jubilee events, the football club, the Horticultural Society and the church's warm spaces initiative) had been the recipient of several payments which, given that it is the largest village in the ward, seemed appropriate.

District Cllr Mellen went on to report two other matters. The district Council has:

- published a summary of its budget and work which is balanced and worth looking at;
- started work on a review of all of its 3,000+ social housing stock to ensure that it is satisfactory in relation to damp, following recent events in Rochdale.

b. County Councillor Stringer reported that he had met the contractors involved in the closure of Turkey Hall Lane and felt that this had been helpful. He went on to report that the County Deal had been signed and that, although the sum of £560m had been allocated to the county, this was to be paid over a 30 year period and so, of itself, the sum was not hugely significant - it was less than the sum cut from the County budget over the last decade. However, in other places, initial deals had also opened up further funding streams. An elected leader role will be introduced and the election for that role will take place a year before the election of the Council. Although this role will not carry the title of mayor, there will be a mayoral development Office.

Finally, C Cllr Stringer pointed out no final decision had been reached in relation to medical provision in the village. He felt that a confidential meeting with Councillors and him and D Cllr Mellen would be helpful and would allow for the sharing of information that is not in the public realm as yet. It was resolved to set this up in the new year.

Dec22-5. Public Forum

A member of the public made observations about the proposed crossing over the railway (Discharge of conditions application to be considered at Item 8.a.i, below). This has to be agreed by the 23rd of March and at present she felt that there is a lack of understanding of the purpose and likely use of the crossing. The developer's agents state that the only purpose of the crossing is to reach the football club, whereas the path has been in existence since before the football club existed and is used for other purposes, included as an established link between the two settlements of Bacton and Cotton (Bacton also being the local service centre for

Cotton). The agents also refer to the path of the east of the railway as a permissive route whereas it is an established public right of way. The speaker felt that it was important that the status of this route was not degraded and made two other points. The first was that it is not clear from the plans whether the steps up to the line will be retained (these are important as the line itself cannot be seen clearly until someone is at the top of the steps). The second point was that the agents state that there has been extensive engagement with key stakeholder whereas she was unaware of any consultation with either the Parish Council or with residents. The Chairman called on C Cllr Stringer to contribute. C Cllr Stringer informed the meeting that Network Rail had wanted a bridge or traffic light system but that, because of the cost (running in to several hundred thousand pounds) this had been deemed disproportionate. He went on to say that the comment about access being only to the football club seemed to have been lifted from the original committee report but that this point had been challenged and corrected at the time; this fact seems not have been noticed by the developer's agent. The County Council had objected to the closure of the crossing and had felt that the insertion of a fence would improve safety. Should Network Rail object, then the County Council would have to overrule them, from a Public Rights of Way perspective. C Cllr Stringer explained that the plan that had been approved was to have a fence and gated access for the path across the railway line and so this is the default position that will be implemented if no other decision is agreed in the meantime.

Dec22-6. Traffic Calming

The Chairman explained that he and other Councillors had had a meeting with C Cllr Stringer and a representative of Highways who, after initially being very open to proposals, had subsequently raised a number of issues, some of which were not relevant, but the main outcome had been that full traffic surveys would be needed in order to build the case for the type of measures that are desired.

The Chairman invited C Cllr Stringer to contribute. C Cllr Stringer felt that the volume of traffic should be considered to be of at least equal significance as the speed of traffic and felt that full surveys that included all relevant data on all the relevant roads (carried out after the various road disruptions associated with current housing developments) would be a necessary lever in achieving the right measures. C Cllr Stringer informed the meeting that Highways had confirmed that data collected by a suitably qualified contractor would be as acceptable as the data that Highways own surveys would produce and stated that he would be willing to contribute to the process from his budget.

It was resolved to carry out full surveys (at a likely cost of £200 per data set) after traffic patterns had returned to normal and the matter will be brought back to a future meeting to finalise arrangements.

Dec22-7. Land for potential Community Building Use South of Birch Avenue

The previous meeting had heard that the developer of the land south of Birch Avenue, had applied for consent to re-designate the area of land earmarked for community development as an area of open space, despite the fact that the Council had previously registered its wish to take up the option for future community development use. The re-designation had become potentially possible because the District Council had not completed the necessary steps to register the stated wish of the Parish Council to earmark the land for this purpose.

D Cllr Mellen informed the meeting that discussions were in progress which he felt confident would keep the site earmarked for community use. The Clerk asked for confirmation that this would include the laying on of services to the site as this was one of the main benefits of the previously agreed arrangement and, if not included, would lead to a significant amount of expense for the Parish Council at such time as it wished to develop the site for community use. D Cllr Mellen explained that he was not sure about this and the Chairman asked him to obtain assurances that the provision of links to the utility network would not be jeopardised. D Cllr Mellen undertook to highlight the issue with Officers.

Dec22-8. Planning

a. Responses to Application Consultations:

- i. **DC/22/05376 - DC/22/06029 - Land South of Birch Avenue, Bacton:** *Application for Discharge of S106 Obligation relating to DC/21/03292 regarding the BLCMS required by Schedule 2, Part 3, 1,1.1.* There was a discussion of the safety aspects of an un-signalled crossing but as it was understood that there was no possibility of any safety mitigation, beyond the installation of the fence and gates, it was resolved to raise no objection.
- ii. **DC/22/05965 - Land South of Birch Avenue, Bacton:** *Application for a Non-Material Amendment relating to DC/21/03292 - Amendments to house-types for Plots 15, 17, 24, 31, 43-47, 59, 64 and 78.* It was resolved to raise no objection.
- iii. **DC/22/05753 - Land on the West Side of Broad Road, Bacton:** *Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/19/00646- Condition 15 (Construction Management) and Condition 16 (Construction Environmental Management Plan).* It was resolved to raise no objection.
- iv. **DC/22/05658 - 6 North Close Bacton:** *Householder Application - Erection of single storey rear extension.* It was resolved to raise no objection but to highlight the apparent error in the design regarding the pitch of the roof which appears inadequate to bear the weight of the proposed tiles.

Dec22-9. Facilities at Meetings

- a. In discussion it was agreed that it would be very useful to have access to the internet during meetings, especially for planning matters and it was also felt that this would be very likely to attract additional types of booking to the Hall. Following a brief discussion it was resolved to suggest the installation of a broadband service with Wi-Fi be installed at the Hall and it was further resolved to agree the principle of a grant towards the cost, should the Village Hall Committee be willing to go ahead with the proposal. It was also resolved to suggest the installation of an outdoor tap, to facilitate the planting works undertaken by volunteers, and the principle of covering the whole of the reasonable cost of this work was also agreed.
- b. The idea of acquiring and fitting a large-screen television to the rear of the stage in the Village Hall, for the display of meeting papers and planning documents, was discussed. The Clerk reported that the cost of screens varies from around £800 for a 75" screen to around £1,400 for an 85" screen but that it was often possible to spend a little less than this as there were frequent discounts and offers. In discussion it was agreed that the largest screen possible, and within reason, would be necessary and it was resolved that, subject to the agreement of the Village Hall committee to the idea, an 85" model would be acquired.

The Clerk would write to the Committee setting out the ideas and proposals and seeking their agreement.

Dec22-10. Finance

- a. **Receipts and Payments** - The schedule of receipts and payments was received and it was resolved to approve the payments.
- b. **Budget** - The draft budget had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The Chairman welcomed the revised format which contained less detail but clearer information that, along with the helpful explanatory commentary, would be more useful in meetings. In discussion various ideas were considered including a £15,000 increase in the line for fixed assets to cover the addition of a roundabout and see-saw at the play area, potentially using CIL funds and the addition of a note regarding the exploration of further streetlighting and its funding from CIL funds. It was also noted that grants for play equipment are available but that consultation with the public would be necessary to confirm needs, prior to applying. The draft budget will be revised and come forward as the final draft for approval at the January meeting.

Dec22-11. Working Group Reports

- a. **Neighbourhood Plan**

It was agreed to try to fix meetings on the afternoon preceding the next meeting, 16th January 2023.

- b. **Events** - The Clerk informed the meeting that the Pageantmaster had been in touch to say that Beacons will not be lit for the coronation but that it is planned to light them to mark the 80th anniversary of D-day on the 6th June 2024. There was nothing else to report at this stage.
- c. **Green Spaces** - Finalisation of registration of the village greens is still awaited, due to backlogs at the Land registry.
- d. **Recreational and Play Area Working Group and the Work of the Warden**

The Working Group had looked at play equipment and recommended to the Council that the two-cradle swing be replaced. The Cost will be £2,580, installed, plus VAT and the Council agreed to approve the purchase and installation.

There has been further damage to the fence at St Mary's playing field and the Working Group recommended replacement with heavier gauge wire and properly tensioned chain link. It was agreed to obtain quotes for consideration at the next meeting.

Some trees are in need of having their crowns raised and Cllr Macausland offered to undertake this work as a volunteer. The Council resolved to accept this offer.

The Cemetery was in good order and the Garden of Reflection had been cut - the borders will be trimmed when weather permits. Paint had been obtained for the goal posts and application also awaits fine weather. Litter-picking had been undertaken across the village.

Holes are still appearing in the dog exercise area and the Warden is keeping an eye on this.

The Warden reports that residents of Cow Green have expressed gratitude that a plan has been agreed to tidy-up the green and pond.

The Council discussed arrangements for disposing of vegetation cuttings. The Chair will contact the Bacton Charities to see whether it may be possible to use an allotment for composting or burning. Grit spreading was also discussed and it was agreed to purchase a hand pushed grit spreader for pavements.

Dec22-12.Councillors' Items for Future Agendas and Reports Relating to Meetings

Cllrs Chambers, Jeffries and P Wigglesworth had met the developer at Beacon Green, to consider the siting of the Beacon and the design of its plinth. Taylor Wimpey had kindly undertaken to make up drawings of the site and design ready for submission for planning permission. This will include a circular plinth and a choice of energy sources. The Council expressed its gratitude to Taylor Wimpey.

The Clerk reported that the County Council's ANPR speed device officer had telephoned just before the meeting to say that the lens of the device that had been deployed in the village had had its lens spray painted and the post had been pushed over - this was not unique to Bacton and appears to be part of a campaign. Cllr Jeffries mentioned that he had received a suggestion from someone who had visited Scotland who had seen inflatable models of speed-checking police officers and who had thought that this may be an idea for Bacton.

Correspondence had been received from a resident expressing concern about the danger created by the level of parking outside The Bull - this has made exiting the car park safely difficult. The parking of cars partly on the pavement is forcing pedestrians, especially those with push chairs, onto the road creating further danger. The Clerk will contact the Bull to request that they ask customers not to park on the pavement.

Councillor Jeffries noted that the Christmas tree and lights, and indeed the whole village, was looking very attractive.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm.

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council

Chairman

Date