

Bacton Parish Council

MINUTES

of the meeting held at Bacton Village Hall, on
Monday 16th January 2023 at 7.00pm

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

In attendance: Maximilian Clay - Clerk to the Council
County Cllr Stringer

Jan23-1. Apologies for Absence

All Members were present and so there were no apologies.

Jan23-2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation considerations

No declarations were made.

Jan23-3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Council resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on the 12th December 2022 were a true record and that the Chairman be authorised to sign them as such.

Jan23-4. District & County Councillor Reports

- a. District Cllr Mellen was unable to attend but had submitted a written report which was received by the Council.
- b. County Councillor Stringer made an oral report. In response to a question about the land designated for community use at the Bellways development south of Birch Avenue and the provision of services to it, C Cllr Stringer said that he was confident that the issue would be resolved satisfactorily and would follow it up in liaison with D Cllr Mellen.

Jan23-5. Public Forum

No Matters were raised.

Jan23-6. Planning

a. Planning Application Consultations

There were no applications to consider.

b. Updates on Applications Considered at Previous Meetings

i. DC/22/05376 - St Mary's Church, Bacton:

Construction of metal handrailings to footbridge (replacing existing); Erection of 'Welcome' sign. Approved

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. Approved.

iii. DC/22/05658 - 6 North Close Bacton:

Householder Application - Erection of single storey rear extension. Approved.

- c. This matter had been dealt with under Item 4.b, above.

Jan23-7. Finance

- a. **Receipts and Payments** - The schedule of receipts and payments was received and it was resolved to approve the payments.
- b. **Final Draft Budget for 2023-24** - The revised draft budget had been circulated in advance of the meeting. In discussion it was noted that further land would come under the management of the Council as some of the developments completed during 2023/24 but it was agreed that, as most of this would be likely to take place in the following year, the

budget was sufficient to allow for any in-year increases in the associated maintenance costs. Following brief discussion of the Coronation events planned (and dealt with in greater details under item 8.b, below) it was resolved to increase the budget for events by £1,500 but otherwise to adopt the Budget for 2023/24 as drafted. The adopted Final Budget forms part of these minutes and is attached to them.

c. Precept 2023/24

A range of options had been circulated prior to the meeting. In discussion it was agreed that it would be important to ensure that the growth in income to the Council kept pace with the expanding population, as the need for services would continue to grow but that, in the light of the cost of living crisis, an increase below inflation would be highly desirable. Accordingly the Council resolved on a precept of £34,867 which would limit the increase in the Council's element of Council Tax on a Band D property to about 10p per week.

Jan23-8. Working Group Reports

- a. Events** - It was reported that the PCC of St Mary's had been in discussion about events to mark the Coronation but that it had not yet decided on matters. The Council noted that the coronation of the monarch is a civil event and that, as communication from His Majesty's Pageantmaster made clear, it was expected that civil parishes would take the lead on events to mark the occasion. It was hoped that any events that St Mary's staged would complement the Council's events.

The Council agreed that it was important that it took this responsibility seriously and so it was proposed to hold two events on the day of the coronation (6th May 2023) - a tea party in the afternoon and a celebratory concert in the evening. The venue, subject to availability and agreement by the school, would be the school playing fields, with a marquee to be used and admission to both events to be free. However, tickets would be issued in order to manage numbers. The council resolved to adopt the proposal for these arrangements

- b. Village Greens** - It was noted that work on Cow Green would start at the end of the month.

c. Recreational and Play Area Working Group and the Work of the Warden

The new two-cradle swing had been scheduled for replacement later this month.

The old chain-link fence at St Mary's playing field had been removed by the Warden and Cllr Macausland, as this would help to keep the price replacement lower than otherwise. Quotations for the replacement, using properly tensioned and heavier gauge wire, were reported and it was resolved to appoint Clarke Fencing Ltd to undertake the work at a cost of up to £900.

The Group had recommended to Council the purchase of a roundabout and see-saw to complement the existing range of play equipment and this had been agreed at a previous meeting. A total cost of up to £15,000 had been included in the 2023/24 budget and it was agreed that Cllr Macausland would research accessible equipment and report back to the Council with recommendations as to the specific equipment.

Members of the public were continuing to allow dogs onto the open playing field, rather than using the fenced dog exercise area. It was agreed to explore the process for introducing a by-law to forbid this and the Clerk will report back to a future meeting.

Jan23-9. Councillors' Items for Future Agendas and Reports Relating to Meetings

Cllr Jeffries reported that he had been asked about the use of the ponds within the Beacon Green development site for the purpose of model yacht sailing. The Clerk responded that the ponds did not form part of the land of which the Council would be taking ownership and that it would therefore be up to the land owner, rather than the Council - although it was also noted that as the ponds are for flood attenuation they will be empty most of the time.

The meeting closed at 8.51pm.

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council

Chairman

