

Bacton Parish Council

MINUTES

of the meeting held at Bacton Village Hall, on

Monday 11th July 2022 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: David Chambers (Chairman), Bernard Coxhead, Philip Jeffries, Graham Macausland, Gail Wigglesworth, Paul Wigglesworth.

In attendance: Maximilian Clay - Clerk to the Council
District Cllr Mellen (part)
One member of the public

July22-1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Black and Kingsley and the Council resolved to approve the reasons.

July22-2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation considerations

There were no declarations of interest.

July22-3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Council resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on the 13th June were a true record and that the Chairman be authorised to sign them as such.

July22-4. District & County Councillor Reports

a. District Cllr Mellen had submitted a written report and added that the situation with lorries passing through the village had been causing a considerable level of complaints. Some of this traffic had been stopped by enforcement action pending the approval of the Construction Management Plan (now approved) but some unrelated lorry movements were caused by hauliers taking shortcuts. The District Council was taking steps to ensure that lorries adhere to the designated routes. In response to a question, D Cllr Mellen informed the meeting that the Middle School site had now been sold to a developer.

b. County Councillor Stringer had sent apologies due to illness but had submitted a written report which the Clerk read to the meeting. C Cllr Stringer had also forwarded an email in response to the Clerk's query about traffic calming through the village. The latter indicated that the cost for only the design of speed-reducing raised tables had been quoted at over £10,000 but that Highways had also stated that as two of the proposed sites for the raised tables were in areas without street lighting, they would not be suitable; C Cllr Stringer had asked that designs be provided for four tables nonetheless.

In discussion this price was felt to be excessive and unjustifiable and that alternatives should be sought if this is possible. It was also agreed that the possibility of chicane type speed reduction should be investigated with Highways as the general opinion was that these would be a more effective measure than raised tables.

In the absence of C Cllr Stringer, D Cllr Mellen undertook to find out whether design and eventual construction work could be undertaken by anyone other than Highways or their contractors and, if so, how such work would mesh with Highways' overall oversight processes. If it is possible and feasible for the work to be carried out by other contractors, quotations will be sought for discussion at a future meeting.

July22-5. Public Forum

No matters were raised.

July22-6. Planning

a. **Responses to Application Consultations:**

i. DC/22/03042 - Unit 1, Red House Farm, Rectory Road, Bacton:

Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use, Operation or Activity including those in breach of a planning condition. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 - Use of the land and premises for the refurbishment of portable accommodation units, without compliance with Condition 3 of Planning Permission 1066/02.

After lengthy discussion about the application, it was resolved to object to the change of hours of operation. It was also noted that other aspects of the original conditions should be enforced.

ii. DC/22/03120 - Householder Application and DC22/03/03121 Listed Building Consent - The Cottage, Broad Road, Bacton:

Erection of single storey extensions (following removal of glazed structure) and alterations as per Heritage/ Design and Access Statement.

The Council resolved to raise no objection.

iii. DC/22/03234 - New Haven, The Street, Bacton:

Application for a Non-Material Amendment relating to DC/21/05878 - Addition of bay window at front of house with pitched roof.

It was felt that the proposed change represented an improvement on the original as it introduced variety into the elevation. However, it was noted that the drawings also contained other changes which did not appear to be part of the application. The changes included altered fenestration and an increase in the overall height of the building. These changes were not considered problematic but it was resolved to point out the additional changes presented in the drawing, while raising no objections.

iv. DC/22/03419 - The Crescent, Rectory Road, Bacton:

Householder Planning Application - Erection of extension to the West Elevation to form a Bedroom (Project 1) and an extension to the South elevation to form a dining area (Project 2)

After brief discussion it was resolved to raise no objection.

b. The Council noted the following updates on applications considered previously:

i. DC/22/01545 - Land North West of Rectory Road, Bacton

Full Planning - Erection of 5 No dwellings, associated landscaping and new access. Refused

ii. DC/22/02381 - Mildmay Lodge. Pound Hill, Bacton

Severance of garden and erection of 1 No detached self build bungalow and off road parking using access from existing drive (following demolition of outbuilding). Refused.

July22-7. Bacton Fayre – Stall Display

Cllr Jeffries had arranged for Patrick Barker to produce some materials and it was agreed to use the parish magazine article about the Queen's platinum jubilee celebrations as a piece showing the way in which the Council works to support community in the village. Pictures of councillors had been taken prior to the meeting for use on the 'Your Councillors' display and all material would be sent to Cllr Coxhead for laminating on A3 sheets.

July22-8. War Memorial Conservation

The Council agreed that the memorial needed specialist cleaning and restoration of some lettering. It was agreed to obtain quotations for this work.

July22-9. Christmas Lights Switch-on

It was resolved to have the switch-on on the Saturday before the start of Advent, to leave them on until twelfth night and to set aside up to £400 to cover the cost of any replacement bulbs and the costs of the contractor, using a cherry-picker, to install and strike the lights.

July22-10. Welcome Pack

Following previous discussions, it was reported that the PCC would be happy to increase the print run of the magazine to accommodate free distribution to new residents for their first

year, at a cost of £3 per annum to the Council. The Council resolved to move ahead with this initiative.

July22-11. Finance & Governance

a. Receipts and Payments

The schedule of receipts and payments was received and the Council resolved to approve the payments.

b. Internal Audit

It was noted that the internal audit had been completed, with no adverse comment, just in time for the submission of the AGAR and that the auditor's full report would be presented to the next meeting.

July22-12. Working Group Reports

a. Neighbourhood Plan

The Working group had submitted a written update in advance of the meeting and the Council resolved to adopt the actions proposed by the group.

b. Community Events - The Bacton Fayre had been discussed earlier in the meeting and there was nothing further to report

c. Village Greens – The Working Group would approach Suffolk Wildlife for advice on how to address the overgrowth and maintenance of the pond at Cow Green, once the grass had been cut. Finding a willing contractor with the right equipment to undertake this work continued to be difficult.

It was noted that the Garden Club had been responsible for the pre-Platinum Jubilee planting around the Village Hall and the Council expressed its thanks to the Club.

d. Road Safety – The speeding figures continue to cause alarm. The Clerk had followed up on the plans for traffic calming as reported at Item 4, above, and would continue to follow up the matter.

e. Cemetery – Information would be sought about what other cemeteries do when monuments become dangerous but the surviving relatives do not take action or are not known. It was agreed that a meeting of the working group would be held after the summer holidays to draft an amendment to Plot contracts to state that monuments will be removed for reasons of safety if they pose a safety risk.

July22-13. Councillors' Items for Future Agendas and Reports Relating to Meetings

No matters were raised.

Reserved Business

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press were excluded from the meeting at this point, due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

July22-14. Staffing

The Chairman reported that the Clerk had resigned due to an unexpected re-location away from Suffolk. His official end date would be the 11th of August 2022 but he had expressed willingness to continue to cover as much as possible of the work until a successor was appointed and this offer was gratefully accepted by the Council. The role would be advertised and it was resolved that the Staff Working Group be mandated to establish the selection process, interview candidates and make a recommendation to the Council as to appointment.

The meeting closed at 9.13pm

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council

Chairman

Date