

# Bacton Parish Council

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## MINUTES

of the meeting held at Bacton Village Hall, on  
**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Councillors: David Chambers (Chairman), Robert Black, Bernard Coxhead, Philip Jeffries and Vanessa Kingsley.

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

### **Oct22-1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Graham Macausland, Gail Wigglesworth and Paul Wigglesworth and the Council resolved to approve the reasons.

### **Oct22-2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation considerations**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **Oct22-3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Council resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on the 11<sup>th</sup> July were a true record and that the Chairman be authorised to sign them as such.

### **Oct22-4. District & County Councillor Reports**

**a.** District Cllr Mellen had submitted a written report and highlighted that the Joint Local Plan and Housing Land Supply Statement had proved to need further work and would go to consultation in November. There was some doubt as whether the plan would complete all its stages before the election purdah period, which would place it on hold until after the May elections. The draft housing land supply figures were 7 years for Babergh and 10.5 years for Mid Suffolk.

**b.** County Cllr Stringer had submitted a written report and highlighted that a new officer had been designated to deal with the ongoing highways safety issues in Bacton and would be attending the village on the 27<sup>th</sup> October.

Cllr Stringer was asked whether there was any progress on the footpath under the railway bridge and he reported that the only requirement on the part of the developer was that the path should be in place before the occupation of the first house on the was occupied.

### **Oct22-5. Public Forum**

No matters were raised.

### **Oct22-6. Planning**

#### **a. Responses to Application Consultations:**

##### **i. DC/22/04897: Armlea, Rectory Road, Bacton**

*Erection of single storey rear extension and two storey rear/side extensions.*

After brief discussion the Council resolved to raise no objection to the proposal.

##### **ii DC/22/05062: Almondell Cottage, Church Road, Bacton**

*Householder Application - Erection of detached cart lodge.*

In discussion, the primary with concern was that the proposed building would sit in front of the building line and on this basis it was resolved to object.

### **Oct22-7. Insurance**

Insurance arrangements for the coming year were reviewed and it was resolved to continue to insure under the three year agreement with Royal Sun Alliance Insurance (via Community Action Suffolk) entered into in 2020, at a cost of £339.15.

### **Oct22-8. Finance**

**a. Receipts and Payments** - The schedule of receipts and payments was received and the Council resolved to approve the schedule of payments.

**b. Internal Auditor's Report** - The Council received the report.

### **Oct22-9. Traffic Calming**

A lengthy discussion covered the lack of progress on the part of Highways, which was felt to be unsatisfactory, and discussions with a potential alternative provider. As both the Clerk and Chair would be away on the 27<sup>th</sup> October (see minute 4.b, above) representation of the Council was sought from amongst Members to attend the meeting in the village. In the meantime the Council resolved to allocate up to £1,000 to be spent on alternative outline plans.

### **Oct22-10. Working Group Reports**

#### **a. Neighbourhood Plan**

Presentations by two Neighbourhood Planning Consultants were in course of being arranged, with the 7<sup>th</sup> November being a possible date.

**b. Village Greens** – An updated report from the Working Group had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Arising from the proposals in that paper, and following discussion, the Council resolved to:

- ♦ accept quotations from Al Tree Services for works at Cow Green (£3,140 plus VAT) and Shop Green (£1,070);
- ♦ include the Garden of Reflection in the remit of the working group;
- ♦ add the cutting of Cow Green and the Garden of Reflection to the grass-cutting contract for 2023/24 (to be reviewed later this year);
- ♦ ratify the decision to remove the broken bench Tailors Green and replace it (£162.46 plus VAT).
- ♦ Commission works to cut back the hedging at the cemetery that has become overgrown.

The positioning of the Beacon at Beacon Green was also discussed and it was resolved to seek to have this placed at the eastern end of the site. The Clerk would write to Taylor Wimpey to identify the siting and to ask if they would install it with a brick plinth and power, subject to planning consent.

**c. Road Safety** – The speeding figures continue to be a matter of great concern but it was hoped that the various ongoing efforts aimed at achieving satisfactory traffic-calming would improve matters. The Council resolved a vote of thanks to Robbie Wilson for his ongoing efforts in monitoring and recording the speeding through the village.

**d. The Work of the Warden** – The Council received a report of the Warden's work and resolved to approve the purchase of trolley to facilitate removal of waste, from sites where the Warden works, at a cost of £153.74 plus VAT.

**e. Coronation** - The Council noted that the date of the coronation had been announced and decided to place discussion of this on a future agenda.

### **Oct22-11. Councillors**

**a. Co-option of a councillor** - The Clerk informed the meeting that a candidate had come forward and that a Zoom meeting would be arranged to enable councillors to meet him.

**b. Councillor Training** - The Council considered provision of training for councillors by the outgoing clerk and resolved to arrange this for after the May 2023 elections, so that all ongoing councillors could be included.

### **Oct22-12. Land at Bacton Green**

The Clerk confirmed that, following email consultation with members, he had responded to the notification from the land registry to confirm that the council had no objection to the application, subject to any existing rights-of-way being maintained.

### **Oct22-13. Grant Request**

The Council considered a grant request from Bacton Football Club in relation to improvements to their grounds, in the light of growth in the village and the concomitant increase in the amount of football being planned for the ground. Following discussion, it was resolved to allocate £5,000 of CIL funds to the project, as underwriting against any shortfall in funding arising from the Club's application for funding from the Football Association.

### **Oct22-14. Parish Boundaries**

The Clerk reported that following the Council's suggestion to the Local Governance Review that the boundaries of the palace be extended to include the old middle school site, the district council had contacted Wyverstone Parish Council (WPC). It had been anticipated that an initial discussion would be initiated by the district council prior to any other action and, as this had not happened, WPC was understandably disgruntled when they were informed of the proposal.

The Clerk had attended a meeting with WPC and had apologised on behalf of the Council that the suggestion had come as a complete surprise. He had explained the circumstances of the suggestion, and a reasonably cordial exchange of thoughts had ensued. WPC would be resisting the change and felt that the suggestion had ignored the fact that several years ago the two PCs had worked together in relation to the middle school site.

The Clerk explained to Council that WPC's position would probably mean that the suggestion went no further.

### **Oct22-15. Councillors' Items for Future Agendas and Reports Relating to Meetings**

Cllr jeffries reported that it was planned to place soldier silhouettes in scattered positions around the village to mark remembrance and that a wreath would be ordered for placing on the village memorial.

Two matters were raised for future discussion: electricity costs associated with the Christmas tree lights and matters relating to St Mary's Field.

### **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.*

### **Oct22-16. Staffing**

The Staffing Working Group made a recommendation as to an appointment to replace the outgoing clerk and this was agreed by the Council, as were the practical arrangements relating to the appointment.

*[Post hoc note - The candidate withdrew and so no appointment was made.]*

**The meeting closed at 8.49pm.**

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council

Chairman

Date