

Bacton Parish Council

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting

held at Bacton Village Hall, on

Monday 13th November 2023 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: Julie Bonner, David Chambers (Chairman), Vanessa Kingsley, John Kingsley, Graham MacAusland, James Steed, Gail Wigglesworth, and Paul Wigglesworth.

In Attendance: Suzy Lupin - Clerk, District Councillor Mellen, County Cllr Stringer and 7 members of public.

Nov 13-1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence

Nov 13-2. Declaration of Interest and Dispensation Considerations

A non Pecuniary declaration from Cllr MacAusland was received by the Clerk and approved by the Council.

Nov 13-3. Minutes of previous meetings

The Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th October 2023 were a true record and that the chairman be authorised to sign them as such.

Nov 13-4. District & County Councillor Reports

a. District Cllr Mellen had submitted a written report which was received by the Council. D Cllr Mellen highlighted that 'The Cosy Homes' scheme had launched on 15th November to enable households to apply for grants towards home energy savings. See warmhomessuffolk.org for more information.

A new working group has formed to review sustainable transport measures particularly in rural areas.

Due to covid and lack of funding a large backlog of council home repairs were identified. A proportion of the works were being contracted out so the day-to-day repairs could be covered by the in-house team.

The Locality awards were still available for local groups or organisations to apply for up to £250.

b. County Cllr Stringer had submitted a written report which was received by the Council. C Cllr Stringer highlighted the need for supporting local farmers and food suppliers, and will endeavour to encourage where ever possible Suffolk residents to buy local produce. This in turn will support the local economy and tackle the county's environmental priorities.

Suffolk County Council are keen to hear from resident, businesses and local community on how to spend money next year, this will be achieved through a number of focus groups enabling all to have their say. The online survey can be found via smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Budget24_25/

Nov 13-5. Public Forum - None to report

Item 9 brought forward

Nov 13-9. Flooding Risks

Residents attending the meeting were very concerned about the flooding issues continually affecting the village. D Cllr Mellen reported that works had been completed under the railway bridge to solve the flooding problems there. Flushing out of gullies and pipe work were carried out along Pound Hill, identifying areas of water flow, which will prove helpful for future issues.

D Cllr Mellen advised that poor ditch maintenance and in some cases where ditches have been completely filled were increasing the levels of water due to poor drainage. He pointed out that the County Council has produced a guide to Riparian rights and obligations to land owners. A copy of this guide is published on the Parish Website (bacton-pc.gov.uk) and can be made available on request via the Clerk. For resident's properties that have been damaged by floods, there is a link on the Parish Website to apply for help.

C Cllr Stringer outlined the problems connected to the new development site off Broad Road. Two homes were flooded as the developers had filled in a nearby ditch with earth, which again highlights the importance of keeping ditches clear throughout the village. C Cllr Stringer urged residents to check their water flow responsibilities before any works are carried out on their properties and the Parish Council will endeavour to identify sites around the village where potential water congestion may occur.

Cllr Steed reported that the drains near Pretymen Avenue and Prettys House were excessively overflowing. C Cllr Stringer advised this was due to the release of sewage water from the pumping station. He will contact Anglian Water to request the sewage works increase their capacity.

It was noted that the south side of Turkey Hall Lane had experienced high levels of flooding mixed with sewage water, especially effecting the houses right next to the development site. It was reported to Anglian Water who confirmed the sewage drain had blocked, this has now been cleared.

Nov 13-6. Planning -

a. DC/23/05077 - Community Middle School, Wyverstone Road

Reserved Matters application for Outline Planning- 50 dwellings, 3G football pitch, car parking.

The Council resolved to object to this planning application due to the following:

It was felt that 50 houses were far too many for this site, the over development does not allow for the new school, adequate parking or relevant leisure facilities.

b. i. DC/23/03916 - Land To The South West Of Nutwood, The Street

*Lawful Development Certificate for a Proposed Use/Development - (Erection of up to 5 No.detached dwellings with garages). - **Not Lawful***

ii. DC/23/03396 - The Limes Rectory Road Bacton

*Condition 5 - Repairs to timber frame. - **Granted***

iii. DC/22/05753 - Land on the West Side Broad Road, Bacton

*Condition 15 (Construction Management) and Condition 16 (Construction Environmental Management Plan) - **Granted***

iv. DC/22/01724 - Land On The West Side Broad Road Bacton

*Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/19/00646- Condition 22 (Materials). - **Withdrawn***

Nov 13-7. Finance & Governance

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

- i. Cllrs G Wigglesworth was appointed as Internal Control Auditor. A Finance Working Party was formed with Cllr Chambers, G Wigglesworth and the Clerk as members.
- ii. The Internal Half year audit report was received and approved.
- iii. A draft budget was handed out to Councillors for their review.
- iv. The Council approved for payroll to be completed by SALC.
- v. After discussion it was resolved for the individual Working Groups to review and approve the risk assessments.
- vi. After discussion it was resolved to continue to adopt the current Code of Conduct for Councillors (adopted by all principle authorities in Suffolk and viewed as a national code).
- vii. After discussion it was resolved to upgrade the Bacton Parish Hosting to the gold package at a cost of £45.94.
- viii. The Council approved the Clerk to attend the SALC Local Council Conference (£12).
- ix. The Council approved the Clerk to attend the ICCM Cemetery Management and Compliance course (£135).

Nov 13-8. Taylors Green Ditch - After discussion the Council approved to support Cllr MacAusland in applying to the County Council to pipe the ditch situated on his land.

Nov 13-9. Flooding Risk - Recorded after item 5.

Nov 13-10. Appointment of Vice Chair- The Council is pleased to appoint Cllr V Kingsley to the position of Vice-Chair to represent Bacton Parish Council.

Nov 13-11. Working Group Reports

a. Events: Cllr P Wigglesworth reported that Remembrance Day was well attended by 151 residents. Cllr Chambers extended his thanks to the PCC and Bacton's Royal British Legion who worked hard to arrange this very important event.

b. Village Greens: The Christmas Tree arrangements were finalised and approved to decorate the Scots Pine Tree at Shop Green with 2000 lights bought in last year's budget. Ai Tree Services has generously donated their time and equipment to put up the lights. Further illuminations will be added to Tailors Green and Cow Green.

Cllr MacAusland put forward a suggestion for future Christmas arrangements to purchase a rooted tree to be planted on Taylors Green. The budget for this spend will be set at a future date.

A report was read by Cllr J Kingsley who advised the Council that the water quality at Cow Green was in question. He has arranged a meeting with Patrick Barker who looks after Bacton Green's Stewardship land to discuss if any further action is needed.

Cllr V Kingsley reported that the signs at Shop Green were being constantly knocked down. The Council resolved to purchase four additional signs with metal supports from The Forge.

The sign at Taylors Green is rotten, the Clerk will look in to having it replaced.

c. Recreation and Play Area - Cllr MacAusland advised the Council that the weather has delayed the building of a new fence to prevent dog walkers from accidentally walking onto the recreation playing field.

d. The Work of the Village Warden - A verbal report was received and it was noted that there is still a problem with dogs being allowed onto the playing area at St Marys field and that the hedge to the dog walking area needs cutting back. The bridge connecting the footpath between Pretyman Avenue and the churchyard is being monitored daily to keep free of leaves and will report any further damage until it's repaired. The County Council has agreed to replace it within the next year. Work on Cow Green and the Garden of Reflection has been delayed due to the weather.

e. Any other working group reports:

Road Traffic Safety Group

i. Cllr V Kingsley presented a report highlighting the results from the Parent/Child Road Safety survey carried out at Bacton Primary School, resulting in a majority view to support road traffic calming. In addition to the survey a 20mph speed enforcement during priority times when children are walking to and from school was suggested. Cllr G Wigglesworth pointed out that if this type of road calming was implemented, unless enforcement was continually carried out, it would be very difficult to uphold. Parking also featured as an additional problem to be considered.

Cllr Bonner pointed out the dangers of speeding vehicles on Church Road near Pretyman Avenue, one such incident involved a Highways maintenance van that crashed into the back of another car.

The Clerk will now collate all the data relating to the Road Traffic Calming project and forward to Highways for their consideration. Cllr G Wigglesworth requested that the reports also be shared with Mid Suffolk Police in the hope they would carry out regular speed checks.

A member of the public put forward a request for the local Speed Watch Group to be revived to help tackle the speeding issues, the Road Safety Group will look to increase the members.

ii. It was resolved to go back to Highways to insist that they re-evaluate their decision not to clean or replace the speed signs through the village and to earmark the 'Pride in Your Place' grant (£250) for another project.

Cemetery Working Group: A report from the working group was received and the outlined groundworks proposals were agreed upon.

Cllr Steed was appointed the lead Councillor for the Cemetery Working Party.

Neighbourhood Plan: The Clerk will arrange for Councillors to meet with Ian poole, a planning consultant for Places4People Planning Consultants Ltd to move forward with the Neighbourhood Plan.

Nov 13-13. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agendas:

Cllr Chambers attended the Parish and Town Council Liaison meeting. It was asked if the Parish Council could traffic light the Mid Suffolk's objectives on Environmental responsibility, harnessing heritage, social responsibility, physical and mental well-being and how the budget is structured. Councillors received a report indicating a green light score given to most of the objectives and were asked for their comments.

A summary of tonight's meeting will be published in the Parish Magazine.

The Clerk highlighted the services of Connecting Communities Rural Transport, which will collect and connect you, especially if there are no regular bus services to make your journey. The service can be booked online or by phone and costs the same as it would on a bus. For more information on this type of transport you can contact the Clerk or view : suffolkonboard.com/CC

The meeting closed at 21.04pm

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council
Chairman

Date