

Bacton Parish Council

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting

held at Bacton Village Hall, on

Monday 16th October 2023 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: 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 3 members of public.

Oct 16/1 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence. The Council received and accepted the Vice Chairman's resignation.

The Chairman expressed on behalf of the Council their appreciation of his service over the last 16 years and that his knowledge and commitment will be greatly missed. The Clerk would also like to extend her thanks to Cllr Jeffries during her brief time with Bacton Parish Council, who from the start became a most welcomed support.

Oct 16/2 Interest and Dispensation Considerations

An application from Cllr Chambers had been received by the Clerk for dispensation regarding item 8 and was accepted by the Council. Cllr Chambers had excused himself from the final decision.

Oct 16/3 Minutes of previous meetings

The Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th October 2023 were a true record and that the chairman be authorised to sign them as such. It was noted that there was a spelling error at Item 4b, it should have read Claydon High School not Clayton and the items should have read as September not July.

Oct 16/4 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 new administration had produced their first State of the District report which included information on the economy, the environment, resident health and wellbeing, community issues and housing.

The MSDC have now launched a consultation process to get resident's feedback on the planned priorities for the District. To 'Have Your Say' is an online form which can be found via this link :

<https://baberghandmidsuffolk.citizenlab.co/en-GB/projects/setting-the-future-direction-of-your-councils>

The Planning Inspectorate have now completed the inspection of the Joint Local Plan which can be viewed via the following link : <http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/jointlocalplan>

The MSDC has agreed funding of £820k for rural transport services, this is a grant scheme for existing transport operators to enhance existing rural transport.

- b. County Cllr Stringer had submitted a written report which was received by the Council. C Cllr Stringer highlighted the following points. Continued problems of RAAC within schools across the county are still ongoing, but assures the cabinet is in contact with the Schools Infrastructure team to maintain support for those affected.

It was noted that a £22.3m overspend had already been reported for the 2023/24 financial year, which is 3.2% of its overall budget for the year. Leaders of the council will look to see how money could be saved to protect reserves and prevent cuts to services.

Officers from Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) have recommended that the council leave the current control centre partnership with Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and open a new control centre in the county by the end of 2024. This would create significant extra cost, but it was agreed that it was necessary for the safety of Suffolk residents.

Oct 16/5 Public Forum

A member of the public expressed a wish for the Council to acknowledge the work and commitment carried out by Cllr Philip Jeffries who has recently resigned from the Council after many years of service. Cllr Chambers assured that Cllr Jeffries' contributions and loyalty would most definitely be recognised.

A question was raised to enquire when bus passes would be accepted on the demand responsive community buses as currently they are not valid. D Cllr Mellen will advise the Council on the current situation.

Oct 16/6 Planning -

a. i. DC/22/05753 Land On The West Side Broad Road

Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/19/00646- Condition 15 (Construction Management) and Condition 16 (Construction Environmental Management Plan).

After discussion it was resolved that the traffic flowing off the A14 through Haughley turning left via The Folly was an unsuitable route for construction vehicles as it had a 7.5 ton weight restriction. It was agreed that coming off the A14 at Junction 49 to use the B1113 to be a better access route.

b. To receive any updates on planning applications considered previously.

i. DC/23/00929 | Jeffries of Bacton, Broad Road | Status: Refused *Change of use from sale of new cars to Class E (a) (Display or retail sale of goods) and (b) (Sale of hot and cold food and drink for consumption on the premises and off site for takeaways. - **Refused***

ii. DC/23/01670 | Beacon Green Open Space, North of Church Road
*Change design of Village Beacon - **Granted***

Oct 16/7 Finance & Governance

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

Oct 16/8 The latest correspondence with the Bacton Parochial Council (PCC) seeking to revive the question of the repair of the footbridge and ongoing responsibility for it and the footpath from Church Road across the churchyard was considered. Members were unanimous in their support of agreeing a Licence with the PCC and meeting the costs its preparation and those of the necessary Faculty from the Diocese. Given the anticipated immediate cost estimate for the footbridge work of £15,000 and the unspecified long term expenditure anticipated for the footpath repairs, the Council confirmed would require the Licence to run for 15 years.

Oct 16/9 Councillors agreed that since they held no powers over the car park that permission could not be given for a food truck to park in the car park at the Village Hall. In the Council's opinion the car park would not be a suitable area for food to be sold.

Oct 16/10 It was resolved to use the suggestions submitted by the pupils of Bacton Primary School to name the three roads on the development on the west side of Broad Road. The names to be put forward are Lavender Way, Holly Lane and Wildflower View.

Oct 16/11 Working Group Reports

a. Events: It was noted that the arrangements for the Remembrance Ceremony on the 12th November were in hand. Cllrs J Kingsley, Steed and Wigglesworth agreed to place the Soldier's of Remembrance outside the shop at Pond Green. It was resolved to buy a new wreath if one could not be located in storage.

b. Village Greens: It was resolved to remain with the services of Top Gardens to carry on cutting the grass areas in the village for the next four years. The Clerk will agree with Top Gardens to incorporate into the contract cutting the new section of the Cemetery and will report back with the added cost.

c. Recreation and Play Area - Cllr MacAusland reported that due to the rain softening the ground, the building of the additional fence leading up to the dog exercise area to stop the public accidentally walking with their dogs on the playing field will be in place within the next few weeks.

d. The Work of the Village Warden - A report was received.

e. Any other working group reports:

Road Traffic Safety

i. Cllr V Kingsley presented the Road Safety Survey results taken at the Bacton Fayre. 180 households returned the survey, 84% agreed that some form of traffic calming needed to be implemented. A copy of the results can be presented on request from the Clerk.

Cllr V Kingsley will be meeting with Bacton Primary school to present a Travelling to School Safety Survey and will report back to the November Council meeting with the findings.

It was resolved to agree to a request from Bacton Primary School to place a sign opposite the Village Hall advertising that they had received a good rating from their recent Ofsted report.

A member of the public put forward a view drawn from their experience as a Police Traffic Officer, and Fatal Accident investigator. Chicanes, Humps or Tables would be counter-productive and in some cases prove to be a hazard with large commercial vehicles negotiating this type of traffic calming and possibly lead to pollution hot spots. Cameras to remind of speeds, roads, their markings and road signage should be a priority and were more effective, as well as off street parking to enhance safety.

ii. It was resolved that the Clerk will research the 'Pride in your Place' grant to evaluate if it will be possible to apply for the funding to carry out the cleaning of the road signs.

Cemetery - It was resolved that the ongoing details regarding the development of the Garden of Reflection will be overseen by the Cemetery Working Party.

Oct 16/12 Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agendas:

A discussion took place to organise this year's Christmas tree and lights, Taylors Green was suggested as the location. The Clerk will refer to the budget to evaluate what size tree will be purchased.

Storage ideas were put forward to house the metal soldier silhouettes, flag poles and plastic ties.

The meeting closed at 20.35pm

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council

Chairman

Date