

Bacton Parish Council

MINUTES of the Parish Meeting

held at Bacton Village Hall, on

Monday 11th March 2024 at 7.00pm

Present: *Councillors:* Julie Bonner (JB), David Chambers (DC) (Chairman), Vanessa Kingsley (VC) (Vice-Chair), John Kingsley (JK), Graham MacAusland (GM), Paul Merry, (PM) James Steed (JS), Gail Wigglesworth (GW), and Paul Wigglesworth (PW)

In Attendance: Suzy Lupin -Clerk, District Councillor Mellen, County Cllr Stringer and 1 member of public.

Mar 11-1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence

Mar 11-2. Declaration of Interest and Dispensation Considerations

There were no declarations of Interest or request for dispensations.

Mar 11-3. Minutes of previous meetings

a. The Council resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2024 were a true record and that the chairman be authorised to sign them as such. An amendment was highlighted by (PW) at item 4a, "DCM assured the Council that he is confident the costs would be returned, that a planning submission was imminent, and that he could be held accountable."

b. The Council resolved to agree the action log resulting from the minutes of 12th February 2024.

Mar 11-4. District & County Councillor Reports

- a. District Cllr Mellen (DCM) had submitted a written report which was received by the Council. You can find the full report on the Council website (<http://bacton-pc.gov.uk/>). DCM highlighted that the first Green Administration budget was agreed by Council in February, environmental sustainability and social justice are at the heart of all its activities. There will be a 2% increase in Council Tax (lower than most authorities). The housing revenue budget will have financial challenges ahead, most notably an increase of £1.1M in the cost to run the housing service.

A new rural transport grants scheme has just been launched to help provide passenger transport options across the district. More details are available here: <https://midsuffolk.gov.uk/rural-transport-grants-scheme>.

Funding is available to help residents with the cost of installing loft insulation, in partnership with Travis Perkins. There are four product options available and residents will receive a 50% discount off their purchase (up to £200), with free delivery. More details can be found at the Green Suffolk website <https://www.greensuffolk.org/at-home/grants/>.

- b. County Cllr Stringer (CCS) had submitted a written report which was received by the Council. You can find the full report on the Council website (<http://bacton-pc.gov.uk/>). CCS reported that the Council is borrowing heavily from its reserves to meet the growing demand for social care for adults and children, and council tax is due to rise by £74 annually for Band D properties from April this year.

At the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board on 18 January, the first draft of a Suffolk autism strategy was discussed, which will increase awareness and support for autistic people and make sure local services are accessible and meeting their needs.

Suffolk's Safer Stronger Communities Board has announced a fund of £150,000 from the Home Office to support Suffolk's Serious Violence Strategy. Organisations can bid for funding for specific projects which support the work of Suffolk's Serious Violence Strategy, with allocation of funding managed through Suffolk Community Foundation. Applications are invited for grants

between £4,000 and £15,000 and organisations can apply by visiting: <https://www.suffolkcf.org.uk/grants/seriousviolencedutyfund/>

Ofsted and CQC published their joint report into SEND services which criticised the county's SEND provision and detailed the failures of the Council to communicate and work with parents and carers.

As a direct result of customer feedback, the Blue Badge phone number will be changing, and there will now be a dedicated phone line for Blue Badge customers. From 31 January the Blue Badge team will be answering enquires on 03456 066 077.

Mar 11-5. Public Forum - None to report.

Mar 11-6. a. Planning : To consider responses to planning application consultations as listed below and any others that come to hand prior to the meeting.

i. DC/24/00993 - 46 Pretyman Avenue, Bacton,

Application for Outline Planning Permission- Sub-division of garden and erection of 1No single storey dwelling (following removal of garage)

Bacton Parish Council have objected to this planning application for the following reasons highlighted within the design statement:

- The application site consists of an area of garden land - the Council objects to garden infills.
- The proposed residential development of the site is not justified on the basis that the land space is too small an area and is too close to neighbouring properties for tolerable living.
- The development is not consistent within the pattern and density of development in the area.
- The suggested layout plan does not exhibit a satisfactory level of amenity space or adequate car parking provisions.
- The scale and appearance of the proposed dwelling will not reflect the scale and appearance of No.46.

b. To receive any updates on planning applications considered previously: None received.

Mar 11-7. Working Group Reports

a. Events: (GW) reported that the D Day arrangements are in hand, the Beacon is to be lit at 9.15pm on the 6th June 2024. The Clerk has invited Bruno Peek as pageant master to the event along with a representative from the Royal British Legion to read the national tribute. (GW) has asked (PM) to hold the Royal British Legion Standard. Depending on the late timing of the event, the girl guides and scouts have been asked to attend. It was agreed to combine the following events on one leaflet advertising the lighting of the Beacon Light, Village Fete (8th June) and the Friends of St Marys Concert (9th June, 7pm) at a budget of up to £130 for 2000 copies. Costings of a banner which will also display all three events to be placed at Shop Green are still to be considered. It was resolved to allow sponsorship from Jeffries of Bacton to support the advertising of the three events.

(PW) pointed out that the painting of the Beacon will require a specific heat proof paint. It was resolved to purchase a 2.5 Ltr tin up to a cost of £40.

It was resolved to approve the budget of up to £1,000 towards the purchase of a potted tree to be placed at Taylors Green to be dressed over the Christmas period.

b. Village Greens:

Shop Green : (JK) reported that the fence has been damaged, the Clerk will ask the Parish Warden to survey the area and report back with the required repair.

A deep pot hole has appeared, the Clerk will contact Frank Davey Ltd to obtain a repair quote.

It was resolved to approach the various businesses who hold ownership to the rusty signs on the green to ask if they could be renewed.

The new 'No Parking Signs' have now been received and will be installed shortly. A thank you to The Forge will be forwarded for their excellent work in creating the signs. (The Forge are a charity based in Thornam Magna who provide day service opportunities through tuition and guidance for adults with physical, sensory or learning disabilities, including those with multiple disabilities.)

Cow Green : It was resolved to buy a further three 'No Parking' signs to be placed on the green.

c. Recreation and Play Area: (GM) reported that the graffiti has now been removed and that once the rain has stopped, the fence to the dog park will be installed.

It was resolved to have just one play equipment inspection per year.

d. Work of Parish Warden : The Council acknowledged the resignation of the Parish Warden and thanked him for all his hard work and commitment.

e. Cemetery: (JS) informed the Council that the working group had reviewed the cemetery policy and that further amendments were ongoing. It was resolved to approve the 5% increase to the 2024/25 Cemetery fees.

(JS) reported that the first stage of the Garden of Reflection project has been completed, the second stage of planting is in discussion and will be presented at the April meeting. His suggestion to screen around the garden are to be explored, the Clerk will obtain quotes on different fencing options.

(DC) noted that the road by the side of the Garden is in need of repair and will approach Bacton Charities to research the possibilities of receiving a grant.

f. Neighbourhood Plan: (DC) reported that the volunteers were doing an excellent job of distributing the surveys to residents and the remaining surveys will be delivered on time before the drop in meeting on the 23rd March (10am-2pm). It was resolved to approve the purchase of the online Parish Mapping Toolkit, the subscription for one year is £153. The mapping tool will enhance the development and creation of the Neighbourhood Plan. It will further prove to be an asset to identifying flooding areas in the village.

g. Road Safety: (VK) reported that a meeting with Highways went extremely well and that the Road Safety Calming design is nearing completion. The final design will be published in the next few months.

h. Flood Task Group: After discussion it was approved to send out an independent flood survey to obtain as much information about flooding issues affecting the village to help put in place adequate counter measures.

Mar 11-8 Finance & Governance

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

- ii. The edit of the 2023/24 Receipts & Payments to comply with GDPR was approved. It was noted that the appendage to minutes of receipts and payments are to be published on the website.
- iii. The 2023/24 budget against payments and receipts was reviewed.
- iv. The restricted and general reserves held in the Premium and Community bank accounts were reviewed and approved.
- v. It was noted that the 2024/25 budget had an income of £49,139, and potential expenditure of £49,139.
- vi. Confirmation from MSDC was received confirming Bacton Parish Council's Precept of £40,255, giving the parish a Council Tax Band D amount of £65.93, a zero percent increase.
- vii. The CIL report for the year 2023/24 was noted. The potential CIL expenditure for 2024/25 was reviewed and approved.
- viii. The GDPR Audit 2023/24 was reviewed and approved.
- ix. It was noted that compliance of The Pensions Regulator had been re-declared.
- x. The Council noted that the VAT reclaims are now carried out quarterly.
- xi. It was noted that the Standing Order for the Parish Warden has been cancelled.

Governance : (Policies & Procedures in Risk Assessments) :

- i. Pending amendments for Policies and Procedures were reviewed and approved. (DC) agreed to continue to review the amendments and will report back.
- ii. After discussion the Working Groups Register was reviewed and approved and will be amended and attached to these minutes.

Mar 11-9. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agendas:

(DC) and (GM) attended a webinar which covered the topic of empowering Suffolk's future. In December 2022, Suffolk County Council (SCC) signed an in-principle agreement to transfer control from Government to SCC on how certain funding is spent in Suffolk. The Clerk will forward a download to Councillors summarising the points covered.

The Clerk advised that Bidwells have requested another meeting to discuss the options of sporting facilities on the old Middle School site development. It was resolved to invite Bidwells to the May (13th) meeting.

Reserved Business:

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

Mar 11-10 : Staff Matters:

- i. It was resolved to appoint Pete Bonner as the new Parish Warden.
- ii. The design for the Road calming project were discussed and finalised.

The meeting closed at 20.48 pm

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council

Chairman

Date