

# Bacton Parish Council

## MINUTES of the Parish Meeting

held at Bacton Village Hall, on

**Monday 12th February 2024 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, and 14 members of public.

**Feb 12-1. Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence

**Feb 12-2. Declaration of Interest and Dispensation Considerations**

There were no declarations of Interest or request for dispensations.

**Feb 12-3. Minutes of previous meetings**

**a.** The Council resolved that the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 17th January 2024 were a true record and that the chairman be authorised to sign them as such.

**b.** The Council resolved to agree the action log resulting from the minutes of 8th January 2024

**Feb 12-4. District & County Councillor Reports :**

**a.** District Cllr Mellen (DCM) had submitted a written report which was received by the Council prior to the meeting and is appended in full on the website.

Gateway 14 was highlighted, an £18.75m project planned within the Freeport sites to build a centre for skills and innovation to provide market lead training needs, plus a site for innovative businesses. Companies who set up on the Freeport sites will be eligible for 5 years free business rates. The project is to be funded at district level, then recouped back from Government linked to business rates. Cllr P Wigglesworth questioned if it was firmly established that Mid Suffolk District Council would be able to recoup these costs. DCM assured the Council that he is confident the costs would be returned and that a planning submission was imminent, and that he could be held accountable.

**b.** County Cllr Stringer sent his apologies as he could not attend but had submitted a written report which was received by the Council and is appended in full on Bacton Parish Website.

An additional report was submitted, written by C Cllr Stringer and D Cllr Mellen and is appended in full on the Parish Website under Flood Risks. The key points have been highlighted as follows:

- Since last October there have been several periods of very heavy rain, causing flooding right across the country. Across Mid Suffolk over 200 homes and 40 businesses were flooded, those who have put in a claim have received the government grant of £500 for domestic properties, and £2,500 for businesses.
- Communities which were particularly affected were Debenham, Stowmarket, Needham Market and Worlingworth. In Bacton area there were only reports of two homes flooded in Broad Road (Cotton Side) and one on Shop Green.
- There is an investigation by MSDC enforcement team into the Bellway site's Sustainable Drainage Scheme (SUDS) which collects water separately from foul water into a drainage area known as an attenuation basin. There seems to be excessive water coming from this site down Pulham Lane flowing into Church Road.

- Further actions into solving the flooding issues are as follows: Clearing ditches in the following areas, along Pulham Lane, west side of Turkey Hall Lane, at the back of Walnut Tree Cottage - 50 Pound View. Highways to clear blocked gullies and drains when reported. Anglian Water to increase their sewage treatment works capacity.

**Feb 12-5. Public Forum -**

A member of the public stood to discuss the flooding issues on the junction near Pound Hill and Broad Road, by the BT Kiosk. They informed the Council that they had been a resident for a number of years, but had only started experiencing this area flooding periodically since 2016. They also highlighted the importance of speaking to long term residents, who could prove to be good sources of information to identify areas of historic flooding compared to Bacton's current situation. It was noted by Cllr Chambers who acknowledged this would be helpful when the flood task force is formed, as one of their first jobs is to develop a map indicating the flow of water and how it should drain away.

A member of the public stood to understand why their planning permission had been refused. Cllr Chambers reminded the resident that the Parish Council are the statutory consultee for planning applications, and forward their objections accordingly to Mid Suffolk Council planning office, who make the final decision. Cllr Chambers informed the resident of the Council's objections to the application.

**Feb 12-6. 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/24/00144 - Bacton Technology Park, Broad Road**

*Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a proposed: Change of use from Commercial, Business and Service (Use Class E) to 3no Dwelling houses.*

**The Council resolved to support the application.**

**ii. DC/24/00435 - Land On The West Side Of Broad Road**

*Application to confirm compliance with Section 106 Planning Obligation dated 15/12/2020 relating to Outline Planning Permission DC/19/00646 and Reserved Matters DC/21/04779 for details of the provision of Public Open Space and Play Area.*

**The Council resolved to object to the application for the following reasons:**

- The public open space and play area is too small for the size of the development.- It was noted by Cllr P Wigglesworth that if the basin were moved, it would allow a bigger area for the children to play.
- The basin is too close to the the play area.
- The location of a pumping station for foul water is too close to where the play area is to be built.

**iii. DC/24/00210 - Broadway House Broad Road**

*Householder Application - Erection of single storey side/rear extension and replacement side porch.*

**The Council resolved to object to the application for the following reasons:**

- The property is grade II listed, which is in contrast to the modern design of the proposed extension.
- Out of character.

Late planning application not included in the Agenda :

**DC/24/00640- Bull Inn Church Road Bacton**

*Application in retrospect for Listed Building Consent - Construction of mezzanine floor.*

**The Council resolved to support the application.**

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

- i. DC/22/01545** dated 22 March 2022. Land North of Rectory Road  
*Appeal Ref: APP/W3520/W/22/3312030. - Appeal dismissed.*

**Feb 12-7.** The Council approved the Co-option of Paul Merry to fill the position of Councillor and welcome him to Bacton Parish Council.

**Feb 12-8. Working Group Reports**

**a. Events:** It was resolved to approve the Council support for the summer village fete taking place on Cllr Chambers' lawn on the 8th June. It was noted that the Friends of St Mary's are having a concert with a 40's theme on the 9th June at 7pm at St Mary's Church.

**b. Village Greens and Byways:**

After discussion, it was approved to support the quote submitted by Clarke Fencing Ltd to replace the fence opposite the village Hall at a cost of £1,724. The Clerk will approach County Council to apply for locality funding.

Cllr V Kingsley informed the Council that one of the new 'No Parking on the Grass' signs had been stolen and it was approved to purchase a further three signs with supporting metal supports.

**c. Recreation and Play Area:** Cllr MacAusland reported that the fence to the dog park will be built once the heavy rain has stopped.

**d. The work of the Warden:** Cllr Chambers thanked the Parish Warden for his help in erecting the fence between the old cemetery and the new.

**e. Cemetery:** Cllr Steed confirmed that the fence had now been built between the old and new cemetery. Cllr Steed informed the Council that the old cemetery was full which included reserved plots and that he was working on the plans for the new cemetery. There will be a meeting in March to update the Cemetery Policies and Regulations, along with the new fees.

The Clerk will submit a CIL application to cover the costs towards creating the Garden of Reflection. Suffolk Landscapes and Construction were approved as the official contractors to complete the works.

**f. Neighbourhood Plan:** Cllr Chambers reported that he, Cllrs Bonner, Steed and two residents met with Ian Pool (Consultant overseeing the neighbourhood plan) to begin drafting the survey questions which will be reviewed and distributed in March. There will be a drop-in event at the Village Hall on the 23rd March to update residents on the progression of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr V Kingsley noted that the survey for leisure facilities promised at the full Council meeting on the 8th January will be included in the Neighbourhood Plan questions to residents.

**g. Road Safety:** Details of the Road Safety calming project will be published once final plans have been drawn up and approved with Highways.

**Feb 12-9 Finance & Governance**

**Receipts and Payments** - The schedule of receipts and payments was received and it was resolved to approve the payments (appended to minutes).

- i. The appointment of Trevor Brown to carry out the internal audit was approved.
- ii. The Internal Control Statement was reviewed and approved. Cllr J Kingsley was approved as an additional signatory for Barclays Bank.
- iii. It was approved to pay the Clerk 5 hours extra as overtime per week until the end of financial year.
- iv. It was approved to pay up to £200 towards purchasing a black and white laser printer for the Clerk.
- v. It was approved to mandate the Clerk to authorise work up to £1000.

**Governance : (Policies & Procedures in Risk Assessments) :**

- i. The formation of a Flood Task Group was approved to include all Councillors.

**Feb 12-10. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agendas:**

The Clerk will look for an alternative venue for the October meeting as the Village Hall is booked for the 14th October 2024.

The Christmas Tree budget was discussed, a cost of up to £1,000 was suggested. An option of sourcing a sponsor to support the purchase of the tree will be looked into.

Cllrs Chambers and MacAusland attended a meeting with adjacent Parish Councils to discuss the issue regarding 'Call for Sites' to action further building developments in Mid Suffolk. A statement was written and sent to MSDC, on the collective concerns of all the attending Parishes. The report detailed why these developments should not be sanctioned in our neighbourhoods.

**Reserved Business:**

**Feb 12-11.** Staffing matters were discussed and approved.

**Feb 12-12.** The Road Calming design submitted by Highways were discussed. Cllrs V Kingsley, Bonner and the Clerk will review the area missed by Highways, by the Village Hall and St Mary's church and report back to the Council.

**The meeting closed at 21.27pm**

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council

Chairman

Date