

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 May 2025 held in
Bacton Village Hall, Bacton.

Councillors Present: Vanessa Kingsley (VK) (Chair person of the Parish Council)

In Attendance : Tina Newell (Parish Clerk) (TN) and 20 members of the public.

15525/PM01 **Welcome:** Vanessa Kingsley as Chair Person of the Parish Council welcomed all to the meeting thanking them for their attendance.

15525/PM2 **To receive and consider apologies for absence:** Sarah King (Bacton Primary School), Beckie Pipe (Bacton Under 5's) and Andrew Mellen (AM) (District Councillor) offered apologies prior to the meeting.

15525/PM3 All present noted there were no minutes available from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13 May 2024 for approval.

Reports from clubs and organisations (all reports where available are appended in full to these minutes):

15525/PM4 **Bacton & Cotton History Society:** All present received confirmation this group has now ceased.

15525/PM5 **Bacton Under Five's:** A report was received prior to the meeting and was read aloud by VK who thanked Pat for her time and success; they are currently full and despite trying to maximise the space and tweaking the layout there is a waiting list for the 2026 school year; the recent AGM resulted in parent volunteers coming forward to the committee and with recent donations from two of the local housing development the fencing was able to be replaced. The full report will be appended to these minutes.

15525/PM6 **Bacton United 89 football club:** A representative from the club attended the meeting and read a report which is appended to these minutes; this past year we've continued to grow and thrive across all levels; our adult team has had a strong season, both on and off the pitch, representing the club with pride and

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determination and our youth system continues to be a real point of pride, not just in terms of developing football skills, but also in building the kind of community-minded players we hope will go on to contribute to the wider life of the village in the years ahead. We're also very proud of our ladies' team, which has gone from strength to strength. The dedication, team spirit, and commitment shown by all our players across every age group is a real testament to the values we hold as a club.

15525/PM7 **Bacton Bowls Club:** A report was received prior to the meeting and read aloud by VK; situated in Rectory Road (leaving the village heading towards Haughley there is parking in the grounds by the clubhouse. We have a large, six rink, natural grass playing surface. We run in four local leagues and are looking to fill 48 places each week during the playing season. For those wishing to play non-competitive bowls then there are rinks available every day except for Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings when maintenance is undertaken. Our membership currently stands at 28 playing members (22 men, 6 ladies) and 14 social members. We are opening on Saturday afternoons throughout May to provide 'Taster Sessions' for anybody who might be interested in joining, we offer a warm welcome to anyone who would like to come along.

15525/PM8 **Brownies:** Sadly there was no report or representative at the meeting.

15525/PM9 **Bacton Community Workshop:** All present received a report from a member of the workshop who confirmed this has been running since 2015 on the Bacton Business Park and continues to thrive with 20 members, the youngest member is 16 years old; donations have allowed LED lighting and new emergency lighting to be installed; other donations include floor paint and an air compressor; projects currently underway include a font cover and the noticeboard belonging to Bacton WI and they hope to attend the Stowmarket Christmas Fayre.

15525/PM10 **Friends of St Marys:** The Chairman of 'The Friends' confirmed the Church is the largest building in the Parish with moveable pews which enable concerts to be held including recently a clarinet choir, and an accordion band; these

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concerts help raise money to fund necessary repairs which include the re-leading of the tower and the wall facing the road is moving the latter estimated to cost in excess of £150k; since 2004 the Friends have raised £136k which enabled the construction of the community room and replacing the floor due to dry rot.

15525/PM11 **Gardening Club:** Once again the Garden Club is planting up the border for the Village Hall and hope that it will be planted in red, white and blue to reflect the 80th Anniversary of the ending of the Second World War. We are pleased that we continue to have over 40 members and so far this year we have enjoyed a members evening where puddings were provided and some members showed slides about interesting gardens they had visited in the UK and the rest of the world. We look forward to an evening outing to Porters Lodge, Cavenham and an outing to RHS Hyde Hall near Chelmsford in July.

15525/PM12 **Kettles Calling:** There was no report or representative at the meeting

15525/PM13 **Bacton Primary School:** We've had a busy year here so far at Bacton Primary; our Senior Leadership Team continue to work across both Bacton and Mendlesham Primary Schools and we became part of the Oxlip Learning Partnership (new Trust including Cedars Park Primary, Stowupland High School, Britannia Primary, Rose Hill Primary and Copleston High School). Mendlesham had Ofsted in November and were rated Good in all areas. Numbers for next year are increasing. Highlights of the year including September when lower key stage 2 went to Thorpe Woodlands on a residential trip, completing Archery, Rock Climbing, Caving, Kayaking and toasting marsh mellows; Upper key stage 2 took part in Bikeability, learning about the Highway Code and how to keep safe. The whole school celebrated Harvest Festival at Church. We are looking forward to more fabulous events such as: African Drumming workshop, African Dance, a trip to the Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum, a visit to The Mix to take part in Crucial Crew and the Year 6 Residential to Kent, Sports Day, transition days and much more.

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- 15525/PM14 **St Marys Parochial Church Council:** whilst there was no report available for the meeting one will be sent soonest and appended to these minutes.
- 15525/PM15 **Ladies Circle:** We are now in our 9th year and continue to keep things simple, which seems to work, with meetings in the village hall in the months of February, March, April. May and September all with a speaker. Topics have been Alison Bullock showing us her beautiful ladies hats, Chris Marston with flower arranging and local artist Steven Binks talking about his art work; the membership stands at approximately 25 ladies at present.
- 15525/PM16 **Village Hall Committee:** A member of the committee presented a report and confirmed the committee consists of just four members who between them run the hall; the water heater and blinds were replaced with funds from the District Councillor and a local developer; sadly the car park remains an issue with there often not being enough space; an evening with a local medium helped produce much needed funds and help from the WI and The Ladies Circle with refreshments was such a benefit and thanks were given to both groups.
- 15525/PM17 **Womens Institute:** The group is a lively one with the aim to have fun, make friends and continue learning whilst being inclusive to ladies of all ages from 18 with the oldest member being 90 years! At the resolution meeting this year, enjoyed with cheese and wine, it was agreed to increase people's knowledge of CPR; there are a number of clubs within the WI including book, pub and games clubs; trips are organised taking in local places including the John Peel centre and The Regal.
- 15525/PM18 **Report from Parish Council Chair Person:** VK has lived in the village over 30 years and after taking retirement wanted to give something back to the village and joined the Parish Council last year; VK gave thanks to the District and County Councillors for their help; past successes include the Garden of Reflection, and the extended cemetery: the Neighbourhood Plan and Village Voice events – these are opportunities for the residents to say what they want and where they want it; an order for the new informal pedestrian crossings should be agreed soon sadly it is being held up with an independent audit

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from Highways; two new SID's have been ordered and now all four SIDs have solar panels; interaction with the local youth has seen a skate ramp designed with their needs in mind and this is something the Parish Council hope to take forward at the Annual Parish meeting. Future projects include the Neighbourhood Plan which will take a priority as this will help shape the future development of the Parish.

15525/PM19 **Report from Andrew Stringer, County Councillor:** A report had been received prior to the meeting and will be appended to these minutes.

15525/PM20 **Report from Andrew Mellen, District Councillor:** The annual report had been received prior to the meeting and is appended in full to these minutes.

15525/PM21 **Public Forum:** A resident asked why Parish Councillors were not present at the meeting and it was explained this is a meeting for the residents not the Parish Council however the three Councillors present stood up and introduced themselves.

15525/PM22 A resident and regular user of the village hall asked if wi-fi will be available at the hall; VK confirmed the Parish Council have agreed to fund this.

15525/PM23: It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish meeting on Monday May 11 2026 from 6pm.

15525/PM24 The meeting was closed at 6.52pm.