

BACTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9 June 2025 held in
Bacton Village Hall, Bacton.

Councillors Present: Gail Wigglesworth (GW) (Chairperson), Jill Dowsett (JD), Graham MacAusland (GM), David Ryding (DR), James Steed (JS) and Paul Wigglesworth (PW)

In Attendance : Tina Newell (Clerk) (TN), Andrew Mellen (AM) District Councillor, Andrew Stringer (AS) County Councillor and five members of the public.

In the absence of Vanessa Kingsley Gail Wigglesworth as Vice Chairman Chaired the meeting in accordance with section 15 (9) of the Local Government Act 1972.

090625/01 **Apologies for absence:** Vanessa Kingsley (VK) and John Kingsley (JK) sent apologies prior to the meeting due to previous engagements.

090625/02 All Councillors accepted apologies from VK and JK.

090625/03 **Declarations of Interest and Dispensation considerations:** PW and GW declared a non-pecuniary interest in the agenda item relating to North Close.

090625/04 There were no requests for dispensations to consider.

090625/05 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors accepted the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 15 May 2025 as a true reflection of the decisions made and authorised GW to sign them as such (150525/01 to 150525/91).

Public Forum:

090625/06 County Councillor Andrew Stringer (AS) highlighted his informing all present of the cabinets approval of a new five-year Core Market Strategy – this sets out how the County Council will work with care providers and other voluntary and community organisations to ensure there is enough care accommodation and work force to meet adult social care need; the County Council has objected to a number of ‘Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects’ including the ‘Sea Link Grid Reinforcement’ which would see the creation of an undersea link between

Kent and Suffolk and plans for an 'Eco Powers Solar farm' in North Suffolk; the County Council is arranging meetings with Town and Parish Councils to engage about the coming changes in local government although those members elected to the wards have not been invited to attend. The report in full is appended to these minutes.

- 090625/07 GW said the sign for Turkey Hall Lane has still not appeared; AS confirmed this is due to a conflict with a residents fence.
- 090625/08 GW confirmed the 'no through road' sign for North Close has not turned up.
- 090625/09 PW asked why there is no 'passing place' sign on the layby down Turkey Hall Lane but there is one on a farmers sugar beet pad; AS said highways can claim up to the first 1.7m of land from the highway and that the sign on the sugar beet pad has been placed with this power; AS agreed to find the legislation to confirm this and will report the lack of signage.
- 090625/10 PW asked for a contribution from AS towards the works at North Close; AS said he has applications for his locality fund from Bacton Parish including an application from the football club and felling of a tree, the latter being a request from Bacton Parish Council and agreed to negotiate with Highways to obtain some funding.
- 090625/11 District Councillor Andrew Mellen presented his report in brief and confirmed plans relating to the local government reorganisation are on going and include public consultations; a new pilot partnership has been set up to turn solar energy into savings for businesses; to further improve performance and tenant satisfaction a 'repairs pledges' has been launched this seeks to ensure timely appointments, good communication, getting the job done right first time every time providing a good quality of work; applications are welcome for funding from his locality fund; the full report is appended to these minutes.
- 090625/12 PW asked who owns the solar panels in the new pilot partnership and AM agreed to seek confirmation of ownership.
- 090625/13 GM suggested the partnership with a local taxi firm 'Mid Suffolk Taxi Bus' needs more advertising in the Parish as residents are not aware of this service.
- 090625/14 A resident asked for an explanation of the outcome of the land previously offered as Community Use at 'Ivy Fields'; AS replied the agreement is that the developers

are happy to give the land once the use of it has been through public consultation and AM agreed there is a very clear verbal assurance from the developers that once there has been a transparent consultation process, to confirm the residents wishes for that land, the land would pass to the Parish Council. AM confirmed the District Council and Portfolio holder have acknowledged and taken responsibility for the error by Council officers in not forwarding the email from the Parish Council expressing interest in the land but suggested to move this forward the Parish Council must now provide a public consultation in the form of a Neighbourhood Plan.

090625/15 A resident asked for more conscientious grass cutting in Elm Close noting a strip of grass was left over one foot in height.

090625/16 A member of the village hall committee suggested the previous request to the Parish Council to fund wi-fi for £250 was based on a domestic account and confirmed it would need to be a business account in the region of £1k for a two year contract. All Councillors agreed the committee should come to the Parish Council with a request for financial assistance to be considered at another meeting.

090625/17 A member of the public asked for a plan of work to be undertaken at North Close to be made publicly available.

Reports from working groups:

090625/18 **Bacton Green:** Two land agents have advised the Parish Council it would be best not to change the use of the arable land based on cost and hassle factor; information from the most recent contractor suggested 'we' are not in any of the eligible categories for SFI at the moment and will need to await the next DEFRA announcement. After discussion it was agreed to seek quotes to maintain the arable land and an open market sales valuation and bring back to the July meeting.

090625/19 **Beacon Green:** Councillors noted the working party met on site recently and agreed to put the following requests to the solicitor for feeding back to Taylor Wimpey prior to the transfer being completed: the Parish Council will require a wooden fence along the estate road side the same as the fence on other boundaries to prevent vehicles accessing the site and for the wild flower area to

be extended along that entire boundary along with confirmation this and other fencing will be maintained by the developer; the addition of three posts, collapsible, on the entrance to the site from the estate side footpath (collapsible to allow emergency vehicles and water companies access whilst preventing other vehicles access); removal of the mound agreeing this prevents the green from being accessible to all and need this flattened and re-turfed to allow it to be accessible as a public open space; noting the area around the 'square' of central turf prevents those with mobility difficulties accessing the main site it was agreed to request this is turfed along the footpath boundary unto the 'square' to allow access by all; Councillors would like three flag poles to be re-erected on the open space at equal distance along the same boundary as they currently are and for the remaining flag poles to be given to the Parish Council as spares/repairs; all holes to be suitably filled; confirmation of when the advertising posts will be; all gaps in the block paving around the Beacon to be suitably filled and finally confirmation of when and to whom the previously agreed maintenance fee will be paid.

Cemetery:

- 090625/20 **Footpath Redirection:** Further to a conversation with the Chief Operations Director of Oxlip Learning Partnership followed by a meeting with the Public Rights of Way Officer all Councillors agreed for the Primary School to complete the application for the diversion noting it would have more impact coming from them with all Councillors agreeing to offer as much support as needed.
- 090625/21 All Councillors noted A E Waterfield have been instructed to carry out the repair to the footpath leading to the rear of the primary school over the Summer half term; approval is still waiting from the Primary School.
- 090625/22 The contractor Frank Davey has swept the excess stone off the cemetery footpath and burnt off weeds. TN continues to seek satisfaction relating to the failed tarmac on the parking area.
- 090625/23 Since the last meeting the Primary School has advised the Parish Council they are installing new chain link fencing between the MUGA and the wooden fence/existing hedging and have confirmed they are happy for the fence to be removed by the Parish Council. After a lengthy debate JS proposed to defer any

decision until the Cemetery working party have visited the site with all Councillors in agreement it was agreed to bring this to the July meeting.

090625/24 To note work to map the cemetery and memorials on the new software has started.

090625/25 From the 'topple test' safety inspection carried out in March 2025 three of the memorials deemed requiring urgent repair have not been repaired. After a lengthy discussion noting the Parish Council have responsibility for safety in the Cemetery JS proposed to have the repairs carried out by J Wright at a cost of £600 only if no owners have come forward before 27 June 2025; GM seconded the proposal with all Councillors in favour.

090625/26 After consideration all Councillors agreed they were not in favour of new funerary methods i.e. alkaline hydrolysis and human composting.

Community engagement:

090625/27 DR attended the recent Village Fete held in St Marys Parish Church where visitors welcomed the addition of the speed indicator devices; expressed concerns over parking in the village especially around Shop Green, the village hall and in places that are causing hazards, a lack of streetlighting from Shop Green to Tailors Green and dog fouling. Other negative views, potentially outside the remit of the Parish Council, included the lack of bus services, the local health centre and age related play equipment at two of the new developments. AM confirmed the large lay-by on Beacon Green was designed for use by visitors to the facilities on Shop Green.

090625/28 After noting VK and JK previously agreed to man the Parish Council stand at the Annual Bacton Fayre 2025 it was resolved to defer any decision on how to make best use of this event to the July meeting.

090625/29 After consideration all Councillors agreed to spend £150 on advertising Parish Council meetings and events spending it as follows: to gift £30 as a prize to the Primary School for the design to include on banners and purchase four banners at a cost of £30 each.

090625/30 After a lengthy discussion all Councillors agreed to postpone the upcoming 'Village Voice' to the Annual Bacton Fayre on Saturday 2 August 2025.

Cow Green:

090625/31 Councillors noted no proposals from residents had been received.

090625/32 Councillors noted A E Waterfield have been instructed to carry out the repair and photographs have been sent to allow for costing of the job. All Councillors agreed to proceed with the repair soonest.

Garden of Reflection:

090625/33 To note the working party are meeting on 12 June 2025 to consider the maintenance.

090625/34 After discussion PW proposed to offer the Parish Warden a further five hours a week (at £13.26 per hour) from 16 June 2025 – 31 October 2025 to maintain this area with instructions from working party and to cancel the contract with the current grass cutting contractor. JS seconded this proposal with all Councillors in favour.

090625/35 JS confirmed a sun dial has been donated by 'anonymous' for installation around the end of August 2025 and all Councillors expressed thanks for such a generous donation noting the idea of a sun dial was agreed on the original plan. TN confirmed it will be added as a Parish Council asset and insured as such.

Neighbourhood Plan:

090625/36 JS confirmed the group meet regularly and the next meeting will bring together results of recent surveys and external consultant reports.

090625/27 JD proposed to support a financial request of £2,750 to enable 'Places4People' (the external consultants being used) to complete work required to produce a draft plan. JS seconded the proposal with all Councillors in favour.

090625/28 **North Close:** All Councillors noted the engagement of a new contractor, noting the previous contractors withdrawal, confirming work is planned to commence on 14 July 2025. A letter with the plan of work will be sent to all dwellings whose properties adorn the area of the work.

Pedestrian Safety Project:

090625/29 Councillors noted there is currently no outcome of the independent audit for the amended informal pedestrian safety crossings and therefore no quote for the works despite being agreed by the Parish Council in March 2025.

090625/30 TN confirmed work on the road markings commenced before the due date and was due to be complete last week but as the weather at the weekend was poor the work should be complete this week.

- 090625/31 Councillors noted new temporary 20mph signs and a Speed Indicator Device have been placed along Turkey Hall Lane and agreed to meet with residents and Suffolk County Council representatives once the road works have finished.
- 090625/32 Councillors noted the order for posts to hold solar panel Speed Indicator Devices has been sent to Suffolk County Council however there is a large backlog of posts that needs to get through before this can be processed, so it could be a few weeks before the order is placed and payment will only be requested once works have been completed.
- 090625/33 **Shop Green:** There is no update on the replacement electricity socket.
- 090625/34 **St Mary's Playing field:** Further to receiving confirmation that planning permission is not required the skate ramp has been ordered from King Ramps who are looking to install on/before 10 July 2025. Councillors agreed to have an opening ceremony inviting the local youths who have been involved from the concept to open the skate park. TN will confirm the date, invite the youths, advertise the event and invite local media as soon as a date for completion of the installation is confirmed.
- 090625/35 **Parish Warden:** Whilst there was no report Councillors noted nothing has been brought to the Parish Councils attention.
- Planning:**
- 090625/36 Councillors noted there had been no planning applications made to Mid Suffolk District Council (MSDC) relating to Bacton since the last meeting.
- 090625/37 Councillors noted the following determination made by MSDC relating to Bacton since the last meeting:
- DC/25/01069 Little Acres Rectory Road Bacton
- MSDC GRANTED BPC: Supported
- Councillors received an update on the following two outstanding CIL liabilities:
- 090625/38 4945/16 Land to the Rear of The Bull Inn DC/19/05193; The District Council continue to pursue this debt.
- 090625/39 Land To The Rear Of Mizpah Broad Road Bacton Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4NB: CIL liability could not be settled informally and therefore the District Council are waiting on a date for a court hearing.

- 090625/40 AM confirmed the developer of the former Bacton Middle School site will be submitting amendments to the planning authority for further consultation later in the year; AS confirmed this site is not within Bactons Neighbourhood Plan.
- 090625/41 Councillors noted an update on the land previously offered for Community Use at the Bellway development had been given during the public forum of this meeting.
- 090625/42 AS confirmed the S106 agreement on the site off Broad Road, Bacton says the work on the footpath must be completed prior to occupation of the first dwelling and noted there has been no work on the site recently. AS is receiving updates from the site manager and will keep the Parish Council updated.

Finance (all supporting papers previously issued):

- 090625/43 All Councillors confirmed receipt of the finance reports including bank reconciliations for the period ended 31 May 2025 prior to the meeting. GM, as a non-bank signatory verified the bank statements agreed to the bank reconciliation as presented confirming the total cash available £315,034.41; £64,199.68 in Barclays Community, £31,039.24 in Barclays Premium, £0.00 in Unity savings and £18,176.51 in Unity current, and £201,618.88 held in the GB Bank, HSBC and Hampshire Trust Bank within 'Flagstone'.
- 090625/44 All Councillors noted receipts of £57,714.01 against of budget of £47,283.06; a refund of a duplicate payment totalling £1,122.34 brings actual receipts to £56,591.67 which includes CIL of £31,262.11 which could not have been budgeted for. Payments totalled £13,707.27 and whilst under the total budget some expense lines have exceed budget and all Councillors agreed to review this in the July meeting.
- 090625/45 All Councillors approved the reserves account noting it accurately reflects the plans of the Parish Council.
- 090625/46 All Councillors noted the following receipts since the last meeting:

	Date	From	Details	Amount
090625/47	06 05 2025	SCC	Return of overpayment	£ 1,122.34
090625/48	06 05 2025	MSDC	CIL	£ 31,262.11
090625/49	30 05 2025	Tenant	Rent	£ 250.00

All Councillors ratified the following payments noting GM had seen and verified copies of all invoices:

	Payee	Details	Amount
090625/50	Various	Salaries & reimbursements	£ 1,387.73
090625/51	J Lawes	Strimmer wire	£ 11.90
090625/52	J Lawes	Paraffin	£ 8.45
090625/53	Clarke & Simpson	Annual rent of St Marys playing field	£ 700.00
090625/54	E J Barker	Bacton Green advisory service and removal of ragwort	£ 781.80
090625/55	MSDC	Garden waste collection (cemetery)	£ 64.00
090625/56	Nest	Pension	£ 79.71

090625/57 Councillors noted PM has yet to sign the bank mandate change request forms; once completed and received Barclays should update the mandate.

Governance

090625/58 Councillors agreed to defer the review of risk assessments noting JD is reviewing these.

090625/59 After consideration all Councillors agreed to adopt the procedure for Managing Unauthorised Encampments as circulated prior to the meeting.

Correspondence:

090625/60 Councillors noted the Charging Scheduled under the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010.

090625/61 All Councillors noted Cotton Parish Council are holding an extra ordinary meeting on 11 June 2025 to discuss MSDC's target of 80 new homes in the village in the next 20 years. It was noted an email has been sent to Cotton Parish Council asking them if they are interested in being involved in the Bacton Neighbourhood Plan but as yet no response has been recieved.

090625/62 **Items for inclusion in future meetings:** Pulhams Lane, noticeboard on Beacon Green, pedestrian bridge across the ditch to Beacon Green from the bus shelter, bank accounts, streetlights and waste bins.

090625/63 All Councillors noted the date of the next meeting as Monday 7 July 2025.

090625/64 GW as Chair person closed the meeting at 8.59pm.