

Bacton Parish Council

MINUTES of the Parish Meeting

held at Bacton Village Hall, on

Monday 8th April 2024 at 7.00pm

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

In Attendance: Suzy Lupin -Clerk, District Councillor Mellen, and 2 members of public.

Mar 11-1. Apologies for absence

Paul Merry forwarded his apologies via the Clerk.

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 11th March 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 11th March 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 Mid Suffolk, with a Green Party administration, and Babergh, with a coalition administration, were jointly awarded Council of the Year at the Public Sector Transformation awards last month.

Council has now adopted the new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping strategy 2024 and the associated delivery plan. Together with Babergh the councils want to aspire to go beyond the minimum required provision, and aim to provide a bespoke person-centred and proactive service. (DCM) commented that no-one should really be sleeping rough in Suffolk that doesn't want to be.

There has been a slight change to the Community Infrastructure Levy Expenditure Framework to except applications from non profit organisations e.g. sports clubs, community shops and cafes.

The County Council has now opened the consultation period on the proposed Level 3 devolution deal for the county. MSDC councillors debated this issue at last week's Council meeting, our views will be fed back but we are not directly involved in the decision to go ahead, which will be made by County Councillors in July. The deal would mean the County Council would have some more powers alongside an investment fund of £480M over a 30 year period. If agreed, there would also be a directly elected leader of the County Council, to be elected in May 2025. More information and public consultation can be found here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/devolution>.

Proposals have emerged for a new 2000MW solar farm, this would be on farmland in Mendlesham, Thwaite and Wickham Skeith parishes – and close to the edge of Cotton parish too. Due to the size of this proposal it is deemed a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) meaning that the application will be decided at a national level by the Secretary of State, advised by the national Planning Inspectorate.

An election will be held on Thursday 2nd May to elect Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner for the next four years. The position has been held by Tim Passmore since 2012. There will also be a district by-election for the Chilton seat in Stowmarket.

There will be a general election sometime in the next few months. Mid Suffolk's elections team oversee all these elections. A reminder that you need to bring approved photo ID if you want to vote in-person at a polling station, or you can apply for a postal vote via the council's website or over the phone.

Mar 11-5. Public Forum

A member of the public stood to report the damage caused to their tree by a large lorry coming off the Flagship development site on Turkey Hall Lane. The site's foreman was informed but no apologies have been forthcoming or any offers of compensation. (GW) and (PW) reported that there were still ongoing out of operating hours issues, such as excessive noise from workmen's radios and generators left on all night. The Clerk will write a letter to Flagship and the Planning Enforcement office to convey these concerns.

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.

After discussion the following three applications were supported by the Council:

i. DC/24/01408

Householder Application - Construction of 4 No dormer windows (2 front and 2 rear, removing 2 rear rooflights). - The Old Stables Broad Road Bacton Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4HP

Cllr P Wigglesworth pointed out that the application is actually situated on Station road and not Broad Road.

ii. DC/23/01506

Full Planning Application - Change of use of land from agricultural to use for the storage of containers, portable cabins and similar items, and equipment used for the maintenance and conversion of such items, construction of an earth bund and landscaping (part retention of). - Red House Farm Rectory Road Bacton Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4LE

DC/23/01506 was originally support by Council at the 24th April 2023 council meeting under the following conditions:

Subject to hours of operation being imposed similar to those for other parts of the site (i.e. 6am to 7pm on weekdays and Saturday mornings only); this is to protect the nearby residents from noise generated from within the site.

Cllr V Kingsley has agreed to attend the consultation planning committee on the 10th April to support the proposal.

iii. DC/24/01450

Application for Outline Planning Permission (Access Points to be considered, all other matters reserved) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - Erection of 1 No dwelling. - Clayton Cottage Earls Green Bacton Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4SB

The Clerk had not been notified of the below application.

iv. *An application to deposit a map and statement under section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006 has been made in relation to the land described as lying to the west of Brickwall Farm, Broad Road, Bacton.*

Further investigations will be made into the implications of this application.

- b. To receive any updates on planning applications considered previously:** None received.
- i. **Ref. No: DC/23/05583**
*Householder Application - Erection of triple bay cart lodge/garage including solar panels on roofslope. - Mallards Pound Hill Bacton Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 4LP. **Granted***
- ii. **Ref. No: DC/24/00144**
*Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a proposed: Change of use from Commercial, Business and Service (Use Class E) to 3no Dwellinghouses (Use Class C3) Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (as amended) Schedule 2, Part 3, Class MA. - Bacton Technology Park Broad Road Bacton IP14 4HN. **Granted***

Mar 11-7. Working Group Reports

a. Events: (GW) reported that D-Day arrangements are in hand, and a further meeting will be held on the 29th April to discuss progress. The work to construct the Beacon is nearing completion and will be lit at 9.15pm on the 6th June 2024. (DC) pointed out that the topsoil on site is still to be levelled to allow grass seed to grow in time. The Clerk will contact Taylor Wimpey to confirm when this is to be actioned.

(PW) asked if the Council were still taking ownership of the flag poles. It was resolved to accept four flag poles.

b. Village Greens:

Shop Green: (JK) reported that the 'No parking on the Grass' signs have been installed. The Parish Warden has now repaired the broken fence.

It was resolved to accept the quote received from Frank Davy Ltd @£490 to repair the pothole.

(JS) asked when the missing section of hedging opposite the Bull is to be replaced. The Clerk advised that she would contact Taylor Wimpey for a date when the planting will take place.

Cow Green : The Clerk is waiting for notification for the three 'No Parking' signs to be completed. The Clerk will obtain a quote to carry out a temporary repair to the potholes.

c. Recreation and Play Area: (GM) requested that when the grass is cut that the area between the 5 A-side goal posts is cut shorter than the rest of the playing field. The Clerk will ask Bacton Football club if they would line the area for the summer holidays.

d. Work of Parish Warden : The Parish Warden has requested an area to burn the excess cuttings. (DC) and (JK) will make contact with local landowners.

e. Cemetery: After discussion it was resolved to pay for the removal of moles at the cemetery, churchyard and Taylors Green up to a cost of £380.

(JS) reported that the Garden of Reflection is waiting to complete the pathway surface and the Clerk will obtain quotes for phase two to prepare the ground for planting.

f. Neighbourhood Plan: (DC) reported that all the surveys had now been successfully distributed, with 186 responses already logged. The Clerk reported that the Design advice grant which had been applied for had been rejected. Ian Poole who is consulting on the plan suggested to wait to view the new financial year options to assess which new grants to apply for.

g. Road Safety: To be discussed at reserved business.

h. Flood Task Group: The working group are to meet on the 8th May to present the findings of the surveys at the next full council meeting.

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. It was resolved to approve the amendments to the Payments and Receipts for January, February and March 2024.

Governance : (Policies & Procedures in Risk Assessments) :

(DC) has highlighted a number of issues with various policies needed to be reviewed. A full report of all policies will be presented to the Council.

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

The annual Parish meeting will be on the 13th May at 6pm.

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 : Road calming design:

- i. The final road calming design is still to be confirmed and agreed with Highways.

The meeting closed at 20.59pm

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council

Chairman

Date