

BACTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 November 2025 held in Bacton Village Hall, Bacton, Suffolk.

Councillors Present: Graham MacAusland (GM), David Ryding (DR) and James Steed (JS).

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

101125/01 David Ryding was appointed Chairman for the meeting and signed the Declaration of Acceptance to Office.

101125/02 **Co-option:** Councillors noted ten or more electorates have until the 12th November to request an election, if by 13th November no election has been requested the Parish Council can co-opt a Councillor at the soonest meeting after this date.

Apologies:

101125/03 All Councillors noted apologies from Vanessa Kingsley (VK), John Kingsley (JK), Gail Wigglesworth (GW) and Paul Wigglesworth (PW) prior to the meeting.

101125/04 All Councillors resolved to accept apologies for absence from VK, JK, GW and PW.

Declarations of Interest and Dispensation:

101125/05 There were no Declarations of Interest or requests for dispensation.

101125/06 **Minutes of previous meeting:** Councillors confirmed receipt of the draft minutes from 10 October 2025 prior to the meeting and agreed they accurately reflect the decisions made at the meeting; DR was authorised to sign and date these as a true record (pages 84-94 inclusive).

Public Forum: To receive comments or questions on matters of interest from members of the public:

101125/07 Noting Andrew Stringer would be late to the meeting it was agreed to defer his report until he was in attendance.

- 101125/08 Councillors confirmed receipt of Andrew Mellen's (AM) (District Councillor) report prior to the meeting; AM confirmed sites put forward as part of the call for sites will not be given any planning status; Babergh and Mid Suffolk are the first rural Councils to introduce a new Local Listed Building Consent Order making it easier to replace some windows or install secondary double glazing without the need to make an application; Suffolk Recycles is running a social media campaign to prepare residents for the upcoming changes to bin collections (<https://www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk/recycling-composting/recycling-at-home/better-recycling>); there is still some locality funding available for local groups and organisations.
- 101125/09 AM agreed to look at the no through road sign at North Close on AS's suggestion.
- 101125/10 A member of the public expressed disappointment at the lack of public participation at Parish Council meetings and suggested better communication.
- 101125/11 AM left the meeting.
- To receive updates and reports from working groups and consider further action:**
- 101125/12 **Bacton Green:** Councillors noted there was nothing to report.
- 101125/13 **Beacon Green:** Councillors noted a meeting with Taylor Wimpey is taking place on Wednesday 12 November 2025 to agree the design and landscape of the open space prior to the transfer of the land to the Parish Council.
- Cemetery:**
- 101125/14 Councillors noted A E Waterfield were the only contractor from three contacted who have agreed to provide a quote; it was agreed to receive this at the January meeting.
- 101125/15 Councillors noted the Parish Warden has agreed to repair the broken picket fence.
- 101125/16 Councillors noted one bench has been installed and the remaining commemorative bench will be installed as soon as possible by the Parish Warden.
- 101125/17 AS entered the meeting.

- 101125/18 **Community Infrastructure working group:** DR confirmed the working party held an initial meeting and agreed the terms of reference and reassured all present the group has no delegated authority to authorise grants or payments: the group will receive applications from community groups and organisations before making recommendations to full Council.
- 101125/19 **Community Engagement:** There was no update on the Christmas Tree event at St Marys Church on 30 November 2025.
- 101125/20 **Cow Green:** Councillors noted there had been no correspondence from any residents.
- 101125/21 **Garden of Reflection:** Councillors noted the trees and shrubbery are due to be delivered w/c 17 November 2025.
- 101125/22 **Neighbourhood Plan:** JS confirmed the latest consultation ended on 31 October 2025 with a good number of responses; the working party will meet later in November to consider the responses.
- 101125/23 **North Close:** It was noted quotes to lay turf and replace edging are still being sought.
- 101125/24 **Open Spaces:** Councillors agreed to review the current grass and hedge cutting schedule and resolved for TN, JS and GM to prepare a request for quotation for agreement at the next meeting.
- Pedestrian/Road Safety:**
- 101125/25 DR will bring an audit of the street signs to the January meeting; although not all signs are the Parish Councils responsibility all Councillors agreed faulty or damaged signs should be brought to the attention of those responsible.
- 101125/26 **Shop Green:** Councillors noted there was nothing to report.
- St Marys Playingfield:**
- 101125/27 Councillors noted King Ramps have been to the site and added extra fixings to ensure the skate ramps can't be tampered with and confirmed the ramps have no safety issues at all.
- 101125/28 TN confirmed the permanent safety signs for the play equipment and skate ramps are being collected tomorrow and the Parish Warden will erect them as a priority.

- 101125/29 Andrew Stringer (AS) County Councillor presented his report in brief; the planned Suffolk County Council and Mayoral elections are due to go ahead in May 2026 (Suffolk County Council postponed from 2025) and the Mayoral election will be 'first passed the post'; funding for speed surveys along Turkey Hall Lane has been allocated and the number of surveys required will be considered at a meeting with the highways engineer later this week; the requested speed limit reduction on B1113 Cow Green does not meet the strict criteria for change which includes business growth, history of recorded accidents and growth in traffic due to developments; the S106 on the former Bacton Middle School site can be varied without a planning application as it is over 5 years old – AS confirmed the Parish Council would need to see site of any new draft agreement. The full report is appended to these minutes.
- 101125/30 AS left the meeting.
- Parish Warden:**
- 101125/31 All Councillors received a verbal report at the meeting including concerns over cars hitting the new kerb on the footpath under the railway bridge for which AS agreed to look at.
- Planning:**
- 101125/32 Councillors noted there are no planning applications relating to Bacton since the last meeting to consider.
- 101125/33 Councillors noted there have been no determinations made by MSDC relating to Bacton since the last meeting.
- To receive an update on the two outstanding CIL liabilities:**
- 101125/34 DC/19/05193 Land to the rear of Mizpah, Broad Road: Councillors noted a Liability Order was granted by the Magistrates Court on the 20th October 2025 meaning the CIL charge has been secured, and the District Council will look to engage with the developer to settle the outstanding CIL liability. If further engagement does not result in the CIL liability being settled in full more further formal recovery action may be considered.

101125/35 4915/16 Land to the rear of 'The Bull Inn', Church Road: Councillors heard this is the District Councils longest standing CIL Debt case and whilst a charging order was awarded previously the District Council continue to work with Shared Legal Services in considering the options available.

101125/36 **Land previously offered for Community Use:** Councillors noted an email has been received confirming the District Council has passed this matter to their insurance company for consideration.

Finance

101125/37 All Councillors confirmed receipt of the finance reports including bank reconciliations for the period ended 31 October 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 £310,568.19; £0.01 in Barclays Community, £90.49 in Barclays Premium, £0.00 in Unity savings and £30,570.33 in Unity current, and £279,907.36 held in the GB Bank, HSBC, Hampshire Trust Bank and the holding account within 'Flagstone'.

101125/38 All Councillors confirmed receipt of the budget to actual payments and receipts prior to the meeting with no questions.

101125/39 The reserves account was received and approved with no questions.

Councillors noted the following receipts since the last meeting:

101125/40	MSDC	Neighbourhood CIL	£32,106.69
101125/41	Resident	Donations towards new cemetery bench	£460.00
101125/42	Tenant	Bacton Green rent	£250.00
101125/43	Flagstone	Interest accrued	£613.11

Councillors ratified the following payment made since the last meeting:

101125/44	HMRC	Paye	£272.83
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Councillors approved the following payments to be made by internet banking noting invoices had been presented:

101125/45	Bacton Village Hall	Hall Hire	£139.50
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101125/46	Ai Tree Services ltd	Tree work	£tbc
101125/47	J Lawes	Bench spikes	£67.60
101125/48	J Lawes	Hoe	£17.95
101125/49	J Lawes	Weed killer & stakes	£40.55
101125/50	RBL	Wreath	£25.00
101125/51	Councillors noted salaries would be paid for November and December at the end of the respective months and ratified at the January meeting.		
101125/52	There has been no update from Barclays Bank reference the proposed closure of both accounts.		
101125/53	Councillors received a first draft budget and noting no tax base had been received it was agreed to set the budget and precept at the January meeting.		
	Governance:		
101125/54	Councillors agreed to defer the review of the financial risk assessment to the January meeting.		
101125/55	Councillors noted Trevor Brown's agreement to carry out the internal audit for 2025/26 year end.		
101125/56	Councillors agreed to defer the adoption of the Information Technology policy to the next meeting.		
101125/57	Correspondence: Councillors noted there had been no correspondence.		
101125/58	Councillors to request items for inclusion in a future meeting: Call for Sites (noting this ends in January 2026), audit of bins, streetlights and signs, grass contract tender and budget and precept setting.		
101125/59	To note the next scheduled meeting is on 12 January 2026		
101125/60	DR closed the meeting at 20.02.		