

BACTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9 February 2026 held in
Bacton Village Hall, Bacton, Suffolk.

In Attendance: Vanessa Kingsley (VK) (Chair person), Gail Wigglesworth (GW) (Vice Chair person), Matthew Bryant (MB), Jill Dowsett (JD), John Kingsley (JK), Graham MacAusland (GM), David Ryding (DR) and Paul Wigglesworth (PW).

Others present: Tina Newell (Meeting Clerk) (TN), Andrew Mellen (AM) (District Councillor), Andrew Stringer (AS) (County Councillor) and twelve members of the public.

Before the meeting commenced Vanessa Kingsley informed all present of the resignation of James Steed since the last meeting and gave thanks for his work and dedication to the Parish Council whilst serving as a Parish Councillor.

Apologies for absence:

090226/01 All Councillors present therefore no apologies required.

Declarations of Interest and Dispensation:

090226/02 All Councillors noted GW and PW's declaration of interest in North Close as residents and Bacton Fayre as organisers; MB declared an interest in Ivy Hill as a resident.

090226/03 There were no requests for dispensations.

090226/04 **Minutes of previous meeting:** Councillors confirmed receipt of the draft minutes from 11 January 2026 prior to the meeting and agreed they reflect accurately the decisions made at the meeting; VK was authorised to sign and date these as a true record (pages 101- 111 inclusive).

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

090226/05 Councillors confirmed receipt of Andrew Stringer's report prior to the meeting: the local County Council elections have once again been postponed: the Unitary authority elections will take place in 2027 and the mayoral elections in 2028; the County Council is planning to raise its element of the Council Tax by 4.99% which reflects the serious financial concerns it is facing; in view of Suffolk County Council not existing past 2027/28 the target for reduction in emissions is 63%; following the governments recent announcement that Suffolk County Council are one of the worst Councils in the Country for highways maintenance the Counties administration is denying

the accuracy of the rating; a new 20mph speed limit policy has been approved meaning an application in an area where recorded average speed limits are 28mph and under is likely to be approved – this could mean an application for Turkey Hall Lane to Clay Lane may be appropriate noting the mean speeds are 23/24mph along this stretch of road. The full report is appended to these minutes.

- 090226/06 Councillors confirmed receipt of Andrew Mellen’s (AM) (District Councillor) report prior to the meeting, the full copy of which is appended to these minutes; District Councillors unanimously agreed to support Ipswich’s bid to become the City of Culture in 2029 a competition run by the Government’s Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) held every four years, with a £10 million prize; a leaflet explaining the changes to waste collection has been delivered to all homes in Mid Suffolk and finally the new Community Nature recovery grants were launched earlier this month allowing community groups to apply for grants up to £50,000 for projects such as expanding wildlife corridors, tree planting, creating wildflower meadow and other environmental initiatives to safeguard natural spaces for future generations.
- 090226/07 AM confirmed ‘bollard covers’ to advertise the taxi-bus service are still being pursued.
- 090226/08 A resident asked what is happening to the tree and cobbles at Cedars Close; VK confirmed this area is planned for refurbishing once North Close is completed.
- 090226/09 A resident spoke of the incursions to the bottom of their driveway, and others along Turkey Hall Lane, causing damage; AS confirmed the law cannot prevent people going into driveways. Concern over the small percentage of residents who attend Parish Council meetings was voiced and the lack of information given on a popular non Parish Council social media site. A recommendation for the Parish Council to negotiate with the PCC to put a supplement towards getting the parish magazine delivered to all villagers was given.
- 090226/10 A resident new to the village confirmed social media is their choice for sourcing information on what is on in the village.
- 090226/11 GM suggested posting updates from the Parish Council on ‘Next Door Neighbour’.
- 090226/12 It was agreed to set up an ‘Engagement’ working party to be led by MB.

Signed:

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To receive updates and reports from working groups and consider further action:

- 090226/13 **Bacton Green:** It was agreed to request an exit meeting with the tenant on 24th or 25th of February; VK, GM, DR and TN to be present at the meeting.
- 090226/14 **Beacon Green:** Councillors noted a discharge of condition planning application has been lodged with the District Council (DC/26/00328) however the plan attached to this application does not represent the plan as agreed with the developer previously.
- 090226/15 **Cow Green:** Councillors noted the replacement bench has been ordered.
- 090226/16 **Grass Cutting Contract:** Councillors noted the deadline to receive quotes is 16 February 2026 for the contract to be awarded on 23 February 2026. After a brief discussion all Councillors resolved to hold an extra meeting on Wednesday 18 February at 6.30pm to consider the quotes and appoint a contractor; TN to confirm meeting location.
- 090226/17 **North Close:** After a lengthy debate Councillors resolved to obtain two further quotes to ensure the area is useable as per the original plan; GW and PW did not take part in the discussion.
- 090226/18 **Shop Green:** All Councillors noted the pot holes have been filled and requests for contributions have been emailed to both businesses.
- 090226/19 **St Marys Playingfield:** Councillors noted permanent signage for the safe use of the play equipment and skate ramps have been erected.
- Cemetery:**
- 090226/20 Noting clarification on the safety of the memorials erected prior to 2008 is being sought from the stonemason who carried out the topple test it was agreed to defer further action on memorials to the March meeting.
- 090226/21 It was agreed to defer a review of amendments to the terms and conditions to the March meeting due to hardware issues.
- 090226/22 Councillors agreed to defer a review of the fees to the March meeting noting current hardware issues.
- 090226/23 **Garden of Reflection:** TN confirmed a quote to repair the fence has yet to be received.
- Community Infrastructure working group:**
- 090226/24 After consideration all Councillors resolved to remove the criteria '75% resident impact benefit' and the 'exemption of charities' from the grant application agreeing instead to look at each application on its merit. Councillors received the following recommendations from the working party:

- 090226/25 **Bacton Charities:** A request to support the funding of a fence around the allotments: The working group considered there is insufficient information to be able to make an informed recommendation at this time. All Councillors agreed with the working parties request for more information
- 090226/26 **Bacton Fayre:** An application to support funding capital items i.e. tables, chairs. The working group were concerned regarding the significant sum involved and the nature of the assets being acquired (expensive and there ongoing usage) and recommended not to support this request. All Councillors agreed with the working groups recommendation not to support the capital request and agreed to consider other forms of support from the budget.
- 090226/27 **Bacton Utd:** A request for £4k of the £8k required to construct a car park at the Scout Hut park was considered by the group whose recommendation is to support this request. All Councillors agreed with the recommendation to support Bacton Utd with £4k from CIL towards the car park project at the Scout Hut.
- 090226/28 **Bacton Village Hall:** An application to fund 200 mugs. All Councillors noted the Parish Council have funded Broadband for the Village Hall already this financial year (£840.75) and recommended not to support this request for this reason. All Councillors were in agreement with the recommendation not to support this request.
- 090226/29 **Friends of Bacton Primary School:** A significant sum had been requested to fund heavy duty play equipment for the school field e.g. wooden climbing frames and trim trails. The working groups recommendation was not to support this request due to the area not being publicly accessible. All Councillors agreed with the recommendation not to support the request for play equipment.
- Community Engagement:** Councillors to consider a calendar of events for the year
- 090226/30 **Beacon Green;** all Councillors agreed to host a welcome event once the land has been transferred.
- 090226/31 **Bacton Fayre** it was agreed for the Parish Council to attend this event.
- 090226/32 **Christmas Tree Lights with the PCC:** It was agreed all Councillors would like the Parish Council to be involved in this event.
- 090226/33 It was agreed the first of the weekly 'Open Door' sessions starts on Wednesday 4 March in the village hall from 9am to 1pm.
- 090226/34 **Pedestrian/Road Safety:** AS confirmed damaged signs should all be reported on the Suffolk County Council portal – some may be replaced others not! It

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was agreed to defer a review of the audit of the signs and streetlights to the March meeting.

- 090226/35 **Neighbourhood Plan (NP):** JD confirmed the working group met last week and the notes of this meeting will be available on the Parish Council website; a draft plan will be available to the Parish Council in March 2026.
- 090226/36 **Village Hall:** DR spoke as Vice Chairman of the Village Hall committee and confirmed ownership of the tarmac area outside the village hall has been a lengthy issue for many years. Suffolk County Council have provided a map of land under their responsibility, confirmation this responsibility includes maintenance is being clarified and details of who has granted the right of access over the tarmac area to the two residential dwellings to the rear of the area is being sought. With answers to these questions it is hoped ownership or maintenance obligations can be reached.
- 090226/37 **Parish Warden:** Councillors noted there was no report.
- 090226/38 **Neighbourhood Watch:** Councillors agreed not to pursue a scheme noting consideration was given to such a scheme previously with no interest.
- 090226/39 **Bus Service:** After discussion noting 8 of the 22 residents who used this service are from Bacton all Councillors agreed they support the service and its resurrection.
Planning: Councillors considered the following planning applications relating to Bacton since the last meeting:
- 090226/40 DC/25/04725 Erection of a garden room, 1 Duke Street Bacton
After discussion GM proposed to support the application, DR seconded the proposal with JD in agreement. VK, PW, GW, JK and MB abstained therefore the Parish Council will submit a comment of support.
- 090226/41 DC/26/00328 Discharge of Condition application to DC/21/ 01930 landscaping scheme Land to the North of Church Road
Councillors noted the planning documents are not as agreed with the developer previously and agreed not to support this application.
- 090226/42 Councillors noted the following determination made by the District Authority relating to Bacton since the last meeting.:
DC/25/04705 Restholme Rectory Road Bacton IP14 14L4
MSDC: Refused BPC: Supported
- 090226/43 **To receive an update on the two outstanding CIL liabilities:**

DC/19/05193 Land to the rear of Mizpah, Broad Road and 4915/16 Land to the rear of 'The Bull Inn', Church Road; no updates received..

090226/44 Councillors noted there is CIL on the development on land off Broad Road due to the District Council in March 2026.

090226/45 **Land previously offered for Community Use:** Councillors noted there had been no response from the District Council after seeking compensation from them for not expressing the Parish Councils interest in the land to the developer. The Parish Councils solicitor confirmed the next logical position would be to threaten court proceedings with costs sanctions for non response. After a lengthy debate it was agreed to consider the Parish Councils next step at the March meeting.

090226/46 Residents of Ivy Hill confirmed the site in question has only been marketed to them as open space.

Finance

090226/47 All Councillors confirmed receipt of the finance reports including bank reconciliations for the period ended 31 January 2026 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 £299,820.13; both Barclays accounts are now closed, £0.00 in Unity savings and £17,709.90 in Unity current, and £282,110.23 held in the GB Bank (£81,812.73), HSBC (£85,849.90) and Shawbrook (£114,448.10) all within 'Flagstone'; TN confirmed as of 1 December 2025 the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) deposit protection limit in the UK has increased from £85k to £120k per authorised institution

090226/48 All Councillors confirmed receipt of the budget to actual payments and receipts prior to the meeting with no questions.

090226/49 The reserves account was received and approved with no questions.

Councillors noted the following receipts since the last meeting:

090226/50	Tenant at Bacton Green	Rent	£250.00
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090226/51	Flagstone	Interest	£243.99
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Councillors ratified the following payments made since the last meeting:

090226/52	Unity	Charges	£8.00
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090226/53	Salaries	Salaries, Tax and NIC	£3,702.90
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090226/54	Suffolk County Council	Cow Green Sign	£1,390.01
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090226/55	Scribe	Cemetery	£24.00
090226/56	County Classics	Maintenance	£484.00
090226/57	J Lawes	Fence and gate repair	£29.80
090226/58	Clarke of Walsham	Fence and gate repair	£118.78
	Councillors ratified the following payment made outside of a meeting:		
090226/59	DefibStore	Pads (Scout Hut)	£81.60
090226/60	Councillors noted February salaries would be paid at the end of the month following the payslips calculated by SALC being received and will be ratified at the next meeting.		
090226/61	PW proposed to make a donation of £100 to 'Parkinsons UK' in memory of the late Robert Black, former Parish Councillor. TN advised this donation can be made using S137 funds. GM seconded this proposal and with all Councillors in favour a donation will be made of £100 to 'Parkinsons UK'.		
090226/62	GW understood both the Barclays bank accounts have been closed although TN has not been advised. It was agreed for GW to contact Barclays for clarification.		
090226/63	The District Council have confirmed receipt of the precept request for 2026/27 and the change in banking details.		
090226/64	Governance: It was agreed for MB, as a new Councillor to review the Internal Control document, supported as necessary by TN.		
	Correspondence:		
090226/65	A resident requested an update on the footpath to allow direct access from The Fields development to the playing field; Councillors agreed this was discussed at the time of the development and it was resolved not to construct any footpath.		
090226/66	A resident at Cotton Chapel junction has emailed confirming external flooding remains an issue after rainfall. Councillors noted AS is dealing with this as a County Council issue.		
090226/67	A resident has asked for clarification on the use of the pole at the end of Prettyman Avenue: Councillors noted this is a pole designed for the use of the solar powered Speed Indicator Device only.		
090226/68	A resident from Cow Green asked what the position was with the track at Cow Green; Councillors agreed pot holes on entrance from 'The Cow ' have recently been filled.		

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- 090226/69 The same resident from Cow Green has asked what can be done to mend the collapsed drain that runs across the road; AS suggested this is reported to Suffolk County Council on the online reporting portal and to send him the reference number to follow up.
- 090226/70 **Councillors to request items for inclusion in a future meeting:** training on Data Protection principles and practices, condition of road signs, additional streetlighting, pop-up gazebo and 20mph speed limits.
- 090226/71 Councillors noted the next meeting is 9 March 2026.
- 090226/72 All Councillors resolved to exclude the public and press from the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the nature of the items to be discussed.
- 090226/73 All members of the public left the meeting.
- 090226/74 **Staff:** Councillors received a report further to the Parish Wardens appraisal and resolved to accept the review noting the role is primarily to litter pick the village, maintain the four defibrillators and noticeboards.
- 090226/75 **Service:** A plan was agreed by all Councillors noting GW and PW were not involved in the discussion.
- 090226/76 **Bacton Green:** After discussion it was agreed to defer the decision to the March meeting.
- 090226/77 VK closed the meeting at 8.58pm.