BACTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair Person: David Ryding
Clerk: Tina Newell
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Councillors: You are hereby summoned, and members of the press and public are hereby invited, to attend a meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 9 November 2026 at 7.00pm in Bacton Village Hall to consider the items set out below.

Any person who may find difficulty in access to the meeting through disability is asked to advise the Clerk at least 24 hours before the meeting so that every effort can be made to provide access.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence:**
    a. Councillors to receive apologies for absence.
    b. Councillors to vote on acceptance to apologies for absence.
2. **Appointment of Vice Chair person.**
3. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:**
    a. To receive any Councillors interests in subsequent agenda items.
    b. To receive and consider any requests for dispensations.
    c. To note any additions and/or deletions to members Register of Interests.
4. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Councillors to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19 October 2026.
5. **Public Forum:**
    a. Councillors are invited to ask questions on reports previously submitted to the Parish Council by Andrew Mellen, District Councillor and Andrew Stringer County Councillor.
    b. To receive comments or questions from members of the public.
6. **Planning:**
    a. Councillors to note there have been no planning applications made to the District Council relating to Bacton since the last meeting.
    b. Councillors to note determinations made by the District Council relating to Bacton since the last meeting.

c. To receive an update on the District Authorities plans to discuss an indicative housing requirement.

7. To receive updates and reports from working groups and consider further action:
    a. Beacon Green:
        i. Councillors to receive an update on the handover of the open space.
        ii. Councillors to consider the cost to install a metered water and electrical connection.
    b. Cemetery: Councillors to receive an update on the possibility of a water connection to the Cemetery including the Garden of Reflection.
    c. Community Engagement:
        i. Councillors are asked to consider and approve the publication of a winter edition of 'An Update from the Parish Council'.
        ii. Councillors are asked to consider future dates for 'Open Door' events.
    d. Community Infrastructure Levy:
        i. To consider the cost of composite and oak posts for installing around Tailors and Shop Green.
        ii. To receive ideas of play and gym equipment for installing at St Marys playing field.
    e. Garden of reflection: Councillors to receive a report following a meeting on site and consider actions required.
    f. Neighbourhood Plan: To receive an update following correspondence with the external consultant.
    g. Open Spaces:
        I. To consider further work required to the ponds at both Cow and Shop green.
        II. To consider the grass cutting contract for the 2027/28 season.
    h. Road/Pedestrian Safety:
        i. To consider the possibility and cost of extending the pavement from the bridge at the Church to the edge of Tailors Green.
        ii. To receive an update on the work to the drain along Church.
        iii. To receive an update on the installation of the streetlight along Pound Hill.
        iv. To receive an update on the installation of the benches and picnic tables.
    i. Parish Warden: Councillors to confirm receipt of the Parish Wardens report and agree any actions as a result.
8. Finance (all supporting paperwork appended):

a. To receive the minutes following the recent meeting of the finance committee.
b. To note receipts received since the last meeting.
c. To approve payments to be made and ratify any payments made since the last meeting.

9. **Governance:** Councillors to note the Community Governance Review working group at the District Council will be recommending Bacton Parish Council increase Councillor numbers from 9 to 12 at their full Council meeting on 26 November 2026.
10. **Correspondence:** Councillors to note there has been no correspondence received that hasn't been tabled as an agenda item.
11. **Councillors to consider other matters for inclusion on a future agenda:** Outstanding Community Infrastructure Levy, review of policies and risk assessments, youth Council, community emergency plan, budget and precept and cost of white lines/dragons teeth.
12. **Councillors to note the date of the next scheduled meeting as 11 January 2027.**
13. **Councillors are asked to resolve that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act the public and press be excluded from the meeting to consider staffing matters**.
14. **To receive the Clerks annual appraisal and consider any recommendations.**
15. **Close the meeting.**

Tina

Tina Newell I Clerk Bacton Parish Council 3 November 2026

Report from District Councillor Andy Mellen: Bacton ward, Nov. 2026

(Bacton, Cotton, Finningham, Westhorpe & Wyverstone parishes)

Result of inspection of our council housing service by the social housing regulator	Mid Suffolk has over 3,400 council homes and our housing service was recently inspected. The regulator has awarded Mid Suffolk District Council a C2 rating - the second highest grade on a scale of C1-C4. This is the highest grading of any district or borough council in Suffolk, and the judgement reflects the good progress made over the last few years from a very difficult position (we self-reported to the housing regulator in 2023 for failures around safety compliance for gas and electrical checks). The regulator was satisfied the council had a timely and responsive repairs service, noting a significant reduction in repairs backlog in the last two years. A positive council culture of fairness and respect for tenants, tenant feedback positively shaping future services, and a responsive complaints system were among the areas acknowledged.
New fund launched to transform district's high streets	Businesses across Mid Suffolk can now apply for grants worth up to £10,000 to spruce up shopfronts, improve accessibility and implement energy efficiency upgrades. Mid Suffolk District Council's new Town and Village Centre Business Improvement Fund is designed to support projects that make businesses more attractive and sustainable, helping them to remain resilient and open opportunities for growth. Funding can support a range of improvements, including new shopfronts and signage, lighting, accessible doors and ramps, customer facilities, security measures, solar panels and other equipment to support business growth or environmental performance. Mid Suffolk launches grants of up to £10,000 for businesses | East Anglian Daily Times
£30k fund helps growing projects take root	Community groups across Mid Suffolk can apply for grants of up to £30,000 to create or expand local food-growing projects thanks to a new funding scheme from Mid Suffolk District Council. The Community Growing Fund is designed to support communities looking to establish new growing spaces or enhance existing sites where there is a clear local need. Grants of between £5,001 and £30,000 are available to local VCFSE (voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise) organisations for the purchase of land and the development of projects such as community gardens, orchards and other food-growing spaces. Part of the council's broader Food and Drink Action Plan, the fund aims to increase access to locally grown food, strengthen food security and encourage more sustainable food systems. As well as supporting food production, projects funded through the scheme will also help bring people together, improve health and wellbeing, and give residents opportunities to develop their skills and confidence in growing food.

	£30k fund helps growing projects take root - Mid Suffolk District Council - babergh.gov.uk / midsuffolk.gov.uk
Fire Station community hub investment	With support from MSDC, Stowmarket charity Red Gables is redeveloping the Lockington Road site, which has been empty since Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service moved out in March 2023. New life for former Stowmarket fire station as community hub | East Anglian Daily Times
Living Well in Winter Grants	Living Well in Winter Grants for 2026/27 have now opened for applications, until 22nd November. The Living Well in Winter grant is now in its fourth year and exists to help local VCFSE (voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise) organisations deliver accessible, inclusive spaces and affordable activities during the colder months. Since its inception, the grant has supported dozens of projects designed to bolster the wellbeing of residents – particularly in rural areas. Last year, successful projects included everything from warm spaces with coffee and meals to craft workshops and indoor activities. Eligible projects might include lunch clubs, after-school clubs, low-cost sports sessions, community cafes, or any other initiative that brings people together during a time of year where many may feel isolated. Up to £2,000 can be applied for.
Vape shop shut down after discovery of illegal tobacco stash	A shop in Stowmarket has been forced to close for three months after a joint operation discovered illegal and potentially harmful vapes and tobacco – including goods with a street value of almost £16,000 stashed under a concrete floor. A successful joint operation between Mid Suffolk District Council, Suffolk Trading Standards and Suffolk Police saw a closure order served on Diamond Vapes in Ipswich Street, Stowmarket.

Cllr Andy Mellen
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Meeting at the Garden of Reflection (GoR) 28 10 2026

Present: Councillor David Ryding, Tina Newell (Parish Clerk) and one resident

1. It was agreed to recommend to full Council a water supply is installed with a tap in the GoR.
2. TN will obtain a quote from the current grass contractor to clear weeds and brambles from under the privet hedge, to clear the borders of all scrub, spray off the weeds from the outside along the fence line and reduce the size of the Sycamore tree.
3. Noting 15 of the trees had died RJ agreed to research replacements for purchasing once a decision on the water supply is known.
4. TN will request a quote to carry out a maintenance programme, including hedge cutting, spraying off weeds, grass maintenance (ie 'feed and weed') for future years again once the water supply is known (RJ agreed to maintain the climbing roses and lavender).
5. RJ will suggest some wording for a sign to go on both entrance gates welcoming visitors.
6. It was agreed to reconsider planting privet hedging where the Sycamore tree is again once the water supply is known.

   All present agreed this site is dependent on water to thrive.

Parish Wardens Summary for November

October saw continued routine coverage of litter picking, public areas, play equipment, defibrillators and noticeboards, alongside reporting and follow-up of maintenance and safety issues. Several earlier matters were resolved during the month, notably removal of the Heras fencing, old Shop Green bins and noticeboard, removal of the Scout Hut bottle banks, and removal of the hanging branches at Coppings Corner.

The key matters carrying into November are principally maintenance-related, including the skate park repair and tree works, outstanding bin issues, potholes, the cemetery gate, the Pound Hill hedge/driveway, the Garden of Reflection trees and Tailors Green molehills.