

BACTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 August 2026 from 7pm held in Bacton Village Hall.

In Attendance: David Ryding (DR) (Chairman), Deana Bird (DB), Martin Head (MH), Jill Dowsett (JD), John Kingsley (JK) Graham MacAusland (GM) and Gail Wigglesworth (GW).

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

100826/01 **Apologies for absence:** Vanessa Kingsley (VK) and Matt Bryant (MB) offered apologies for absence prior to the meeting due recovery from an operation and a previously arranged holiday.

100826/02 All Councillors agreed to accept apologies from VK and MB.

100826/03 **Declarations of Interest and Dispensation requests:** GW declared an interest in 'North Close' as a resident.

100826/04 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors confirmed receipt of the draft minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 13 July 2026 and resolved to accept these as a true record of the decisions made. DR, as Chairperson was authorised to sign and date these (pages 144-150 inclusive).

Public Forum:

100826/05 Following receipt of District Councillor Andy Mellen's report prior to the meeting AM confirmed the former Bacton Middle School site has full planning permission for 50 homes and a sports pitch with the remainder of the site being retained for a future education provision. It is anticipated work will commence on site early in 2027 if not later this year; the new waste collection regime which started in June has gone reasonably smooth however there is still the occasional missed bin. The full report is appended to these minutes.

100826/06 AS presented his report in brief; motions to reverse the Climate Emergency Declaration which the County Council had made previously in 2019 and reaffirmed in 2023 and a review of the environmental schemes to make sure they were making financial savings and not costing the council money were

passed at the recent full Council meeting; a motion put forward by the Green party to ensure the County Council sets out plans for a Universal Minimum Bus Service for all villages in Suffolk to ensure residents can get to their nearest town during commuting hours so they can access employment, education and health services was voted down. The full report is appended to these minutes.

100826/07 GM asked AS who should pay to lengthen the pipe that drains the road on the corner near Tailors Green noting the pipe was laid too short and doesn't reach the ditch. AS agreed the pipe hadn't been laid correctly and confirmed it is the land owners responsibility whom he would seek details for.

100826/08 A villager asked if there is any way speed bumps could be installed through the village. Whilst it was noted some actions to support road safety have been carried out by the Parish Council including white lining, road edging, making good use of Speed Indicator Devices (SID's) and regular enforcement it was agreed to meet with the highways liaison engineer to ask what further action can be considered.

Planning:

100826/09 Councillors noted there have been no applications made to the District Council relating to Bacton since the last meeting.
Councillors noted the following determinations made by the District Council relating to Bacton since the last meeting:

100826/10 DC/26/01734 Seeblick, Rectory Road, IP144LE

MSDC: Granted BPC: Supported

100826/11 DC/26/00504 36 Pound Hill, Bacton IP14 4LP

MSDC: Granted BPC: No objection

100826/12 Councillors noted whilst there is no update on the outstanding CIL liability relating to planning application 4945/16 (land to the rear of The Bull Inn) an installment plan to clear the debt relating to planning application DC/19/05193 (Mizpah) has been accepted by the District Council.

100826/13 All Councillors resolved to suspend further discussion with land owners until a more appropriate time in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan schedule.

100826/14 Following discussion, it was agreed that up to £300.00 would be spent on obtaining further advice from solicitors Mills & Reeve to ensure that the

forthcoming meeting with two senior planners is as effective as possible in reaching an agreement on the previously offered community facility on the Bellway development. It was noted that GM did not agree with the original resolution to pursue this matter and, accordingly, did not support the proposed further action.

Councillors received the following reports/updates:

Beacon Green:

100826/15 Following discussion, all Councillors agreed to delegate authority to the Clerk and DR, as Chairman, to ensure that the open space is completed and handed over in the condition previously agreed. The anticipated completion date is understood to be the end of September 2026.

100826/16 Councillors noted TN had not pursued a feasibility study to provide water at Beacon Green and will do so in preparation for the next meeting.

Cemetery:

100826/17 Councillors noted St Marys Church will consider the Parish Councils request to allow a supply of water from the Church to the Garden of Reflection/Cemetery at their next meeting in September 2026.

100826/18 After discussion and noting the cost for an Essex & Suffolk approved water supply company to provide a metered underground supply to one maybe two stand pipes at the Cemetery is £750-£1,000 per meter all Councillors agreed this is not a cost effective solution.

100826/19 TN confirmed the double bin store will be ordered once a reasonable quote to erect it has been received.

100826/20 All Councillors noted work to tidy the older less visited graves has yet to commence and agreed to pursue a previous offer from a volunteer.

100826/21 After a lengthy conversation and having heard all options Councillors agreed to add the following to the terms and conditions with immediate effect 'any person or persons excavating graves within the cemetery shall be responsible for removing all surplus soil from the cemetery, or as otherwise agreed with the Council. There is no facility for the disposal of soil in Bacton cemetery'.

Community Engagement:

100826/22 Councillors were pleased at the number of visitors to the stand at the recent Bacton Fayre and agreed for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) working

group to pursue these which include a bandstand, lending library and seating at Beacon Green and benches/seating and new toddler equipment at St Marys playingfield.

100826/23 After consideration all Councillors agreed it is a good idea to hold an official community event to mark the Parish Council's ownership of Beacon Green in May 2027.

100826/24 Councillors agreed with the suggestion from St Marys Church for the Christmas event and resolved to serve refreshments and turn the Christmas Tree lights on with a younger member of the congregation.

100826/25 **Community Infrastructure Levy working group:** All Councillors noted the majority of comments from residents were in favour of two streetlights along from the railway bridge to Broad Road and agreed to ask Suffolk County Council to confirm suitable locations and bring back to the next meeting.

100826/26 Councillors noted the columns for the three new streetlights approved along Church Road are scheduled to be installed this week.

North Close:

100826/27 After discussion all Councillors resolved to pursue the claim with the insurance company of the previous contractor.

100826/28 Councillors noted the corrective work to the patio area was postponed due to the dry weather and will start on 14 September 2026.

100826/29 **Neighbourhood Plan:** After discussions with the external consultant and a lengthy debate at the meeting, Councillors voted on the consultant's recommendation to progress the draft Neighbourhood Plan to the Regulation 14 consultation stage. This was subject to Policies 17 and 18, and the associated text, being removed, as these sites are not considered deliverable. All Councillors noted that the only figure provided by the District Council for development in Bacton is zero and following consultation with residents previously it was also noted they had no requirement for development in the village. JK, JD and GM voted against the recommendation whilst MH, GW, DB and DR voted in favour of proceeding with the consultation based on the current draft plan as ammended. The motion was therefore carried. The six-week public consultation period will officially begin on Saturday 26 September 2026, with an open event at the Village Hall from 10am to 3pm. Further drop-

in sessions will also be arranged to give residents the opportunity to ask questions about the Plan and the consultation process. Once the six-week consultation period has ended, the consultant will review all comments received and present proposed modifications later in the year.

Open Spaces:

- 100826/30 Councillors noted work to maintain some of the play equipment at St Marys playing field will be carried out in September to allow full use of the equipment over the holiday period.
- 100826/31 After consideration all Councillors approved quotations from Ai Tree Services Ltd to carry out necessary work on the ponds at Cow Green and Shop Green (quotes 1268 and 1269) at a cost of £655.00 and £1,150.00 respectively.
- 100826/32 **Road/Pedestrian Safety:** All Councillors agreed to defer the purchase of entrance gates to the October meeting when all costs are known and locations have been approved with highways.

Finance:

- 100826/33 Councillors confirmed receipt of the bank reconciliation for the period ended 31 July 2026 prior to the meeting and GM as a non bank signatory verified these to the bank statements agreeing cash available as at 31 July 2026 of £319,557.06: £39,155.69 in Unity Trust Bank, £85,996.60 in HSBC, £113,160.23 in OakNorth and £81,244.54 in Aldermore.
- 100826/34 Councillors confirmed receipt of the Budget vs Actual summary account prior to the meeting with no questions.
- 100826/35 **Reserves:** Councillors agreed with the reserves reconciliation.
- 100826/36 **Assets:** Councillors received the asset register at the meeting and noting the additions in the year and disposals agreed the value of assets held by Bacton Parish Council as £157,856.28.
- 100826/37 All Councillors noted the annual insurance will renew on 1 October 2026 and delegated authority for TN to seek quotes and liaise with DR, as Chairman, to renew the insurance.
- 100826/38 **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) reconciliation:** Councillors confirmed receipt of the CIL reconciliation.

Councillors noted the following receipts since the last meeting:

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| 100826/39 | MSDC | Warden Grant | £3,304.60 |
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100826/40	Tenant	Rent	£250.00
100826/41	Andrew Bingham	Burial	£995.00
Councillors ratified the following payments made outside of a meeting noting invoices and the power to pay have been seen:			
100826/42	Clarke & Simpson	St Marys rent	£700.00
100826/43	Blackthorn Landscapes	Grass cutting	£640.00
100826/44	Nest	Pension	£98.89
100826/45	Scribe	Cemetery mapping	£24.00
100826/46	Andrew May	July salary	£176.46
100826/47	Unity bank	Bank charges	£7.00
100826/48	Tina Newell	July remuneration	£1,654.28
100826/49	Clarkes of Walsham	Bench Cow Green	£370.00
100826/50	Mid Suffolk District Council	Annual Play Inspection	£78.65
Councillors resolved to make the following payments noting invoices and the power to which they can be paid has been seen:			
100826/51	Clarkes of Walsham	Noticeboard sundries	£264.17
100826/52	Scribe	Cemetery software	£24.00
100826/53	Rialtas	Accounts software	£816.39
100826/54	Mills & Reeve	Advice re community land	£600.00
100826/55	Bacton Village Hall	Hall hire April – June 2026	£180.00
100826/56	BSW Marquee Hire	Bacton Faryre marquee hire	£3,126.00
100826/57	Earth Anchors	Waste bins	£5,052.60
100826/58	Greenbarnes	Noticeboards	£5,159.94
100826/59	J Lawes	Storage (Parish minutes)	£17.40
100826/60	Ghyll Publishing	Advertising banner x 2	£192.00
100826/61	Frank Davey	Cow Green Entrance	£5,616.00
100826/62	Viking Office UK Ltd	Stationery (paper, pens)	£46.41
100826/63	Colour Classics	Collect bench and noticeboards	£220.00
100826/64	Colour Classics	Fit bench & noticeboard Cow Green	£220.00
100826/65	Colour Classics	Notice boards at village hall	£220.00
100826/66	Colour Classics	Broad Road noticeboards	£240.00
100826/67	Colour Classics	Waste disposal	£50.00
100826/68	Vanessa Kingsley	History of Bacton book	£25.30

100826/69	David Ryding	Keys	£32.00
100826/70	Places4People	Neighbourhood Plan	£2,964.00
100826/71	Birketts	Various advice	£468.00
100826/72	Councillors noted Unity Bank have confirmed receipt of the mandate change application form and changes should be implemented within 14 working days.		
	Governance:		
100826/73	All Councillors noted the completion of the Limited Assurance Review for the year ended 31st March 2026.		
100826/74	Councillors received confirmation the Clerk has advertised the Conclusion of Audit for the year ended 31st March 2026 in accordance with legislation.		
100826/75	Councillors noted an update on the request to increase the number of Parish Councillors from 9 to 12 should be available for the next meeting.		
100826/76	Correspondence: None.		
100826/77	Items for inclusion at a future meeting include: Drains (nr Tailors Green) and Remembrance Day soldiers.		
100826/78	Councillors noted the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 19 October 2026.		
100826/79	All Councillors resolved to exclude members of the press and public due to the nature of the business to be conducted.		
100826/80	All Councillors noted there had been no response to the application for SFI at Bacton Green and agreed to wait on the outcome of this application before contacting those interested in renting the land.		
100826/81	Further to interviewing all candidates all Councillors accepted the recommendation from the Staffing committee and resolved to appoint Chris Chilton as Village Warden for five hours a week on Salary Scale Point 21 currently £17.18 per hour starting Monday 18 August 2026.		
100826/82	All Councillors agreed for TN to respond to a letter requesting compensation following a fall correcting the numerous errors in the letter and confirming the Parish Council do not own the land in question.		
100826/83	DR closed the meeting at 9.05pm		

