

BACTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8 June 2026 held in Bacton Village Hall.

In Attendance: David Ryding (DR) (Chairman), Matt Bryant (MB), Deana Bird (DB), Martin Head (MH), Jill Dowsett (JD), 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 twenty seven members of the public.

Prior to opening the meeting David Ryding acknowledged the sad death of Dave Green, former Councillor and Parish Warden, who tragically died on May 7, 2026.

080626/01 **Co-option:** Councillors confirmed receipt of one application for the post of Parish Councillor prior to the meeting. With no other applications it was agreed to co-opt Deanna Bird (DB) to Bacton Parish Council as a Parish Councillor.

080626/02 DB signed the Declaration of Acceptance to Office form and joined the meeting as a Parish Councillor.

080626/03 DB confirmed receipt of a 'Register of Interests' form and noted this must be completed and returned to the District Council within 28 days from the date of taking office.

080626/04 **Apologies for absence:** Vanessa Kingsley (VK) and John Kingsley (JK) offered apologies for absence prior to the meeting due to previously arranged commitments.

080626/05 All Councillors agreed to accept apologies from VK and JK.

080626/06 **Declarations of Interest and Dispensation requests:** GW declared an interest in item 6a ii as an employee of the applicant. GW did not request a dispensation and will withdraw from the meeting at the point this item is being considered

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in accordance with the Parish Councils Standing Orders 13.b and the Code of Conduct.

- 080626/07 There were no other declarations received prior to or at the meeting and no dispensations requested.
- 080626/08 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors confirmed receipt of the draft minutes from the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 14 May 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 139-143 inclusive).
- 080626/09 The Chairman re-ordered the agenda in accordance with Standing Order 1a.
- 080626/10 Parish Councillor Gail Wigglesworth left the meeting room.
- 080626/11 The applicant of planning application DC/26/01897 Erection of a new store and café, with relocation of existing store Land to the South of Church Road IP14 4LW presented a planning statement in support of the application.
- 080626/12 A number of parishioners spoke with concern over the location of the new store and café; whilst they supported the need for a larger village store all expressed worry over the proposed location due to the harm to the landscape and open setting of a Grade II* listed manor house (a grade II* listed building is wholly exceptional, rare and of national significance representing only 5.5% to 5.8% of all listed buildings in the UK and signify "particularly important buildings of more than special interest"), loss of a historic green open space and subsequent loss of the rural character of Bacton. These along with safety concerns both on the site and off resulted in the Parish Council being requested to recommend refusal.
- 080626/13 DC/26/01897 Erection of a new store and café, with relocation of existing store Land to the South of Church Road IP14 4LW
After careful consideration and having listened to residents comments Councillors resolved to recommend this application for REFUSAL for the following reasons; it was felt the siting of the store would detract from the Grade II* Listed Building setting and may lead to further encroachment on the ancient meadow; increase in traffic along the very busy main road through the village which is already a cause for concern with both parking and speeding; the provision of a larger shop would undoubtedly provide more

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facilities but as residents previously expressed the harm will not be mitigated by any perceived benefit.

080626/14 Gail Wigglesworth re-entered the meeting.

080626/15 DC/26/01966 Erection of 1 no self build dwelling on plot 2 with dedicated access The Bungalow Church Road IP14 4LJ

After discussion it was agreed by all Councillors to recommend REFUSAL noting overdevelopment of the plot and the façade is not in keeping with the area.

080626/16 DC/26/01734 Householder application Erection of a garage/workshop with office above Seeblick, Rectory Road IP14 4LE

After discussion it was resolved to SUPPORT this application and recommend it is GRANTED.

080626/17 Councillors noted there were no determinations made by Mid Suffolk District Council relating to Bacton since the last meeting.

080626/18 AM confirmed the legal team at the District Council have been instructed to progress to the next stage of recovery for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) liability relating to Mizpah (DC/19/05193) whilst the legal team and courts continue recovery on the outstanding CIL on the land to the Rear of the Bull Inn (4945/16).

080626/19 After discussion and having heard from AS he has not engaged with any land owners all Councillors agreed to engage with land owners who have submitted sites in the recent 'call for sites' exercise by the District Council.

080626/20 Councillors confirmed receipt of the response from Mid Suffolk District Council's solicitors regarding the request for compensation over the loss of the site formerly offered for Community Use on the Bellway estate. Noting the content of the letter and the advice from Mills Reeve (Parish Councils solicitor) it was agreed to instruct Mills Reeve to respond to the points raised and request a meeting at a cost of £500.00. Councillors agreed there would be no need to have Mills Reeve present at the meeting as this would be at an additional cost.

080626/21 AS presented his report in brief a copy of which is appended to these minutes; the County Council have held its first meeting with the new administrative and

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Councillors from Reform UK, as the largest group at the County Council, were appointed to the positions of Leader, Chairman and members of the Council's Cabinet were announced; a motion originally tabled by the Labour group in favour of the proposed Northern Relief Road for Ipswich, but was subsequently amended and tabled by an Independent councillor and seconded by Reform saw this passed and detailed the council's commitment to look into options to reduce reliance on the Orwell Bridge and the impact of the crossing on Ipswich traffic when it was closed or partially closed.

080626/22 Councillors acknowledged receipt of AM's report; AM presented his report in brief confirming the new waste bin regime had gone reasonably well. The full report is appended to these minutes.

080626/23 AM confirmed receipt of an email from a Senior Infrastructure Officer who confirmed once the land at Beacon Green has transferred to the Parish Council, and confirmation of the square meterage has been received, a demand notice for the maintenance sum due under the s106 legal agreement (which is not index linked) can be raised and once the funds are received will be transferred across to the Parish Council for the maintenance of the public open space.

080626/24 There was some frustration from a Councillor and a Parishioner over the process for recycling shredded paper and understanding exactly what can be recycled as the manufacturer's instructions differ to the District Councils.

080626/25 A Parishioner asked if Councillors were happy with the work of the contractor at the Cemetery in particular the spoil being put in a ditch.

080626/26 Residents asked for clarification of the wording on agenda item 7B iii and v; TN offered apologies and confirmed it should read Garden of Reflection.

Councillors received the following reports/updates:

080626/27 **Beacon Green:** Noting the District Council have requested further confirmation of the Parish Councils support to the non-material amendment relating to the landscape redesign on the land to be transferred to the Parish Council it was resolved to submit a further comment of support.

Cemetery:

- 080626/28 Councillors agreed a temporary water supply is required for the trees and plants in the Garden of Reflection and after discussion agreed to make contact with the Primary and Pre School and see if there is a solution.
- 080626/29 After consideration and noting the damage Muntjac deer have done to the shrubs and trees in the Garden of Reflection (GoR) it was resolved to ask Country Classics to re-instate the small gate leading from the Cemetery to the GoR as a temporary measure.
- 080626/30 Councillors resolved to seek quotes to tidy and cut back the hedge at the entrance from the Pre-School and install a wooden gate.
- 080626/31 All Councillors agreed with three new benches in the Cemetery there is no requirement for a fourth.
- 080626/32 Noting how tidy the Cemetery looks and how unsightly the bins are it was agreed to purchase a double bin store at a cost of £125.00.
- 080626/33 Noting the recommendation from the working party was to purchase signage stating 'Please keep dogs on leads at all times' all Councillors agreed to purchase four A4 signs at a cost of £17.50 each from 'Polstead Press'.
- 080626/34 Councillors noted the Primary and Under 5s together with the trusts' Chief Operating Officer have put together a case outlining the benefits of re-directing the footpath from a safeguarding perspective; with letters from some of the children supporting the application reflecting their views and experiences it was agreed the Parish Council would write a letter of support as the owners of land crossed by the re-direction.

Community engagement:

- 080626/35 Councillors noted 22 residents attended the first of the monthly 'open door' events; issues raised included the planning application for a new store and café, the need for a more regular bus service to Bury St Edmunds, issue with Bellway homes removing fencing and concern over the condition of the development off Broad Road.
- 080626/36 The 'Parish News', an 8 page A5 information booklet summarising who and what the Parish Council are, the achievements, future plans etc will be updated with DB before going to print. The working group will arrange distribution to every household.

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080626/37 It was agreed for the Community Engagement working group to meet with representatives of the Good Neighbour Scheme to consider ways in which the Parish Council can assist promoting the service whilst recruiting volunteers.

080626/38 **Community Infrastructure Levy working group:** With no new requests for grant funding and noting there is still substantial funds available DR invited applications for funding.

080626/39 **North Close:** It was noted a claim has been sent to the insurance company of the former contractor.

080626/40 **Neighbourhood Plan:** Councillors noted a completed draft Neighbourhood Plan is expected soon. Once received the Parish Council will review the plan before the next stage i.e. informal public consultation.

Road/Pedestrian Safety:

080626/41 After discussion it was agreed the locations and sizes of entrance gates needs further consideration and it was resolved to defer any decision to the next meeting.

080626/42 **Parish Warden:** Councillors noted with disappointed there was no report from the Parish Warden.

Finance:

080626/43 Councillors confirmed receipt of the bank reconciliation for the period ended 31 May 2026 prior to the meeting, which GM as a non bank signatory verified to the bank statements. The Parish Council has £332,267.64 available cash as at 31 May 2026: £53,100.60 in Unity Trust Bank, and £279,167.04 held in 'Flagstone': £85,524.37 in HSBC, £112,868.01 in OakNorth and £80,774.66 in Aldermore.

080626/44 Councillors confirmed receipt of the Budget vs Actual summary account prior to the meeting with no questions agreeing it is early in the year still.

Councillors noted the following receipts since the last meeting:

080626/45	Flagstone	Interest	£783.52
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080626/46	Tenant	Rent	£250.00
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Councillors ratified the following payments made outside of a meeting noting invoices and the power to pay have been seen:

080626/47	Nest	Pension	£90.63
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080626/48	Scribe	Cemetery mapping	£24.00
080626/49	Unity	Bank fee	£7.00
080626/50	Tina Newell	Remuneration	£1,864.08
080626/51	Andy May	Salary	£172.89
080626/52	Blackthorne Landscapes	Grass cutting	£640.00
080626/53	Colour Classics	Cemetery fence	£525.00
080626/54	Colour Classics	Cemetery fence	£1,412.00

Councillors resolved to make the following payments noting invoices and the power to which they can be paid has been seen:

080626/55	Colour Classics	Cow Green labour & fuel	£2,070.00
080626/56	J Lawes	Cow Green post mix	£75.06
080626/57	J Lawes	Cow Green post mix	£75.06
080626/58	J Lawes	Cow Green post mix	£62.55
080626/59	J Lawes	Cow Green post mix & hinge	£107.33
080626/60	J Lawes	Cemetery	£8.95
080626/61	SALC	Transfer of asset training	£42.00
080626/62	Clarkes of Walsham	Cow Green posts	£1,580.04
080626/63	Clarkes of Walsham	Cemetery	£38.85
080626/64	Clarkes of Walsham	Cemetery	£825.24
080626/65	Blackthorne Landscapes	Grass cutting	£640.00

080626/66 An application has been made to Unity Trust Bank to update the mandate removing JK adding DR, MB, JD and MH; Councillors will be contacted to provide proof of identity before the changes can be actioned.

080626/67 Councillors noted there has been no update or correspondence from Barclays Bank so TN has sent another letter seeking confirmation of the closure of both accounts.

Governance:

080626/68 Councillors noted the external review body, PKF Littlejohn, have confirmed receipt of all documents required to carry out the external review and this will be carried out according to their timetable.

080626/69 After discussion it was agreed to appoint DB as the Parish Council representative to the village hall committee.

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Correspondance:

- 080626/70 It was agreed to consult on the Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils new local plan at the next meeting.
- 080626/71 **Items for inclusion at a future meeting include:** Neighbourhood Plan, MSDC Joint Local Plan, the future of the agricultural land at Bacton Green and car parking at the village hall.
- 080626/72 Councillors noted the next meeting is scheduled for Monday 13 July 2026 and agreed to hold a meeting on 10 August 2026 cancelling the September meeting due to the number of Councillors away in September.
- 080626/73 DR closed the meeting at 21.15pm