

BACTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extra Parish Council Meeting held on 2 September 2026 from 2pm held in Bacton Village Hall.

In Attendance: David Ryding (DR) Chair person, Vanessa Kinglsey (VK) Vice Chair person, Martin Head (MH), Jill Dowsett (JD), John Kingsley (JK) and Graham MacAusland (GM)

Others present: Tina Newell (Meeting Clerk) (TN) and six members of the public.

- 020926/01 **Apologies for absence:** Deana Bird (DB), Matt Bryant (MB) and Gail Wigglesworth (GW) offered apologies for absence prior to the meeting due to work commitments.
- 020926/02 All Councillors agreed to accept apologies from DB, MB and GW.
- 020926/03 **Declarations of Interest and Dispensation requests:** Councillors confirmed they had no declarations of interest or dispensation requests at the meeting and TN advised no declarations of interest had been received prior the meeting.
- 020926/04 **Minutes of previous meeting:** All Councillors confirmed receipt of the draft minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 10 August 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 159-165 inclusive).
- 020926/05 Noting draft Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood Plan working group had been circulated prior to the meeting all Councillors approved the adoption of these; it was agreed these give a clear indication of the groups responsibility to the Parish Council and provides a framework to achieving the goals.
- 020926/06 After a lengthy discussion noting the introduction of the 17 August 2026 version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the advice from the external consultant ('the publication has some potentially significant ramifications for neighbourhood plans in that they now expect district councils to provide (whether you ask for it or not) an indicative housing requirement for every neighbourhood plan area and NPs are expected to plan

for that housing. It states, 'in relation to housing development, that local plans should set a housing requirement figure for designated neighbourhood plan areas, unless it is impractical to do so (because a neighbourhood planning area has been designated at a late stage in the local plan preparation process, or after the plan has been adopted, or in instances where the local plan is out of date; in which case the local planning authority should provide an indicative figure instead). This requirement figure should take into account factors such as the latest evidence of local housing need, the population of the neighbourhood area and the most recently available planning strategy of the local planning authority. Local planning authorities should avoid setting housing requirement figures for neighbourhood planning areas at nil other than where: the local plan already meets or exceeds the housing need figure for the neighbourhood planning area; or the neighbourhood planning area has a clear and well evidenced need for no additional housing; or the constraints within the neighbourhood planning area are so substantial as to preclude any additional housing of any kind from coming forward. There is no longer the phrase in the NPPF that says local planning authorities should provide an indicative housing required if asked to do so by the NP body. That previously was the get-out clause that didn't require neighbourhood plans to meet housing requirements in their Plan. Given that the three conditions for a nil requirement could not be demonstrated in Bacton and all new Plans in Mid Suffolk and Babergh, we could not go forward without meeting the housing requirement') all Councillors agreed to 'park' the current draft Neighbourhood Plan until further work has been carried out.

020926/07 Noting MSDC are preparing a new Local Plan and that Bacton is likely to be considered suitable for further housing development (the initial housing numbers published for each parish in March 2025 have no status and the planning strategy for the distribution of growth in the district is unlikely to be known in draft form until early 2027) all Councillors agreed to consult residents asking 'if new homes have to be built, where would you like them to go' in preparation for the planning strategy (housing number requirement) to be given early in 2027.

- 020926/08 All Councillors agreed to produce a summary consultation paper accompanied by a more detailed 8 page consultation to be distributed to all dwellings and businesses w/c 21 September 2026 asking for responses latest 10 October 2026.
- 020926/09 All Councillors agreed to continue with the open door events previously advertised for the consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan, on Saturday 26 September 9am – 3pm, Sunday 27 September 12 noon - 3pm, Monday 28 September 4pm – 6pm, Tuesday 29 September 5pm - 7pm, Wednesday 30 September 6pm - 9pm and a reduced time from previously advertised on Saturday 3 October from 11am to 2pm and to produce publicity banners and posters.
- 020926/10 **Governance:** After a brief discussion all Councillors acknowledged the village is growing and noting the residents responses to the increase in number of Councillors at the open door events agreed to move forward with the request to increase the number of Councillors from nine to twelve.
- 020926/11 DR closed the meeting at 3.08pm