

BACTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extra Parish Council Meeting held on 18 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) and four members of the public.

- 180226/01 **Apologies for absence:** All Councillors present therefore no apologies required.
- 180226/02 **Declarations of Interest and Dispensation:** No declarations of interest.
- 180226/03 There were no requests for dispensations.
- 180226/04 **Minutes of previous meeting:** Councillors confirmed receipt of the draft minutes from 9 February 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 112- 118 inclusive).
- 180226/05 **Public Forum:** No members of the public wished to speak.
- 180226/06 **Bacton Green:** After discussion all Councillors agreed to request a site visit before the end of the tenancy to carry out a joint inspection with the tenant and to obtain a forwarding address. It was agreed DR, GM and TN would conduct a final formal walk of the land including buildings and boundaries on the 28 February 2026 to confirm vacant possession and complete a sign off on condition.
- Cemetery:**
- 180226/07 After consideration all Councillors resolved to approve the amendment to the regulations relating to tributes; all Councillors agreed the new Regulations will take effect from 1 April 2026 and will be enforced.
- 180226/08 All Councillors resolved to increase the fees noting the increases are less than inflation.
- 180226/09 Noting concern the Cemetery is running at a loss it was agreed to record the cost to maintain this area on a separate account line to support a review of fees for 2027.

These minutes are in draft form only. They have not been ratified by full Council and therefore are not a matter of formal record. They will be presented to full Council for approval at the next meeting.

Correspondence:

- 180226/10 Councillors confirmed receipt of a letter in which an offer of land was given in exchange for the Parish Council allocating a field off Wyverstone Road for development in the Neighbourhood Plan. All Councilors agreed to take this to the March meeting to consider a response.
- 180226/11 Councillors noted correspondence confirming the government's decision to reinstate local elections in May 2026.
- 180226/12 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.
- 180226/13 All members of the public left the meeting.
- 180226/14 **Grounds maintenance:** After lengthy and careful consideration and noting GM's comments that price may reflect quality all Councillors, other than GM, agreed to appoint Blackthorn Landscapes Ltd as the grounds contractor for the 2026 season. TN will draw up a contract for all Councillors approval.
- 180226/15 **Bacton Green:** All Councillors received details of parties interested in the agriculture land and after discussion agreed to consider any tenancy agreement at the March meeting.
- 180226/16 VK closed the meeting at 7.20pm.