

## BACTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 14 May 2026 in  
Bacton Village Hall

**Councillors Present:** Vanessa Kingsley (VK) (Chairman)

**In Attendance:** Tina Newell (TN) (Parish Clerk), and fifteen members of the public.

14526/pm1 Vanessa Kingsley as Chair Person of the Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

14526/pm2 **Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Andrew Stringer County Councillor; VK congratulated him on his re-election to the post of County Councillor on behalf of the Parish Council and villagers.

14526/pm3 **Minutes:** All presented confirmed receipt of the draft minutes from the Annual Parish meeting held on 15 May 2025 and resolved to accept them as an accurate record of the meeting. VK as Chair Person of the Parish Council was authorised to sign and date these as a true record (minute ref 15525/PM1-24 inclusive).

**The following reports were received:**

14526/pm4 **Bacton Village Hall:** Thanks were given to the Parish Council for supporting the Village Hall over the past year especially for sponsoring the installation of WI-FI which was requested by a number of hirers. Thanks were also given to Andrew Stringer for funds enabling new mugs to be purchased. The continued support from the lovely groups that use the hall is very much appreciated with special thanks going to the gardening club for maintaining the front border. The regular hires range in activities and ages such that all ages are covered by an activity. . Work for the forthcoming year includes purchasing new toilet roll holders and possibly mirrors. The committee work tirelessly throughout the year holding fund raising events including a recent quiz night and forthcoming craft fayre with further events planned. It is with thanks to the fundraising events that the hall hire has remained at £9 per hour.

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.

14526/pm5 **Bacton Ladies Circle:** The past year has seen our meetings carry on in much the same way and we have approximately 28 members, the majority of whom are over 70. We try to keep the membership fee down but it may have to rise next year due to having to go further afield to find new speakers. We have had 5 speakers in the past year speaking on a range of subjects from Creative Writing to Suffolk Smugglers. We again held the Summer afternoon tea at Middlegate Farm with entertainment from 'The Old Codgers' accordion trio. The Summer outing was to 'Porters Lodge' in Cavenham where a nice meal was enjoyed in the beautiful surroundings of the garden. The Annual supper in the village hall was a hot meal prepared by Will Gray and entertainment by Allan Wright. Another successful coffee morning for the Poppy Appeal raised £457.80 and a remembrance wreath was laid at the war memorial. Our Christmas meal was a roast dinner at Hillcrest Nursery, Stanton. A flower rota remains operational for the Cotton War Memorial – this has continued on from the days of the group being the Royal British Legion Women's section some 10 year ago. We provided cake for the Church fete and organised a cake and handy craft competition for the Bacton Flower Show.

14526/pm6 **Womens Institute:** We are a lively, sociable group that continues to flourish bringing together members who are new to the village and those who have been here longer. The WI is a large organisation and there is lots that members can get involved in outside the village if they want to. Our numbers are stable at about 30. We have a few working members so we are trying to make sure that we can include everyone in the activities that we put on but are also as inclusive as possible for women of all ages and backgrounds. We continue to have a healthy bank balance though costs are rising. We continue to subsidise the amount members pay in subs so that they pay £40. We fundraise through the year to make sure this can continue. We also make donations to charity; particularly Restore, Women's Aid in Bury St Edmunds. We have recently bought a microphone system which has been very helpful. There has been a full calendar of events in the year including a trip to Thursford, walking treasure hunt and visits to the local theatre in Diss. All are

welcome to our Open Meeting on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 to hear Ali Norman who was the first female full crew member of the RNLI at Aldeburgh. We also look forward to seeing everyone at our annual Soup and Puds event on Thursday 29th October 2026.

14526/pm7 **Holistic Therapy:** Over the last nine months, the Cup of Calm afternoons have continued to grow, with attendance steadily increasing and generally around six ladies joining each session. Held on the first Tuesday of each month, the afternoons provide a warm and welcoming space for relaxation, friendship, and wellbeing within the community. We have enjoyed a variety of self-care activities including aromatherapy, reflexology and Indian head massage techniques to use at home, as well as creative wellbeing ideas such as gratitude jars and self-care envelopes, to name just a few. Herbal tea and homemade cake are offered at every session, and each afternoon finishes with a guided meditation. The group is made up of lovely ladies who enjoy each other's company, good conversation, and plenty of laughter. Our chats are not solely focused on holistic health, but also on everyday life and supporting one another socially. We are always happy to welcome new members, and everyone is very welcome to come along and join us.

14526/pm8 **Bacton Under 5's:** Firstly, please accept our apologies, we will be unable to attend the meeting tonight. However, I just wanted to share a short report from Bacton Under Fives. Bacton Under Fives, serves the families within the village and local communities. In March of this year, there was a change over of manager. My name is Amy Brown. My family and I have relocated to Bacton, from Essex and it has been so lovely being welcomed into the community. We provide childcare to families from 3 months, to 4 years in the nursery and holiday club for 5-11 year olds. We are developing the building slightly inside, creating a new sensory room for the children to enjoy. We are currently holding a fundraising challenge with the children, 'to walk to Felixstowe'. In reality, we are completing many MANY laps of the meadow to complete a total of 30 miles (the distance from us to Felixstowe beach!). All fundraising efforts will be put towards our redevelopment of our outdoor

space. The last round of fundraising meant we were able to secure new fences for our perimeter and now it is time to revamp the gardens. A small pledge of any donations towards our fundraising would of course be greatly appreciated. Who wouldn't want to support the local nursery! Being a charity run setting, we are very grateful for any donations big or small – as they say every little helps. We are fortunate to be able to offer childcare to local families throughout the year. I am currently offering spaces to families for September onwards. We have seen a great influx of applicants from within the village itself, lots from the new Bellway estate especially. I am really looking forward to the year ahead, and hopefully creating a beautiful outdoor space for the children as they absolutely deserve it, as well as being able to help local families with their childcare needs!

14526/pm9 **Bacton Primary School:** Over the past year, we have seen significant improvements to the school site, made possible through the support of our Trust, Oxlip Learning Partnership. The entire school has been redecorated, with new carpeting installed throughout the corridors, creating a bright and welcoming environment for our pupils. The children have taken great pride in their refurbished surroundings and have thoroughly enjoyed seeing their school transformed. In addition, new gym equipment has been installed in the playground, which the children are already enjoying and making good use of during playtimes. Security has also been enhanced through the introduction of a new entrance system, including an intercom, helping to ensure a safe and controlled access point to the school. We continue to strengthen our partnership with Bacton Under 5s, particularly following the appointment of their new Manager, Amy. This collaboration is supporting an increasingly smooth and effective transition from nursery into Reception. We have also taken on responsibility for wraparound care, enabling greater capacity within the preschool provision while ensuring consistency of care for families. We continue to work closely with Mendlesham Primary School through our shared Senior Leadership Team, as well as across the wider Oxlip Learning Partnership, including Cedars Park Primary, Rosehill Primary, Britannia

Primary, and Stowupland and Copleston High Schools. These partnerships enable us to share best practice, strengthen provision, and ensure continued school improvement. Our curriculum continues to provide pupils with a broad and engaging range of learning opportunities, with a strong emphasis on enrichment and real-life experiences. Children benefit from regular forest school sessions, are currently beginning work to reinstate our school pond, and have enjoyed a wide range of educational visits throughout the year. We have also welcomed visitors into school, including a memorable visit from a lamb and ewe, which further enriched pupils' learning experiences. Looking ahead, we are working closely with the Trust to further enhance site security, including plans to redirect the footpath that currently runs through the school grounds. Our Parent Teacher Association are also actively raising funds to further develop our outdoor provision, including enhancements to our meadow play equipment.

14526/pm10 **Parish Council:** Vanessa Kinglsey as Chair Person of Bacton Parish Council welcomed all the new residents who with the older residents are really livening up the village. Thanks were given to Paul Merry, James Steed and Paul Wigglesworth who retired from the Parish Council after giving many hours of their time to the role and welcomed Matt Bryant and Martin Head as Parish Councillors. Condolences were offered to all members of the Black family following the sad passing of Robert Black a former much respected resident and Parish Councillor. Achievements in the past year include new benches in the Cemetery, additional Speed Indicator Device (SID), skate ramps at St Marys Playing field and formalising the car park at the Cemetery to list a few. The Parish Council were pleased to support the Village Hall committee with a grant to fund WI-FI in the hall, Bacton Utd to allow formal car parking at the Scout facility, Bacton Charities to assist in a perimeter fence. Thank were expressed to Andy Mellen for his grant to allow further planting in the Garden of Reflection and to Rosy Black for the wonderful Sundial. The forthcoming year we hope to deliver new noticeboards and waste bins, the adoption of the

Neighbourhood Plan and the green space to the front of Beacon Green becoming a Parish Council owned asset.

14526/pm11 **County Councillor:** Councillors confirmed receipt of Andrew Stringer's report prior to the meeting with no questions.

14526/pm12 **District Councillor:** Andy Mellen presented highlights from his annual report which was received prior to the meeting confirming the Green party remain in control of the District Council (Mid Suffolk).

14526/pm13 With no questions from villagers the meeting was closed at 7.36pm.

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