

# Bacton Parish Council

## MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting

held at Bacton Village Hall, on

**Monday 10th July 2023 at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Councillors: David Chambers (Chairman), Philip Jeffries (Vice-Chairman), Graham Macausland, James Steed, Gail Wigglesworth, and Paul Wigglesworth.

**In Attendance:** Suzy Lupin - Clerk, District Councillor Mellen, County Cllr Stringer and two members of public.

**Jul 10-1. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Cllrs V Kingsley, J Kingsley and J Bonner and the Council resolved to approve the reasons.

**Jul 10-2. Declaration of Interest and Dispensation Considerations**

There were no declarations of Interest or request for dispensations.

**Jul 10-3. Minutes of previous meetings**

The Council resolved that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on the 26th June 2023 were a true record and that the chairman be authorised to sign them as such.

**Jul 10-4. District & County Councillor Reports**

- a. District Cllr Mellen had submitted a written report which was received by the Council. D Cllr Mellen highlighted that Babergh and Mid Suffolk have been awarded a £300k grant from the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles to install 28 new 22kW EV charging points.

It was noted that the next full Council meeting is to be held in the Blackbourne Community Centre on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July from 17:30.

D Cllr Mellen advised he had a request from Cllr Wigglesworth to support the Bacton Fayre and agreed to part fund the event via the Locality funds.

- b. County Cllr Stringer had submitted a written report which was received by the Council. C Cllr Stringer informed the Council of concerns raised over the extra expenditure since the 2023-24 budget was set in February, resulting in a significant shortfall in the Counties reserves.

An extra £720k will be found to fund Libraries and an unbudgeted additional £10m for road surfacing in the next 20 months.

The National Grid Reinforcement Works between Bramford and Twinstead were acknowledged to be necessary to facilitate the increases to wind farm development but concerns were conveyed over the impact of the works to the local countryside.

**Jul 10-5. Public Forum** - A member of the public raised the issue of commercial vehicles not adhering to the correct time slots stated within the Construction Management Plan for the building development sites around the village. District Cllr Mellen will look into the frequent requests made by Cllr G Wigglesworth to the development sites to stop this practice causing a disturbance to the local residents.

**Jul 10-6. Planning** - No applications received.

**Jul 10-7. Finance & Governance**

**a. Receipts and Payments** - The schedule of receipts and payments was received and it was resolved to approve the payments.

**Jul 10-8. Railway Line behind Bacton FC**

Concerns were raised via Network Rail that children were retrieving their footballs from the railway lines behind Bacton Football Club. After discussion it was agreed to insert a warning in the Parish magazine and Council Facebook page to make residents aware of the dangers.

**Jul 10-9. Cow Green Land Registration**

Item deferred until the Village Greens had formally been registered with Land Registry.

**Jul 10-10. Village Hall Grant Request**

After discussion it was agreed that once a professional assessment of the Village Hall floor has been completed that they would agree on a grant to help towards the cost of renovation.

**July 10-10.1 Defibrillators**

After discussion it was agreed to have the defibrillators maintained on a six monthly basis by a professional company. The Clerk will look into finding an appropriate source to carry out the checks.

**Jul 10-11 New Development at Land South of Clay Lane**

Following a request from Mid Suffolk Council to put forward suggestions to name five roads within this development, it was resolved that the names would be taken from the war memorial.

**Jul 10-12. Working Group Reports**

**a. Events:**

**i.** It was resolved to grant a budget of £200 towards the Bacton Fayre. The theme of road safety including speeding and traffic calming measures will be promoted at the event. Approval was given for advertising signs to be erected on all the village greens 14 days prior to the event.

**ii.** Approval was given for the £1000 Locality Award fund held by the County Council to be transferred to the Speed Traffic Surveys project which will take place in September.

**b. Village Greens:** None to report

**c. Recreation and Play Area -**

- i.** After discussion it was agreed to remove the goal posts from the asset register and Cllr Wigglesworth and MacAusland will dispose of the old posts.
- ii.** After discussion it was resolved to set a budget of up to £200 towards the cost of new signage at St Mary's Field to deter owners from taking their dogs onto the playing area and to keep to the fenced off area. It was agreed to refer the wording of signs to the Recreation and Play Areas Working Group.

**d. The Work of the Village Warden -** A verbal report was heard and normal duties had been carried out. The Village Warden had worked hard to improve the Garden of Reflection. Cllr Chambers suggested that the condition of the footpath along Church Road to Shop Green needed attention in the near future.

**e. Any other working group reports:**

- i.** After discussion it was resolved to approve the budget of up to £2,100 for eight Traffic Surveys to be carried out through the village including Broad Road which will take place in September. County Cllr Stringer agreed to transfer the Locality fund towards the costs, and an application for the use of CIL funds will be requested by The Clerk. An updated quote from Beaver and Macaw Consulting LLP for the 8 surveys will be obtained.
- ii.** After discussion it was put to a vote to increase the Cemetery Fees in line with the percentage uprise in the Precept.

**Working Group Memberships**

- i.** Cllr J Kingsley was welcomed to the Green Spaces/Recreation & Play Area Working Parties and Cllr J Steed was welcomed into the Cemetery and Road Safety Working Party groups.
- ii.** After discussion it was agreed not to organise a working party for the Middle School site until after the planning application from Edmunham Developments had been looked at.

**Jul 10-13. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agendas -**

Cllr Chambers and P Wigglesworth met with Regional Directors of Taylor Wimpey on 6 July at a Beacon Green reception to link with local organisations. They pointed out the unevenness of the area of Open Space to be transferred to the Parish Council and the Directors agreed to regrade the site and improve its condition. The flag posts currently on site have been kindly gifted to the Council which will be used to advertise various events throughout the year.

Taylor Wimpey were reminded of their responsibility in the maintenance of the ditch and the pruning of the hedge running along side.

**The meeting closed at 20.35pm**

Signed as a true record by authority of the Council

Chairman

Date