

BAWBURGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 17 July 2025 At 7pm Held at Bawburgh Village Hall

Present: Peter Markham – Chair (PM) Alex Findlay (AF)
Phil Quinn (PQ) Tony Collins (TC)

Others Present: Nicola Ledain – clerk

11 members of the public and PC James Smith

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Kay Hipperson and County Councillor David Bills.

2. Interests

There were no interests declared.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15 May 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

4. Tackling anti-social behaviour on the green

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained the issue that the village had been encountering with regards to anti-social behaviour on the green and how to help tackle the issues generated by the busy periods in the warmer months.

The overcrowding of the village greens and the parking in the Village has been a problem for many years due to the river, a mill pond, and the pleasant setting. This year had been particularly busy. This may be due to other city parks now charging for parking. So far this year there had been several parties involving local groups, bringing loud noise and drinking, late into the evening. There have also been occasions where young people have been trespassing into the Old Mill grounds, particularly to jump off the bridge parapet into the millpond. This has all resulted in excess litter to clear up.

The parish council have consulted with Police and Crime Commissioner, Sarah Taylor, Chief Constable, Paul Sanford, Local MP Ben Goldsborough, Norfolk County and District Councillors, David Bills and Kathryn Cross, Community Police Team Sergeant Stu Barnard and PC James Smith.

Th

ere have been several hours of discussion with the Police over the problem and with their advice, the parish council have a number of tasks in hand;

1. Cones and No Parking signs. Although is the temporary signs are currently unsightly, they have been effective whilst the requested TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) from the Local Authority for smarter signs was processed.
2. The Mill residents have put up new gates and signs to confirm the privacy of their area.
3. The Mill has recently secured protective spikes onto the Bridge to discourage jumping
4. A large sign (900 x 1200 mm) which state the "Rules" will be put up on the green.
5. Another waste bin will be installed on the green.
6. Hopefully, together with the King's Head, CCTV may be installed to monitor the activity on the Village Green
7. More frequent bin emptying / rubbish collection, after events can be organised.
8. Photographic evidence if possible was needed of misbehaviour.

It was acknowledged that it was not the intention to stop residents and families of having the pleasure of using the lovely amenity.

5. At this point in the meeting, the Chair closed the meetings and opened it to the public present to aid discussion.

5.1 The main issue was on hot days when an excessive number of people visit the green and this number included a minority intent on antisocial behaviour. The police reported that there had only been three CADS made in three years relating to instances on the green. This would prevent it from being considered a priority by the police. There needed to be continuous reports made which can be done anonymously and pro-actively by the community. The more reports received the higher the profile of the situation. However, regardless there had been more foot patrols requested as and when time and other priorities allowed. The reporting of crime could be done through 101 or 999. An article in the Bawburgh News would be made informing residents of how to report any instances. It was also suggested that a public space protection order could also be placed on the green by the Local Authority.

A resident suggested a working party to look at the solutions of the anti-social behaviour. Whilst it was acknowledged that it would be helpful to have a working party to review some issues, the most suitable issue that needed resolving was parking and solutions how to resolve this. This could then be reported back to the parish council. A resident did suggest that residents parking could be an option as part of a central conservation area.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution and re-opened the meeting.

6. Previously reported items

6.1 Footpaths and John Innes Centre (JIC)

There was nothing to report.

6.2 Electric Car parking charging points and solar panels

A discussion was held as to whether concrete slabs were needed to access the EV charging point. PM would be meeting with the Village Hall Committee shortly and would liaise with them regarding cross hatching and the slabs. Regarding the solar panels, the village hall committee were currently having issues with finding a supplier that would instal a new meter and pay for the excess power generated, however, the electricity was being used in the hall during the day.

6.3 Hard Surface Car Parking Spaces

Bollards for the village hall car park was again discussed. It was felt that as it had been initially suggested due to the travellers camping on the village hall car park, there was less urgency. With the opening of the short stay site nearby and no recent trouble it was suggested that it was put on hold but could be re-visited in future.

6.4 Bridge maintenance

There was no recent update. Councillors were reminded that the bridge had been inspected and a report produced by SNCC which considered it to be structurally sound but in poor condition. As part of a planning obligation, assuming some level of housing was approved off Stocks Hill, it was hoped that a developer could help pay to restore it.

7. Highways

7.1 It was reported that visibility to the right at the top of Stocks Hill was inadequate with overgrown vegetation, but Highways did not consider it a sufficient hazard at the moment for any action to be taken.

7.2 The Chair reported that he had attended the local liaison group meeting, concerning the A47 improvements and the Norwich Western Link. Parishes were asked if they had any suggestions as to where a link road could be built to improve the infrastructure. They were also asked for feedback on the type of road, e.g. dual/single carriageway.

8. Planning

8.1 TC had responded to South Norfolk Council regarding the latest amendments to the plans for the housing development on Stocks Hill. There had been minimum alterations to the plans, despite representations from the PC, but traffic counts had been added.

- 8.2 TC reported that, although the One School Global application was logical in its relocation from Swaffham to a mid-point in Norfolk for their pupils, the PC would object on the grounds that it would be development in the countryside and outside of permitted development.

9. Finance

9.1 The financial statement was agreed.

9.2 The following payments were agreed;

- Clerk salary June / July plus working from home expenses £446.00
- HMRC £159.80
- Tony Collins: £214.87 (reimbursement for Signs Express) for the village green "Rules" sign.
- Bawburgh School prize giving £85
- PCC – payment for grass cutting: £918. James Stannard's invoice no.748.

10. Comments from individual Council members (for information only).

A quote would be sought for a new bench on the village green adjacent to new road. It was suggested to speak to district councillors for part funding towards it.

11. Items for next meeting

AF would speak to Anton at the King's Head pub about the CCTV.

12. The date of the next meeting was noted as Thursday 18 September 2025.

Meeting finished at 20.56