

BAWBURGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 15 January 2026

At 7pm Held at Bawburgh Village Hall

Present: Peter Markham – Chair (PM) Alex Findlay (AF)
Phil Quinn (PQ) Kay Hipperson (KH)

Others Present:

8 members of the public and Cllr David Bills

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Kathryn Cross.

2. Interests

There were no interests declared.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20 November 2025 were agreed and signed by the Chair, subject to the following amendments:

- After item 4.3 to add “PC meeting closed to allow public participation”
- Item 5.4, line 6 replace “until it” with “the procedure for its use”
- Next paragraph, line 2 replace “said the charging unit” with “said the use of the charging”
- Next line to replace “is covered” with “was covered”
- Next paragraph, to replace “it is covered now” with “it was covered immediately”
- Next paragraph, line 3, to add “informed of the business”
- Next paragraph, line 3, to replace “early nineties” with “late 1930’s”
- Item 5.4 paragraph 6, line 3, to delete “it became.at the meeting...workable” and replace with “comments from the public suggested that this was not workable.”
- Paragraph 8, to replace “it was agreed” with “It was suggested that...”

4. To receive reports from County/District Councillors/Police and Public Questions

- David Bills reported that a resident had contacted him. Due to the new speed limits, monitoring the speed limits with the SAM2 monitors was proving more difficult because one of the permissive posts had been removed. DB had taken this forward to see if it was possible to change the locations of the monitors. The 40mph on Stocks Hill had been implemented which was positive news.
- With regards to LGR, DB reported that either 1, 2 or 3 unitary councils would be put in place. NCC had opted for 1 council, SN had opted for 2 councils, and the rest of the district councils had voted for 3 councils. If there were to be 3, Bawburgh would be part of greater Norwich as would larger villages on the outside of Norwich. DB expressed concern about the impact of the funding that had been promised as it had changed.
- With regards to elections, he reported that mayoral elections had been postponed until 2028. County Council elections could be cancelled but it was currently unknown. Government had asked all councils if they wanted to go ahead with the elections. County have expressed that they wanted the elections to go ahead. There would be shadow unitary county elections in 2027.
- It was hoped that the Community Action Fund (CAF) could be applied for to use for the fencing around the play area and Kathryn Cross would help with this. David Bills offered to look into another funding source. Funding from district councillors could be used for the back of the village hall and upgrading SAM machine. The District and County Councillors had outstanding funding. It was hoped that the PC could apply for funds to be used for landscaping the seating area behind the Village Hall and / or for materials and equipment to upgrade the EV charging point.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7.40pm for public participation for 15 minutes.

4.3 Public Forum

- 4.3.1 A resident presented the PC with photos of the parking at a recent meeting of the Bridge Club along with a list of numbers of cars parked and locations. They expressed concern at the space that was the space that was available in the car park, yet there were still cars being parked on the access road of St Walstans Meadow and Stocks Hill. Although communication and their concerns had been exchanged with the club, local residents felt that the situation had not improved. It was acknowledged that the Chair of the Bridge Club had been doing his best but he could not force them to park more sensibly. It was suggested that no parking cones were put in place but it was established that the road was a public highway.
- 4.3.2 A resident raised the issue of litter in the village. A group regularly litter pick throughout the village but the litter had increased. He had drafted a letter to the MP Ben Goldsborough but wondered if the PC had any further ideas about what could be done. It was also noted that there had been Nitrous Oxide Cannisters dumped within the village and once reported, these had been removed. The PC fully supported the action being taken and anything that could be done to help decrease the litter.

The PC meeting was re-opened

5. Newly reported items

5.1 Purchase of SAM2

The PC had received a request to purchase another SAM2 speed monitor to help monitor the new speed restrictions and collect the data. It was suggested that the current three machines were put on the main through roads of the village saving the cost of another SAM2 monitor but the terms and conditions of the monitors would need looking into. There could be some funding available and District Councillor David Bills would find out. Subject to funding and subject to further discussions, it was agreed to purchase another monitor.

5.2 Christmas tree

The Chair reported that the Christmas tree was successful having been put up on 22nd December and there had been much positive feedback. The Chair proposed that for Christmas 2026, a Christmas tree be purchased for the Church. All were in agreement.

5.3 Stocks Hill hedge cutting

The Chair reported that the hedge was cut in Hockering Lane annually from 1st March. The hedge along Stocks Hill needed cutting back from March. Subject to ensuring that the hedge doesn't belong to any residents along Stocks Hill, the PC agreed that the hedge be cut.

6. Previously reported items

6.1 Footpaths and John Innes Centre

There was nothing to report.

6.2 Car parking and hard surface spaces

The Chair had been in contact with Anglian car Charging regarding the EV charging points to establish how to make the procedure of using them safe, further to recent concern raised. They had suggested that the PC purchase a "type 2" extension which would be underground and fed through to a post. It would be at the PC's expense but it was hoped that funding could be applied for through District Councillors.

7. Highways

- 7.1 The PC asked if the rangers were still available and asked the clerk to find out. If they were, they would be asked to cut back around the 30mph speed signs into the village.
- 7.2 On behalf of the PC, the Chair had joined a Local Parish Liaison which was chaired by the Chair of Colton and Marlingford and involved all villages that were affected by cars rat running through their local villages. It was hoped that the group could be more impactful in making highways listen to the problems. The Chair reported that he would also raise the issue of the bridge with the group in the hope that repairs could be made to it. It already had

damage to it. It was noted that the PC wouldn't be able to contract anyone to work on it so it would be a matter for Norfolk County Council.

8. Planning

8.1 There were no new planning applications.

8.2 Following the planning application being considered at South Norfolk Council, the inquiry would be the next step where all the documentation that had been submitted previously would be considered.

9. Finance

9.1 The finance matters had to be deferred due to limited access to the bank account. This would be resolved asap.

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

The Chair reported that residents had expressed that the Mill Stone may need maintenance. It would be discussed at the next meeting.

11. Items for next meeting

Mill Stone, finances, SAM2 machine, Local Liaison Committee Meeting (LLCM)

12. The date of the next meeting was noted as Thursday 19 March 2026.

Meeting finished at 8.40pm