

Bardwell Parish Council

Chair: Cllr David Ruffles Vice Chair: Cllr Karen Witton

Councillors are summoned to attend a meeting of Bardwell Parish Council,
to be held on Tuesday 7th July commencing at 7.00pm

Venue: The Tithe Barn, Bardwell Village Hall, Up Street, Bardwell IP31 1AA

Agenda

1. Apologies

- 1.1 To receive apologies for absence
- 1.2 To consider approval of apologies for absence

2. Declarations of Interests

- 2.1 To receive declarations of Interests relating to any items on this agenda
- 2.2 To consider requests for dispensations in relation to declarations of interest received.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd June 2026

4. Public Participation Session

Members of the public may ask questions or make comments about any items on this agenda. Other matters may be raised at the discretion of the Chair but will not necessarily be responded to during the meeting. If considered appropriate, a written response may be provided outside of the meeting or the matter considered for inclusion on a future agenda.

5. To receive reports from

- 5.1 Suffolk County Councillor Harry Richardson
- 5.2 West Suffolk District Councillor Andrew Smith

6. Planning Matters: To determine the parish council's response to planning consultations received from West Suffolk District Council, as the Planning Authority.

6.1 DC/26/0856/FUL Planning application -

Land To The North of School Lane, Bardwell, Suffolk IP31 1AF

14 dwellings including access, landscaping, play space, open space, car parking, cycle parking and bin storage.

6.2 DC/26/0760/HH Householder planning application

5 The Croft, Bardwell, Suffolk IP31 1AN: Ancillary residential accommodation

7. Planning

To note any decisions taken by West Suffolk Council since the June meeting.

8. Any other planning matters requiring consideration

9. Highways

A143: Emergency Plan required for implementation during accidents/road closures to avoid Bardwell being utilised as an alternative route.

- 9.1 To consider how this can be achieved with consideration of arrangements for a public meeting to include relevant Suffolk County Council Officers and Portfolio Holder.

- 9.2 To consider appropriate traffic management options for Knox Lane as part of this proposal.

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10. Chair's report

- 10.1 Anti-Social behaviour: Update and consideration of any actions required.
- 10.2 Annual Tractor Hedge Cutting: Proposal to engage services of contractor for this annual work. Date: to be agreed.

11. Footpath Working Group

- 11.1 To consider draft terms of reference Clerk
- 11.2 To receive progress report KW

12 Support Our Buses: Progress report.

To note that the Cenex report has now been received: Next steps. KW

13. Community Field

Chair

- 13.1 Wild flower Area: Proposal to engage contractor for the annual cut which is normally carried out during late July.

14. Village Volunteers – report

KW

15. Clerk's Report

16. Finance

Clerk/ RFO

- 16.1 Financial Report
- 16.2 Invoices for payment

17. S137 donations for consideration to Ixworth Patient Association, and to consider possible other recipients.

18. Bardwell Village News – report

JG

19. Reports from village organisations

- 19.1 BPFA MA/JG
- 19.2 Bardwell Village Hall AS
- 19.3 Bardwell Community Speedwatch AC via clerk
- To receive details of data obtained from speed indicator devices JG
- 19.4 Bardwell Charity Trustees BF via clerk

20. Good Neighbour Scheme: To consider whether the parish council should become involved directly in implementing this scheme in Bardwell, or whether it should promote the scheme to another organisation or willing residents to organise.

21. Correspondence requiring consideration by councillors.

22. Diary Dates:

SALC AGM 9th July – online

WSC - Parish and Town Council Forum – Tuesday 28th July

King Edwards Memorial Hall, Newmarket on Tuesday 28 July 2026 at 6.45pm for sign in to start at 7pm and close at 8.30pm.

23. Questions to the Chair and items for consideration for next agenda

24. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 1st September

Agenda issued 2nd July 2026
P. Smith Clerk/RFO 07801 550153
clerk@bardwell-pc.gov.uk

County Councillor Report – Harry Richardson

July 2026

RAF Barnham	You will no doubt be aware that it was announced on Friday 26th June that the Ministry of Defence facility at RAF Barnham, near the Norfolk border with Thetford, is intended to be used to accommodate up to 1,250 asylum seekers toward the end of the year. From an operational perspective, the local response is being led by West Suffolk Council and I would particularly like to thank my District Councillor colleague Andrew Smith for his swift, visible, and proactive leadership in representing residents on this contentious matter. From Suffolk County Council's perspective, contact has been made with Barnham primary school to offer them whatever support is needed given their close proximity to the new site.
A143	Following the damage to the A143 during the May heatwave, Highways officers conducted twice-daily site visits during the recent hot weather in June to assess the state of the road surface. For the time being it remains structurally sound but has deteriorated in places, though it continues to remain open. Following the emergence repairs conducted in May, redressing of the road will take place between 1st – 3rd August. This will be at the expense of the contractor given the initial installation of the 'membrane' beneath the road surface last year was found to be defective. However it should also be noted that there will be further roadworks along the A143 from 13th July to 23rd November as part of the highways improvements associated with the Bloor Homes development in Stanton (specifically widening of the road, introduction of a new bus stop, new footpath, extension of the 30mph zone and a signalised junction). The A143 will therefore have two-way traffic lights with one lane open during this period.
CQC inspection	Adult social care services at the County Council received a rating of 'Good' when assessed recently by the Care Quality Commission ('CQC'); this is unchanged from the previous inspection. Committed and compassionate care staff were noted as strongpoints, but the CQC's report emphasised the need to improve waiting times to access services.
Local government reorganisation	The new administration at Suffolk County Council confirmed at a Cabinet meeting on Monday 29th June that they formally intend to launch a Judicial Review to the High Court over the decision to proceed with three new unitary authorities in Suffolk. This will be at a cost of £500,000 which will be met from (as yet undetermined) earmarked reserves. The timescales for this are unknown but will likely depend on whether the High Court believes there is a 'case to answer'.

Bus routes	Although we are waiting for final confirmation, the County Council has indicated there is sufficient funding for the 70 and 73 bus services to continue in their current form until April 2028. However there are still some areas without coverage, such as Hepworth, and this will be a focus of mine in the coming weeks. Whether there is sufficient funding for the 332 to be extended to Thetford will become clearer later in the year.
Armed Forces Day	Armed Forces Day commemorations took place at King's Meadow Recreation Ground in Stowmarket on Saturday 27th June, bringing together service personnel, veterans, families and the wider community to recognise the county's armed forces community. The programme included a cadet and Standard bearers' parade, a royal salute to HM Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk, the national anthem, and performances by The Vibettes, the RAF Honington Voluntary Band and the Honington Military Wives Choir. Attendees also visited local stalls and displays from Suffolk's Regular, Reserve and Cadet Forces, alongside family activities. Speeches from Cllr Darren Dordoy (Mayor of Stowmarket), Cllr Lorraine Baker (Chair of Mid Suffolk District Council), and Mark Pendlington, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk, highlighted the importance of the armed forces community and expressed thanks for their service. The event concluded with an AH-64E Apache helicopter flyover.

Cllr Harry Richardson

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