

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 Date:

Tuesday 3rd March 2026 Time: 7.00pm – 9.00pm

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

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence

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

2. Declarations of Interest

- 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 interests received.

3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2026

4. Public Participation

5. To receive reports from

- 5.1 **Suffolk County Councillor Joanna Spicer MBE** – Apologies received
- 5.2 To note that our County Councillor, Joanna Spicer MBE has announced her retirement and will not be standing for re-election in May 2026. Cllr Spicer has served as our County Councillor for 37 years, having been first elected May 1989 DR
- 5.3 **West Suffolk Councillor Andrew Smith**

6. Highways: Any matters for consideration

7. Planning Applications: New

The parish council has been consulted on the following planning applications by West Suffolk Council, the Planning Authority:

- 7.1 **DC/26/0191/TCA** Trees in a conservation area notification - a. one Willow (T1 on plan) reduce back all over hanging branches back to boundary line as tree is growing over from neighbours (Holly House The Green Bardwell) b. one Cherry (T2 on plan) fell
Location: Byre Barn The Green Bardwell Suffolk IP31 1AW (Information previously circulated)

8. Planning Applications: Decisions since last meeting – see page 3

9. To receive reports from Councillors

- 9.1 Chair's Report DR
- 9.2 Support Our Buses KW
- 9.3 Community Field: Matters for consideration DR
- Play equipment: To consider proposals for cleaning equipment DR
- 9.4 Emergency Plan AS
- 9.5 Footpaths – Working Group KW
- 9.6 Village Volunteers KW/DR
- 9.7 Peace Arch: Progress report KW

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- 10. Meetings attended by Cllrs - Reports**
Town and Parish Conference – 10th February 2026 (DR, MB, AS, JG, Clerk)
- 11. Annual village meeting: 11th April - Arrangements**
- 12. Litter pick: 7th March - Final arrangements**
- 13. 13.1 Clerk's Report** Clerk
13.2 Governance Clerk
13.3 Play area: To note that the WSC agreement has reduced the inspections from monthly to bi-monthly Clerk
- 14. Finance** RFO
14.1 Invoices for payment
14.2 Financial Report
- 15. Bardwell Village News** JG/Clerk
Update and initial quotes for printing for consideration
- 16. Age Friendly Town and Parish Guide (Circulated)** MB
Engaging with Older People
- 17. Consultation documents for response** Clerk
17.1 Public Space Protection Orders
17.2 Barningham Neighbourhood Plan
- 18. Reports from other organisations**
18.1 Bardwell Charity Trustees (see report on page 3) BF
18.2 Bardwell Community Speedwatch AC
18.3 Bardwell Playing Fields Association MA
18.4 Bardwell Village Hall – Tithe Barn AS
- 19. Correspondence (see page 3-4)**
Voluntary Network (Circulated)
- 20. Community Help Training** Clerk
To confirm date/s of training course/s and attendance
- 21. Diary Dates**
- 22. Questions to the Chair and items for consideration for next agenda**
- 23. Date of next meeting: Tuesady 7th April 2026**

Agenda issued 26th February 2026

P Smith, Clerk/RFO
clerk@bardwell-pc.gov.uk
Tele: 01359 221934
www.bardwell-pc.gov.uk

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7. Planning Applications (New) for response

7.1 DC/26/0191/TCA Trees in a conservation area notification - a. one Willow (T1 on plan) reduce back all over hanging branches back to boundary line as tree is growing over from neighbours (Holly House The Green Bardwell) b. one Cherry (T2 on plan) fell
Location: Byre Barn The Green Bardwell Suffolk IP31 1AW (Information previously circulated)

8. Planning Decisions since February meeting *(To note that the following applications have received approval from West Suffolk Council, the planning authority.*

DC/25/2048/TCA Trees in a conservation area notification - a. one Sycamore (T4 on plan) fell b. one Poplar (T6 on plan) height reduction by two metres
Bardwell Hall Ixworth Road Bardwell Suffolk IP31 1AU

DC/25/2025/FUL Planning application - pétanque pitch and siting of shelter
Sports Pavilion, Bardwell Sports Club and Committee Spring Road Bardwell Suffolk IP31 1AB

18.1 Bardwell Charity Trustees Report

From: Chair

Subject: Re: Bardwell Charity Trustees - report for March PC Meeting

Date: 26 February 2026 at 21:58:52 GMT

To: Pauline Smith <clerk@bardwell-pc.gov.uk>

I have been liaising with Karen Witton about planting a mix of new tree saplings along the bank at the back of the Green.

There's been no contact from Stocks Fair but we have had provisional bookings in June and August from The Suffolk Car & Coffee Club.

19. Correspondence

Voluntary Network: Befriending Service (Circulated 27Feb)

Dear Parish Council Members

I am writing to share information about our Befriending Service and to ask for your support in helping us reach more people within your parish.

Our Befriending Service supports individuals who may be experiencing loneliness or social isolation. Through regular contact—whether by phone, in person, or through community activities—our trained volunteers provide companionship, conversation, and a vital connection to the outside world. For many of the people we support, this regular contact makes a significant difference to their wellbeing and quality of life.

As demand for our service continues to grow, we are currently seeking new volunteers. We would greatly appreciate your help in sharing this opportunity through parish newsletters, noticeboards, social media, or community networks. Even a small mention can help us reach individuals who may be willing to give a little of their time to make a meaningful difference.

I am including a link to a very brief video which highlights the benefit of the service. <https://vimeo.com/306552031>

Please find attached marketing material.

Caroline Wilson Managing Director

The Voluntary Network Telephone 01638 608022

E-Mail: caroline@thevoluntarynetwork.org Website: www.thevoluntarynetwork.org

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On 4 Feb 2026, at 12:44

From: N

Subject: Impact of proposed long term road closure on Bardwell businesses

Message Body: I understand, following a chat in your lovely Post Office that plans are in motion to rebuild the cottages that were destroyed by the fire. I recognise that it would be lovely to achieve this. As a resident of Ixworth, I cannot be alone in visiting Bardwell and use its businesses. The previous road closure definitely impacted the visits made from outsiders like myself. I would advise serious consideration is given to keeping any closures to a minimum as to lose any of your village businesses would be tragic and the loss of those lovely cottages is tragedy enough!

-- This e-mail was sent from Bardwell Parish Council (<https://bardwell-pc.gov.uk/>)

Response: From: Pauline Smith <clerk@bardwell-pc.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Bardwell Parish Council

Date: 4 February 2026 at 13:15:40 GMT

Dear N

Thank you for your email. Your comments are noted.

Kind regards

Pauline

26 Feb: Concerns raised received from xxxxxxxx re poor state of surface of Skinners Lane

27 Feb: Report submitted to SCC fao Rights of Way team at SCC with photographs.

Agenda issued 26 Feb 26

Pages 3-4 with additional info added 27 Feb 26

P Smith, Clerk

clerk@bardwell-pc.gov.uk

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