

Bardwell Parish Council

Chair: Cllr David Ruffles. Vice Chair: Cllr Karen Witton

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Bardwell Parish Council

to be held on **Saturday 24th January 2026**, commencing at **10.00am**

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

Finance Meeting to Consider and Agree Budget and Precept 2026-27

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Cllr Ives (Business commitments). Apologies were accepted.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of interest were received.

3. **Public Participation Session**

No members of the public were present/No questions had been submitted in writing.

4. **To consider and determine the 2026/27 budget proposals** – see information circulated 16th January 2025.

Councillors discussed the revised budget proposal which had been increased from £20,270 - as initially proposed to the meeting on 2nd December -, to £21,196. The reasons for this increase included a realistic review of Bardwell Village News income v costs and an increase in the revenue grant requested by the Bardwell Playing Fields Association.

Q. Peace Arch: Cllr Witton queried the fact that the sum of £236.01, which she had specifically requested be retained within the budget for the peace arch is not separately identified.

A. This sum could be shown as brought forward or allocated from reserves at the appropriate time. If the sum is to be allocated from reserves Cllr Witton requires that it be clearly minuted that this will be the case.

Action: Clerk will identify appropriate action make appropriate annotations.

At the present time there is no indication of the actual costs involved.

It was agreed that the cost of advertising in Bardwell Village News should rise to £120 for one year (whole page) and £65 for one year (half page). This will be with immediate effect for new advertisers and from 1st April 2026 for existing advertisers. *Proposed Cllr Smith Seconded Cllr Witton. Unanimously agreed.*

It was agreed that the grant to Bardwell Church for grasscutting/church yard

maintenance will be £1,450 annually for a period of 5 years (with effect 2026/27) and that the BPFA revenue grant will be reviewed every two years.

Resolution: The budget proposals totalling £21,196 were unanimously approved.

5. To confirm precept request for 2026/27

Resolution: It was proposed and **unanimously agreed to submit a precept request** to West Suffolk Council equivalent to the budget requirements **for 2026/27: £21,196**

This will result in a Parish Council Band D Council Tax: £67.51

This is an increase of £9.60 (equivalent to 16.58%) over the previous financial year.

Copy of signed precept request form attached.

6. Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 3rd February 2026

Time: 7.00pm

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

The meeting ended at 11.00am

Signed as an accurate record

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Chair: Cllr David Ruffles

Date 03 February 2026

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