

BASTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 6th May 2026

Attendees: 11

MINUTES

1. Welcome from the Chairman of the Parish Council
2. Apologies for absence:
 - District Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellows
 - Reverend Canon Carolyn Bailey
 - Claire Rickett
 - Steph Balderson
 - Simon Pitchford
3. To approve minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th May 2025.
Unfortunately none recorded by previous Parish Clerk.
4. Parish Council, Village Organisations & Outside Bodies invited to attend:

County Councillor : Ashley Baxter
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Deepings West and Rural Division

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The county has a Reform majority (switched from Tory at last election)• Sits on the Growth/Environment Committee (not flooding), Corporate Parenting, Policy Committee/Standing Legislation for RE Lincolnshire• The layby at Baston received investment (but now laybys will be competing with roads for investment).• Attended all meetings in relation to the Thetford Farm/Cemex quarry and opposed this application at every opportunity/meetings, including speaking at the planning application (this application was approved by all the Reform councillors).• Next big thing is the Wates Development and proposal for 283 new houses.• The updated Waste & Minerals Plan will be shortly.• Weight limit for Main Street and Greatford Road is a partial success – apologised for the length of time in implementing – this is down to infrastructure required. |
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<u>Questions:</u>

None – but public thanked Councillor Baxter for ongoing support

District Councillor: Vanessa Smith

Casewick Ward Councillor (Barholm, Baston, Greatford, Langtoft, Tallington, Uffington)
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South Kesteven District Council

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is a privilege and a pleasure to serve as one of Baston’s elected representatives at SKDC.• Over the past year, much attention has been given to proposed local government reorganisation and its impact on Lincolnshire. Both SKDC and central government have undertaken consultations, and further clarity from Westminster is expected later this year. Reforms are still anticipated to proceed on schedule, with elections to any new authority likely in May 2027.• SKDC has also been progressing its new Local Plan, identifying sites for housing and employment over the next 15 years. The inclusion of a large site in Baston has caused concern for Baston residents. I will do all that I can to stand up for local concerns as these plans progress. |
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- Although a county issue, I have been very involved in voicing the village's opposition to the Thetford Farm quarry. I was very sorry to see this application being passed as I have serious concerns not just about the direct environmental impact but also about our local road network I believe that the A15 is at capacity. I want to see funds set aside to improving our local infrastructure. I would like to see a cycle route between Bourne and Deeping. I am concerned that with an increase in traffic, our crossings will become more dangerous.
- As well as voicing these concerns, I have also helped raise issues for residents including with Anglian Water and the environment team at SKDC. Concerns have been raised about air quality, fly tipping and I have also done my best to address residents concerned with regards to lack of a maintenance of a hedge within the village.
- 2026 has seen the introduction of food waste bins, with collections beginning in April, helping to improve recycling across the district. Alongside this, the District Council has continued to support communities, leisure and arts provision, expand social housing, and determine planning applications.
- I remain committed to representing Baston and will continue working hard to support the village in the year ahead.

Questions:

None – but Chair thanked Councillor Smith for ongoing support

Chair of the Parish Council: Adrian Clarke

- The PC continues with it day to day work on behalf of residents.
- Last year we oversaw all local planning applications with the Cemex quarry taking a considerable amount of time and resources. Unfortunately, this application was passed despite objections from the PC and District and County Councillors. We will continue to monitor the quarry project.
- Wates property developers have submitted an outline application to build 283 houses on the land between the A15 and Kings Street. The PC will engage in the planning process on behalf of our residents, but we encourage everyone to get involved in a development that if it goes ahead will change the demographic of our village.
- We have been successful in getting some improvements to our pavements although we are aware that more need attention and we will continue our lobbying efforts to get this work done.
- We have supported once again BPFMC and other local causes with donations and have put in place a new application process for such requests.
- The village sign is being replaced following an assessment of its condition and we hope the work will soon be completed.
- We are installing a new village bench near to the village sign in memory of Cllr Jim Kelly.
- We currently have 1 vacancy for a Parish Councillor and have advertised this but currently no one has shown any interest in this opportunity.
- The workload of the PC continues to grow with increasing demands of compliance with new legislation, and our Parish Clerk often must work more than the 6-hour weekly contact.
- We have secured agreement for a 7.5-ton weight limit for Main Street and Greatford Road and whilst a little frustrated at the time it is taking LCC to carry out the works we will in future see hopefully much less use of our village by HGV's.
- Our village is kept litter free by our Community Cleaner Karl who continues to do a great job on our behalf.
- We have not increased our precept for 2026/27 this year.
- In discussions with our MP Alicia Kearns over the introduction of 30mph for the A15 through the village.

Questions:

None

Baston Events: Nick Rickett

- Baston Events continues to thrive, with a standing committee of ten (with an additional new member due to join in May 2026), additional periphery organisers for particular events and wider support from the village as a whole by getting involved or marshalling on the event days.
- We still run six events each year, with Baston Beats and Fireworks being the main fund-raising shows. Our social media presence has grown significantly, and we now attract major sponsorship from local and national companies.
- Year-end accounts (see Appendix A) are available from Nick Rickett (Treasurer); queries can be addressed to the Treasurer at any point throughout the year:
 - In 2025, Baston Events had a turnover of circa £51,800.
 - Total events' profits of circa £15,500.
 - Donated circa £21,100, split as £5,783 to village causes and £15,364 to local requests and charities.
 - An end bank balance of £59,336.91
- I sincerely thank all those involved with Baston Events, enabling different events to be put on within this amazing village, bringing the community together to help others locally and beyond.

Questions:

None

St John the Baptist Church: Nick Rickett

(report submitted by Reverend Canon Carolyn Bailey)

- I am pleased to report that this has been an encouraging year for the life of our church, particularly in terms of our growing presence within the local community. This development has been supported in part by our improved facilities, which have enabled us to host a wider range of activities, and by the dedication of those who organise and lead them. Groups such as exercise classes, craft gatherings, and coffee and games sessions have helped make the church a place of warmth, fellowship, and welcome for many.
- Hospitality continues to be a strong feature of our shared life. The newly formed team providing soup lunches and puddings has upheld and strengthened this tradition, and I would like to express sincere thanks to all those involved in this valuable ministry.
- Alongside these positive developments, we do face some ongoing challenges. In particular, we are still seeking a PCC Secretary and additional support in other governance roles. I would encourage anyone who may have the time, skills, or interest to consider how they might contribute to the life of the church in this way, even if they are not regular attendees.
- The life of the church community continues to support and enrich our worship. The variety of services across the benefice during Holy Week has demonstrated the breadth of gifts and commitment among those involved. Attendance during Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter has been particularly encouraging, reflecting the important role the church plays in offering stability and sanctuary in an increasingly uncertain world. This is seen both in the lively engagement of school visits and in the quieter, reflective nature of services such as Stillpoint.
- Our links with Baston Church of England Primary School remain strong. Church governors continue to play an active role, and regular visits for collective worship and curriculum enrichment strengthen this valued relationship.
- We are grateful for the ongoing support and ministry of Rev Canon Mostyn Davies and Revd Michael Howard, and we thank them for their continued encouragement and service.
- Looking ahead, we are mindful of financial pressures. In the coming year, we will need to consider the introduction of a Giving Campaign to encourage more regular and sustained giving, with the aim of reducing reliance on fundraising activities.
- On a personal note, I will soon begin a three-month sabbatical following sixteen years of ministry. I approach this time with confidence, knowing that the parish will be well supported under the leadership of Churchwarden Janet Low, alongside Michael Howard, Hazel and the wider ministry team. I would value your prayers during this period.

- I would also like to express my gratitude for the support, encouragement, and care I have received, particularly as I have balanced wider responsibilities alongside parish ministry.
- At a diocesan level, we continue to experience a period of change and challenge, particularly in relation to ministry provision and ongoing vacancies. We are also aware of the situation regarding the suspension of Bishop Stephen. Despite this, we are thankful for the presence and support of Bishop Nicholas, whose guidance remains a source of strength to the parish.

Questions:

None

Chair Baston School PTA: Lindsey Eassom

- Baston School PTA is a charity that operates to raise funds that go towards providing additional curriculum enrichment resources and experiences for the children at Baston C of E Primary School. We do this by holding fundraising events throughout the year both at school and within the wider village community.
- The last year has been a fantastic year for our charity; at our 2025 AGM we reported a total amount raised of just over £15,400 and so far this academic year we have raised just under £5,800.
- Fundraising events we have held include school discos, Friday tuck shop, monthly cake raffle and pre-loved uniform sales, seasonal gift stalls. In July last year we brought the Big Top to Baston which was a first for us and was a spectacular evening of entertainment followed by circus workshops for the school children the next day and December we held our first Christmas Fayre since 2019 which was a huge success! Most recently we held a games stall at the Party in the Park which gave us the opportunity to raise awareness of the PTA to the wider community and also meet some of the new families set to join the school in September.
- As a result of our fundraising we have been able to fund resources and activities at school including their first STEM Week which was filled with exciting STEM related activities including a rocket launch!
- Other items include Sports Week, Christmas Party day, Year 6 leavers books, welcome packs for new starters and resources for the two new Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSAs) at school.
- Projects currently in the pipeline that we have funds set aside for are a new Sensory Garden and Playground revamp.
- Our events couldn't happen without the support of our school families who not only attend events but also help to run them, whether its running a tombola stall, baking for the cake raffle or getting covered in glitter on the tattoo stand at school disco!
- We have also been kindly supported by Baston Events, Baston Parish Council and EweMove estate agents with generous donations from them and also CML Decorators who very kindly painted our PTA shed which saved myself and Vanessa from an afternoon of dodging cobwebs and spiders!
- For the remainder of the academic year we are looking forward to several events including Sports Week, Summer Disco and our Summer Fayre which is always a fantastic event.

Questions:

None

CAMEO: Julia Willoughby

- Cameo originally started some 20 years ago by Sandra Taylor from an inspiration from the Golden Jubilee Tea Party of 2002. It is open for all ages and genders and it stands for **Come And Meet Each Other**.
- I took over as Leader from Sue Spry, following her illness, in October 2025 and we now have over 20 members.
- We hold our meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month and by kind arrangement with Jo-Anne Richardson who provides Tea and Coffee they are mainly held at The White Horse,

Baston. When we have a musical entertainer or group to sing to us we move to St John the Baptist Church and at these occasions other villagers are invited to come.

- Normally one month we have a speaker or entertainer and the next it is a free month when members can chat to each other. Members pay a small contribution when they come and this covers any expenses related to speakers/entertainers with the surplus amounts have been used to give them an Afternoon Cream Tea and a Birthday Card.
- Over the last 12 months our speakers have been Carol Corliss talking about her life with British Racing Cars; Diane Clare talking about Avon Products; Mihir from Baston Post Office Stores talking about India and the related Charity Work done in the UK and the rest of the world. Recently we had a talk about The Pork Pie Celebrations of 1957 and how Villagers came to buy and own the Barn and Playing Fields under a Deed of Conveyance in October 1966. The talk was followed by a viewing of slides of Old Baston from Sam Cunnington's collection.
- Colin Amery has entertained members and visitors in Church with well-known songs that we could join into. In January young children from Baston CE Primary School also delightfully entertained us in Church with a variety of songs.
- Our Christmas Lunch was at The Horseshoes, Thurlby; we have also had two Afternoon Cream Teas kindly served by staff at The White Horse.
- Our next event this month is a Tour of Thetford House Farm and Wedding Venue Barn.
- Details of our forthcoming events and our contact details are shown in Baston Voice and we always welcome new members.

Questions:

None

Baston Charities: Eilieen Mort (Treasurer)

(report submitted by Claire Rickett)

- Baston charities was established in the 1700's to support any residents of Baston in times of need. We have supported villagers over the years, in complete confidence, with a variety of unexpected costs that could not easily be met.
- In addition, previously, we had been trying to proactively support young people in the village with book grants for further education. As times have moved on and books are not needed so much now and not everyone is going on to further education, we are trying to widen our help.
- We have started a new campaign offering small grants to any young people and parents of younger children. Compliance covers a broad spectrum of activities or items and we encourage everyone to apply. Application should be made to this email address:
bastoncharities@gmail.com.
- In addition, there is a selection of medical aids kept for anyone's use. These include wheelchairs, crutches, walking frames, commodes etc to help whenever needed. Contact Claire Rickett via FB messenger or by message on 07950476709.

Questions:

None

Baston Naturehood Project: Apologies given

(report submitted by Simon Pitchford)

- This group and activities are now in the 4th year, as part of the wider Baston, Langtoft and Thurlby Naturehood group. The group provides information (for example ways to encourage wildlife, local events, photography competition) to those interested in the village via both the Baston Voice and a dedicated website, for which we thank the Parish Council for contributing funds to the yearly upkeep. Teams continue to attend the church yard with sympathetic mowing practices to encourage wildlife.
- During the summer of 2025 'I Spy' sheets were distributed to 2 classes at the Baston C of E Primary School to encourage use of, and interest in this area. New for 2025, another team have started to encourage wildlife in the woodland strip at the back of the BPFMC playing fields, adding a path, and dead hedge which is a good habitat for insects in the winter months.

Also, 'fairy doors' have been lovingly created and hidden within the area, to encourage young children to spot and therefore also come to the area.

Women's Institute: Eileen Polkinghorne
(reported submitted by Steph Balderson)

- This report relates to our WI year which ran from April 2025-March 2026.
- Baston WI continues to thrive with a healthy membership and a regular attendance at monthly meetings.
- We celebrated our 60th anniversary in October. However the first WI was formed in 1937 so as far as National are concerned we will be 90 next year – another celebration.
- There have been 11 meetings with 11 speakers covering a wide range of topics to reach out to all members-travel -food history, health and wellbeing to name a few. Trips to Lyvedon Blueberry Farm and a guide tour of Burghley House Gardens have also been arranged.
- Members have taken advantage of Federation events to visit the Hindu Temple in Neasden (which is where Mihir and his family worship) and The National Arboretum. Those choosing to attend the luncheons with guest speaker: Amnnaliese Jones who makes handwoven bags from the Philippine, Amanda Smith from Critical Training who helped us to understand when to administer CPR to a patient and how to use defibrillators (AEDs). Her talk was so engaging in fact that she will be our guest speaker in June. Another inspirational speaker was Sara Munton, the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire and finally Joe Whitehead, Head Gardener at Burghley. His appeal was so great that a second luncheon had to be organised to accommodate the numbers.
- Visitors and prospective new members are always welcome at our meetings. The WI is what you want it to be. If all you want to do is meet and socialise with friends once a month that's fine but there are many more opportunities there for the taking if you so wish.
- A full programme is in place for 2026-2027 - more of that this time next year.

Questions:

None

BPFMC: Amanda Greenall

- I'm here to share an overview of what we've been doing at The Barn over the past year, and to reflect on the progress we've made.
- Over the last twelve months, the village hall has continued to serve as a great community space. We've hosted a wide range of regular groups and activities, from social gatherings and fitness classes to community meetings and private events. It's been encouraging to see consistent use of the hall.
- We've also worked hard to improve the facilities. This has included redecorating, re-gravelling the carpark, we've moved the heating thermostat to help even out the temperature and enable us to remotely control it, we also had the inclusive roundabout installed). These changes have helped make the hall more welcoming and appealing for hirers and also attracts more people/families to the park.
- In addition, we've organised events like meet your community where other village groups come together and it's a chance for villagers to come and meet us and ask questions. While not very well attended by villagers last year, we feel this is still a worthwhile event and we are thinking of different ways and different times of year we could do this. We have also just had this year's Party in the Park. A lovely family event and it was well attended this year, helped by the fantastic weather we had! This event has not only brought people together but have also helped raise funds to support the ongoing upkeep of the Barn and playing fields.
- Financially, we've focused on maintaining a sustainable position. Through careful management, grants and continued bookings, we've been able to cover running costs and plan for future improvements. Of course, like many community facilities, we continue to face challenges, particularly with rising costs, and we remain mindful of the need to balance affordability with sustainability.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • And just to touch on that, I thought it would be beneficial to go through how much we receive in income compared to our running expenses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We received £11,814 income last year (excluding Donations, Funding, Fireworks and Party in the Park). • Of our routine running costs - it costs an incredible £7,080 just to mow the field, cut the grass in the play park and mark out the football pitch. • Our total operating costs for last year were £21,316 - this includes rates, insurance, licences, cleaning and cleaning materials, statutory electrical, fire extinguisher and boiler testing, play equipment inspection, grass cutting, line marking and general repairs – fence repairs, smoke alarm batteries, CCTV etc. • This left us with an operational running costs shortfall of £9,502. • The shortfall was covered by grants from the Plowright Trust, Parish Council and Villagers and project-specific funding from SKDC UK SPF, Baston Events and Baston Beats. • This left us with a profit £2,826, which we plan to reinvest straight back into The Barn. • Looking ahead, we hope to build on this year’s progress by looking at further improvements to the park and children’s play area. I would also like to move the booking system online/make it more automated. We are always open to new ideas and welcome anyone who would like to get involved. • The Barn and playing fields remain an important part of our village and we’re proud of what has been achieved over the past year. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our small committee. Their time, effort, and commitment is what is keeping the hall running and thriving. <p><u>Questions:</u> None</p>
<p>Cricket Club: No response</p>
<p>Baston Harriers/Running Group No response</p>
<p>Golf Society No response</p>
<p>Baston Dog Walkers Declined invitation/no report provided</p>

5. Questions and Comments from Members of the Public

Point to note that the Baston Voice is produced on behalf of the Church and is distributed to all residents in Baston Village.

Meeting closed at 8:00pm