



The Village Magazine produced  
for the People of Bildeston  
by Volunteers from Bildeston

[bildeston.org/bugle-village-magazine](http://bildeston.org/bugle-village-magazine)



March 2026

Issue Number 423





# THE BUGLE RULES, RATES AND FEES

**FREE CONTRIBUTION INFO** Our aim is to provide every resident and organisation the Bildeston with a magazine which provides information of local interest **FREE OF CHARGE**. To that end, we are required to be efficient in the space we use to print free notices. We endeavour to include interesting items, announcements for free local events open to the general public and items of a charitable nature free of charge. Ongoing free announcements need to be reduced to minimum size or make a contribution towards printing costs. Please email Jenna Cox, as below, to submit your community promos, preferably as a Word document, so that we can design according to space.

**ADVERTISERS INFO:** Advertisers should take note of the artwork specs and costs below, and should **ALWAYS** provide us with all your contact details in order for us to send an invoice and receipt. Advertisements not sent to spec may incur a token, separate design fee, ranging from £10-25, depending on what is required.

For community contributions/content and advertisers, contact Jenna Cox  
[jenna@articulatehlc.co.uk](mailto:jenna@articulatehlc.co.uk) or ring 01473 808 260.

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| Advert Size | 1 Issue | 12 Issues | Design Spec      |
|-------------|---------|-----------|------------------|
| ¼ page      | £5.00   | £35.00    | 65mm W x 92mm H  |
| ½ page      | £10.00  | £60.00    | 134mm W x 92mm H |
| Full Page   | £15.00  | £110.00   | 134mmW x 190mm H |

**THE SMALL PRINT** All adverts, payments and items are required before the 17th of every month for inclusion in the following month's issue (except December - before the 13th). The earlier free contributions are received, the greater the chance of inclusion. The Editorial team are not responsible for the accuracy of articles or adverts and reserve the right to alter, shorten or refuse any item submitted for publication. BACS details will be on your invoice. If we do not receive payment by the 17th of the month, your advertisement will NOT be included.

### **The Bildeston Bugle Management Team**

Tim Hooper (Finance Manager) Email: [bildeston.bugle.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:bildeston.bugle.treasurer@gmail.com)

Jenna Cox, Editor [jenna@articulatehlc.co.uk](mailto:jenna@articulatehlc.co.uk)

Debbie Bailey, Rita Bradley, Bernice Hawthorn, Christine Hastings, Jill Kitching, Terri Reynolds, Margaret Smith (Printing Assistants)



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16 September

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For more information or to book please contact Claire on

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W. [www.fitframephysio.com](http://www.fitframephysio.com)

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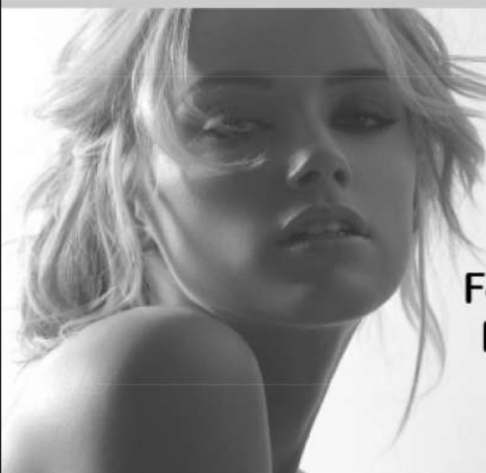
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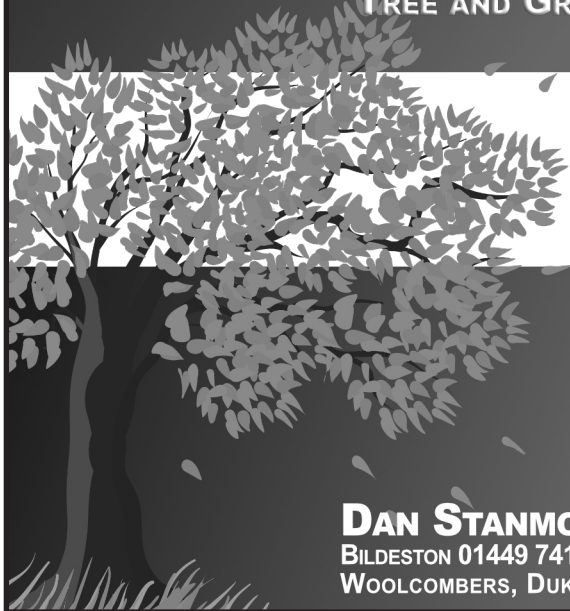
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## **Letter from the Editor**

### **March 2026**

Hello Everyone

I'm Jenna, and I have been asked to function as editor for The Bugle. I know I have some pretty big shoes to fill, so I hope you will bear with me.

I also am aware that I couldn't even begin to undertake it all without the amazing dedication and support of our small army of volunteer printers, distributors and deliverers, who make sure your Bugle gets to you. They are, quite simply, the best!

Bildeston is such a gem, with so many active and committed villagers and, I believe, The Bugle is the beating heart of it. So, please, if you have something to say, or think others would want to know, do send it in. I can't promise to print everything, but I will do my best. Just remember that the 18th is the cutoff date. Having said that, so I don't collapse in a heap from overload, the sooner you get content to me, the better (it will pretty much be 'first come - first served').

And don't forget to check out our advertisers. Not only do they offer exceptional goods and services, but they allow The Bugle to keep going. Support them, support local, as they support us.

You may notice some changes. I hope you like them. And please give me a bit of grace (and a prayer or two, if you are so minded) whilst I get to grips with everything and fumble around trying to keep The Bugle a magazine that engages you and honours you.

Jenna

Jenna Cox  
jenna@articulatehlc.co.uk  
011473 808 260



**EASTER MEMORIAL LILIES** If you wish to make a donation towards the Easter Lilies, in remembrance of loved ones, please contact Linda Ashwell (07979 751 132) or the Church Wardens by Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April.

The names of those loved ones will then be read out in the prayers Easter Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April in St Mary Magdalene Church.

### **Church Wardens**

Neil Ashwell: 01449 741 370 and Martin Rodgers: 01449 743 120

**BNATURAL AGM** Wed 1st April from 7pm, Chamberlin Hall . Light refreshments will be served.



## **Annual Bildeston Litter-Pick**

**SATURDAY MARCH 28th**  
**10:00 A.M**

**BILDESTON MARKET SQUARE**

Bring your own gloves. Hi-vis vests, bags and litter-pickers provided.  
Children welcome with adult supervision.

The date is set for the annual Spring-Clean of roadsides, pavements and footpaths. For those of you who are new to the Village this is a great way to get involved in a community event that has been running for over thirty years with great success.

You can pre-book a particular area of the Village that you would like to work on or just join in where needed. Come along and do your bit! We have Ray with his trusty van to collect the sacks from around the Village so there won't be a need to carry them back to the square if they are heavy or cumbersome. As in recent years, we are trying to pick up the rubbish before the weeds and nettles grow too tall and hamper our efforts. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Thanks

Jo Silburn 01449 257 045 or Robin Sidgwick 01449 740 404



*It's all GO in Bildeston!*

**Plant Sale Saturday 23rd May 10am-1pm  
'Carlisle House' 13 Chapel Street**



Our grateful thanks go to Victoria Morgan for this perfect venue! In spite of the chilly and very wet start to Spring, we have all recently found a 'much needed' burst of energy as gardens become the centre of attention, giving them a fresh start for the oncoming summer months. With this in mind, we would very much welcome any donations of plants/shrubs/cuttings, potted and, if possible, labelled for the Plant Sale.

Delivery details for your donated plants to Carlisle House (just off the Village square in Chapel Street) will be given in the next edition of the Bugle. Expect delicious teas, coffees and cakes to make the occasion all the more enjoyable. Expert guidance will be on hand to help purchasers (if required), to select the most suitable plants for different locations.

All proceeds to St Mary Magdalene Church.

The Village Produce Show committee has been busy organising the schedule of categories for this year's show. The date for your diaries is:

**SATURDAY 15th AUGUST 2026**

We would love all you growers, flower arrangers, crafters, photographers, bakers and jam and chutney makers to be at the ready!

## *Bildeston Community Cycling*

Why not join our monthly Saturday morning Winter Warmer series? These rides are for riders of all abilities.

### **WINTER WARMER 6**

JOIN US FOR A RIDE OF ABOUT 25 MILES, STARTING FROM MARKET PLACE 9.30am, SATURDAY 21 MARCH. CAFE STOP HALFWAY. BACK ABOUT 12.30pm.

PUT IT IN THE DIARY NOW!

E-BIKES WELCOME! Warm clothing recommended.

The ride will be mainly on quiet lanes, at an acceptable speed (no-one left behind!). Regret no unaccompanied children under 16.

# *Just Turn Up!*

For more information, contact Robin Weaver 741 048



The Brett Valley Benefice  
in collaboration with the Bildeston Food Bank  
(supported by Suffolk Community Foundation)

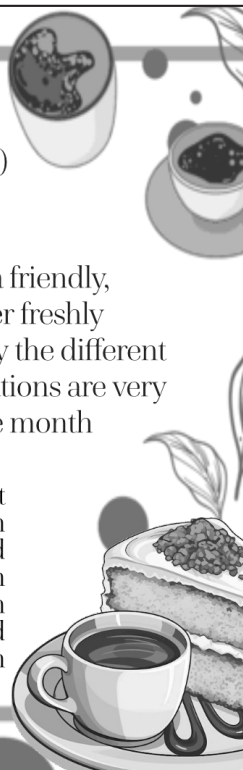
## COFFEE & CAKE UPDATE

10.30-12noon at St Mary Magdalene church. Offering a friendly, warm and welcoming space for good conversation over freshly brewed coffee and tea. Delicious cakes are provided by the different churches in the Benefice. There is no charge, but donations are very welcome. Held every month on the first Monday of the month

### DATES FOR 2026

2nd March  
13th April\*  
\*one week later because of the  
Bank Holiday  
11th May\*\*  
\*\*one week later due to Bank  
Holiday

June 1st  
July 6th  
August 3rd  
September 7th  
October 5th  
November 2nd  
December 7th



# ART FOR US

We are a group of amateur artists who meet to enjoy an afternoon of creativity. Newcomers are welcome and no previous experience is necessary.

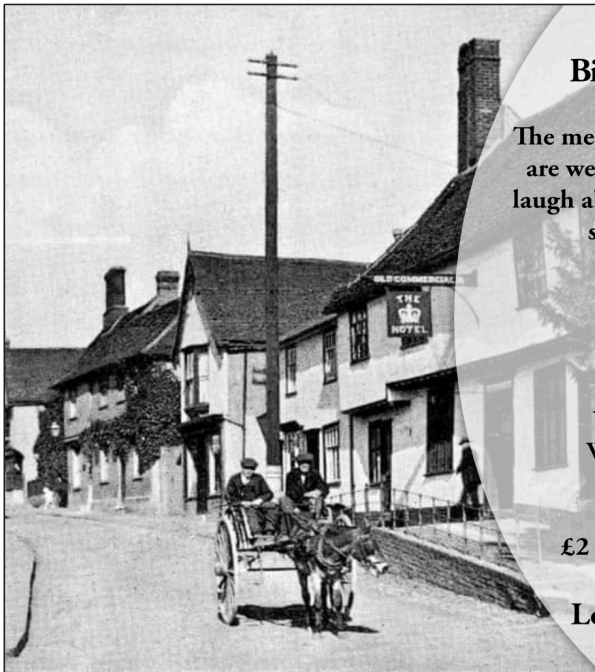


Come along for a free taster session.

Tuesdays at Chamberlin Hall from 2:00.p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

£10 joining fee and £5 a session (pay as you go)

Call Jo for more info - 01449 257 045



## Bildeston Village History Group

The meetings of the Bildeston History Group are well attended by residents. We chat and laugh about village life, past and present, and share our memories and stories.

Chamberlin Hall,  
Chamberlin Close, Bildeston

10.00am - 12 noon  
Wednesday 29th January 2026  
Wednesday 26th February 2026

Everyone welcome.  
£2 donation including refreshments.

Look forward to seeing you there!

2389, HIGH ST, BILDESTON.



## **BILDESTON CARPET BOWLS CLUB**

Hello everyone, Brenda here again with our fixture list for March.

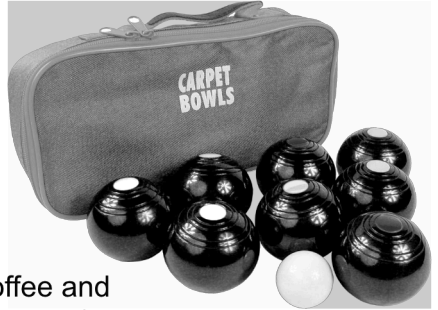
### **Fixtures for March**

|                    |                                  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Tuesday March 3rd  | Roll up                          |
| Tuesday March 10th | Home match against Stanningfield |
| Tuesday March 17th | Home match against Hundon        |
| Tuesday March 24th | Roll up                          |
| Tuesday March 31st | Roll up                          |

Two difficult matches for us, but we will do our best.

If you feel like some fun and exercise come along to Chamberlin Hall and give carpet bowls a try.

You will be made very welcome. Tea, coffee and biscuits are supplied. We start at 7.30pm, so if you are interested, please call Mike or Brenda on 01284 827 688.



**CHAMBERLIN HALL**  
**WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL FROM 7PM**

**Light refreshments will be served**



**Monday**

**3.30pm.-7.30pm MLSPA**

**7.45pm - 9.30pm Badminton**

**Tuesday**

**10.00am- 11.00am Zumba**

**2.00pm - 4.00pm Art Group**

**7.00pm - 10.00pm Carpet Bowls**

**Wednesday**

**7.30pm - 11pm Open Mic**

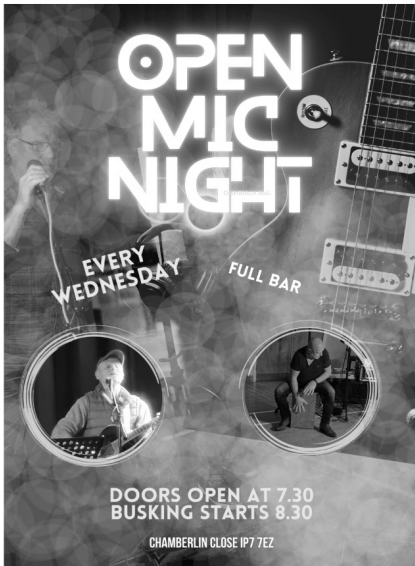
**Thursday**

**10.00am - 11.00am Zumba**

**6.00pm - 8.00pm Whistle & Wag**

**Friday**

**11.00am -1.00pm Pilates**



**EASTER  
FAMILY  
DISCO**

**SATURDAY 11TH APRIL**

**5.00PM - 8.00PM**

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**BILDESTON  
HEALTH CENTRE  
DISPENSARY  
SATURDAY  
OPENING DATES**

**MARCH 2026  
Mar 7<sup>th</sup> & Mar 21<sup>st</sup>**

**BILDESTON  
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← Parents Car Parking

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stops are as follows:**

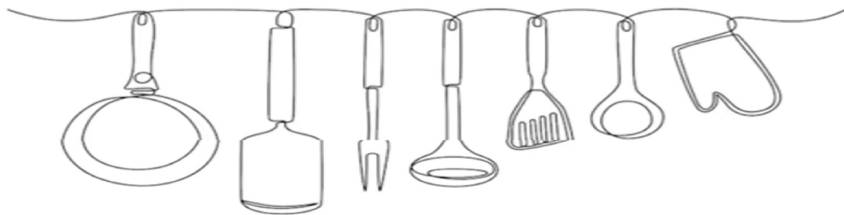
**Brooksfield 14.15-14.40**

**Market Square 14.45 - 15.30**

**Every 4th Wednesday**

**Next up:  
Wed 4th March  
Wed 1st April**

**suffolk  
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## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

It is my mission to de-mystify and de-stigmatise and explode the myth that soufflés are fiddly and difficult to make. And this one is much too good to miss!

### **Chocolate Soufflé with Jam**

2 tbsps butter  
4 eggs separated  
30gm caster sugar  
30gm cocoa  
2 tbsps orange liqueur  
8 tbsps cherry or raspberry jam  
1 tbsp icing sugar

Preheat oven to 175°

Butter an oval gratin or baking dish or use individual soufflé dishes, and fill them 3/4 full.

In a mixer, beat the yolks until they are pale and thick. Beat the whites in another bowl to soft peaks, and then beat in the sugar, about 1 tbsp at a time.

Add the cocoa to the whites, 1 tbsp at a time and continue beating until stiff but not dry. Fold the yolks into the whites and then fold in the liqueur.

Spoon the jam into the prepared dish/dishes and space evenly. Spoon the egg mixture on top and smooth.

Bake until risen, about 15 minutes. Sprinkle with icing sugar, and serve immediately, including extra portions of jam or fresh fruit with each serving. If you want to be really decadent, make some hot chocolate sauce and let people have at it!



# Bildeston Primary School

## *Learning and Growing Together*

The children were so excited to welcome back Mr Pratt. — and even more excited when they spotted the tractor rolling onto the playground..We're thrilled that he returned again to share it with them.A huge thank-you to the Suffolk Agricultural Association for continuing to include Bildeston in the Tractors in Schools project. And an extra thank-you to Mr Pratt for spending time chatting with the children about livestock farming



**Inuit Art in KS2** Our KS2 art project this half term has taken us on



a fascinating journey into the world of Inuit art. The children have loved exploring the work of different Inuit artists, especially those who create beautiful sculptures inspired by their culture and environment. They then had a go at becoming sculptors themselves — using bars of soap to carve their own mini creations. It was wonderful to see their concentration, creativity, and pride as their ideas took shape.

**The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe** Year 5 had a wonderful afternoon watching the very talented pupils from Finborough School perform. It was engaging and of a very high standard, and our children were enthralled throughout. We were extremely proud of Year 5, who were fantastically behaved and represented our school beautifully. After the performance, the children had the opportunity to meet the cast and talk to them about the production.including meeting their favourite characters.

**Steelman Workshop** We were thrilled to have Caribbean vibes in our school when Irie Steelpan Workshops visited us last Friday. The children got to dance to their amazing sounds and were able to play the steel pans themselves. Everyone left the workshops with a smile and a spring in their step.

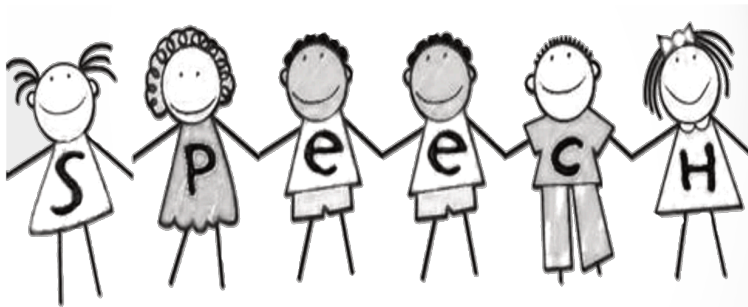


**Cross Country** An enormous well done to all the Year 4s who took part in the cross country this week at Layham Road Rugby Club. The children were troopers. The conditions were quite bleak and definitely very muddy! A special shout out to those pupils who came in 1st place and 3rd place respectfully. All children were supportive to their peers cheering and clapping them in and across the line. Great perseverance!

If you are considering Bildeston Primary for your child, please phone the office on the number below.  
We can arrange personal tours of our school.

Bildeston Primary School Newberry Road, Bildeston, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP7 7ES Telephone: 01449 740269  
[www.bildeston.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.bildeston.suffolk.sch.uk)





## Top Tips for Helping your Child with their Talking

Nikki Samuel, a local children's speech and language therapist shares with our readers some great tips for helping your young children develop their talking. Remember every child develops at a different pace, but if you do have any concerns about their talking, please speak to your GP or Health Visitor.

**1. Get down to their level** Often when we talk, we are so high up above our children and not even looking at them! Whenever you can, get down to their level (yes this might be lying on the floor!) and face them as you play and talk, making eye contact and modelling facial expressions as you play.

**2. Try making comments, rather than asking lots of questions** Asking lots of questions when our children don't know the answer or don't have the words can be frustrating! Instead, try making comments to take the pressure off and be a good language role model. E.g. rather than "what's that?" Try "wow a big red bus!"

**3. Follow their lead** When we comment, it works best if we talk about what our child is currently interested in or engaged in e.g. if they are playing with the dolls, talk about the dolls rather than introducing the bricks and talking about them. This means they are more likely to engage and listen to what we say, and maybe try repeating it!

**4. Offer them choices** To model more language, try offering choices whilst holding out each object e.g. at snack time try "apple or banana?" This helps your child to learn new vocabulary by linking the word to the object. Plus, even if they can't say or repeat the word, they may point to it!

**5. Repeat and add language** Repeat what your child says to show you are listening – even if this is just a sound rather than a word. If they say a word, try adding on an extra word to help expand their phrases. E.g. if they say "dog", you can add on: big dog, black dog, dog running, happy dog etc.

If you have any questions, you can contact Nikki Samuel at Mid Suffolk Speech Therapy. [Midsuffolkspeechtherapy.co.uk](http://Midsuffolkspeechtherapy.co.uk)

# BRETT VALLEY BENEFICE

## Services in the Benefice - March 2026

|                                                                                                            |          |                           |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b><br><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>                                 | 09.30 am | Morning Worship           | Nedging   |
|                                                                                                            | 11.00 am | Holy Communion            | Bildeston |
| <b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b>                                 | 11.00 am | Morning Worship           | Semer     |
|                                                                                                            | 11.00 am | Holy Communion            | Naughton  |
|                                                                                                            | 15.00 pm | Evening Prayer            | Whatfield |
| <b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b><br><b>Mothering Sunday</b>     | 11.00 am | Family Worship            | Naughton  |
|                                                                                                            | 11.00 am | Family Communion -        | Bildeston |
| <b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b><br><b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b><br><b>(Passiontide begins)</b> | 09.30 am | Holy Communion            | Whatfield |
|                                                                                                            | 11.00 am | Holy Communion            | Semer     |
|                                                                                                            | 11.00 am | Morning Worship           | Nedging   |
| <b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><b>Palm Sunday</b><br><b>BST begins</b>                             | 11.00 am | Benefice Family Communion | Semer     |

### Morning Prayer said during the Month:

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month 9am Bildeston; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month 9am Naughton  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month 10am Whatfield; 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month 9am Nedging

### Compline during Holy Week

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 19.00 Bildeston, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 19.00 Lindsey,  
Wed 1<sup>st</sup> April 19.00 Naughton

### Naughton Benefice Coffee Morning on behalf of the Bildeston Food Bank held in Bildeston Church – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 10.30am – 12noon

All the Benefice Churches are open during daylight hours apart from All Saints Semer, where the key can be collected from Hollow Trees Farm Shop

Please contact Revd Nicola 07521 457 844 [revnictv@outlook.com](mailto:revnictv@outlook.com) for any information re. Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals or any matters of faith. We are delighted to have Revd Teresa serving as Deacon in the Benefice

### Churchwardens

|           |                             |               |                |               |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Bildeston | Neil Ashwell                | 01449 741 370 | Martin Rodgers | 01449 743 120 |
| Lindsey   | Frank Taylor                | 01787 828 204 |                |               |
| Whatfield | Vacant until further notice |               |                |               |
| Semer     | Keith Horn                  | 01449 741 407 |                |               |
| Nedging   | Jill Taylor                 | 01449 740 258 | Paul Chaplin   | 01449 740 425 |
| Naughton  | Carol Homer                 | 01449 741 498 |                |               |

# Brett Valley Benefice Pastoral Letter – March 2026

From the Rector – Revd Nicola Tindall

Dear Friends,

In one of February's church services, I talked about the '*Candlemas Bell*', the delicate snowdrop, and how it brings a smile to your face when you see it peeping out from the dark soil. This month, the daffodil, its golden yellow flower, linked with St David's celebration on 1<sup>st</sup> March, just has you grinning. This seems in stark contrast to Lent which this year began in February and continues through March and into April. So often, Lent is seen as the bleakest of the Church's seasons with its buildings bare of flowers during these challenging forty days.

Is this period of barrenness in the Church's year the season where there is the biggest gap between those who are followers of Christ and those with no idea what Lent is about? For Christians, Lent offers much-needed time to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice and an opportunity to draw closer in our relationship with God. Call it religious mindfulness. Lent is associated with giving things up; traditionally things with certain fats like chocolate, and luxuries such as alcohol. Within the Christian faith it is also a time when you are encouraged to increase your prayer life, admit your faults before God, and share your gifts and wealth with those who need it most.

All lofty ideals. I don't think we've been put on earth to make our lives less enjoyable, rather we are here to follow the teachings of Christ, living side-by-side peacefully with each other, and in harmony with our surroundings. Whether during Lent this means going for a walk, spending time with a neighbour, or sitting quietly (without access to your phone!), take your pick, but please give yourself time to do this.

There are a couple of key moments during Lent celebrated in the Benefice; Mothering Sunday on 15<sup>th</sup> March with a service in Bildeston at 11am, where we give thanks for the whole family, and Palm Sunday on 29<sup>th</sup> March, heralding the beginning of Holy Week and the final week leading up to Easter, with a combined Benefice service in Semer, also at 11am. Please join us for these and any of the services across the Benefice, you will all be very warmly welcomed. I also want to give advanced notice of this year's Walk of Witness on Good Friday when we walk from Bildeston church starting at 11am to Semer and then to Lindsey (four-legged friends welcomed!) please bring a packed lunch.

However you spend Lent, I hope you find moments in which to ponder and give thanks for the goodness you see around.

Yours in Christ,

Nicola

Tel. 07521 457 844   [revnictv@outlook.com](mailto:revnictv@outlook.com)

# Always Keep in Mind ...

**Bell Ringing** The band of enthusiastic bellringers continue to thrive and practise every Tuesday. For more details, please contact either Church Warden.

**Church Wardens** Neil Ashwell: 01449 741 370 and Martin Rodgers: 01449 743 120

## **Fundraising footnote for St Mary Magdalene**

Maintaining our historic church gives us many challenges, from cracks, movement and falling plaster, to rodent damage, updating lighting and paying electricity bills takes time and money. Your Church needs your help and support for it to survive into the future and provide the beautiful setting we need for Funerals, Baptisms and Weddings apart from our normal services and large Village events.

All donations are most welcome and, to enable easy access to cash free donations and charitable giving, you can use the QR code. We also have a card-reader in the Church. Just touch on the front screen the amount you wish to donate and then tap your card on the top. If preferred, cheques made payable to 'Bildeston PCC' or BACS transfers - Account Name: BILDESTON PCC Sort code 20-44-51 Account number 60187186 are very welcome too! If you are regular monthly donor, we really value your commitment to our church and thank you for your ongoing support but have you considered an inflationary increase in your standing order as your Church struggles to meet rising costs.

Please contact Richard Lester our Church Treasurer if anyone needs further information on regular giving on 01449 744 120 or email: *richard.c.lester@btinternet.com*



## DON'T GO HUNGRY

Are you finding it hard to meet the current costs of food and energy?

Has work dried up or you have very little money?

In these difficult times nobody should go hungry.

If you and your family are struggling to put food on the table, we can help.

Bildeston Food Bank is a discreet service for Bildeston residents.

Call us on 01449 257 136 (local call charges)

or email **[bildestoncsg@gmail.com](mailto:bildestoncsg@gmail.com)** in strictest confidence

If you can help support Bildeston Food Bank, we would love to hear from you, too.

We need food, toiletries and cleaning products. We also need games, tools and bric-a-brac for our car-boot stall.

All donations to be delivered to Park House, 9-111 Duke St, Bildeston IP7 7EW

## ... We Need You

Duke Street, Bildeston email: bildestonbc@gmail.com

## Service Every Sunday Morning at 10.45

### Strollers & Stickers

Mondays 9.45am  
Ring 07584 189 356  
or 07901 563 281  
for details

### Craft It Together

alternate Tuesdays  
2pm to 4pm 33  
Smock Meadow,  
07759 644 786  
for details



### Lunch Club

12.30 First Wed  
every month Ring  
07584 189 356 to  
reserve a place

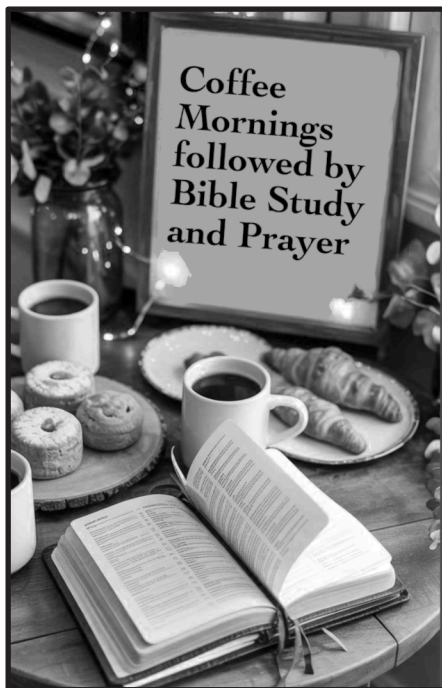
### Motley Crew

#### Bible Study

prayer and lively  
discussion 7.30pm  
Thursdays at 33  
Smock Meadow

## Community Coffee Centre Fridays 9.00 to 11.30am

All are most welcome. Enjoy meeting old and new friends at any of these events



10.30 am to 12 noon  
87 High Street, Bildeston

An opportunity for fellowship, to pray  
together and to ask questions about our  
faith in Jesus

All Welcome

Dates: Feb 11, 25 & March 11, 18, 25

For more information, please call

Neil Pearson on 07774 893 484  
email: njp111@hotmail.com

Teresa Lester on 01449 744 120  
email: teresalester47@gmail.com





Route 112 runs every Tuesday and Thursday leaving Bildeston Clock Tower at 9.30am and stopping in Chelsworth, Monks Eleigh, Brent Eleigh (on request), Little Waldingfield, Great Waldingfield and Sudbury.

The Return service leaves Sudbury Bus Station at 1pm.

Every passenger is valued as fares are crucial to keeping this important service viable, and there is no restriction on who can travel.



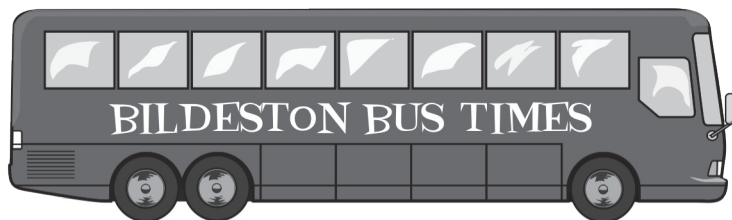
**Community Transport**

## **TIMETABLE ROUTE 112** **[TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS ONLY]**

**2026**

| OUTWARD JOURNEY                      |          | RETURN JOURNEY                      |          |
|--------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Bildeston Market Square              | 09.30 am | Sainsbury's store front <b>RQ</b>   |          |
| Chelsworth, Peacock pub              | 09.34 am | Sudbury bus station                 | 13.00 pm |
| Monks Eleigh, Swan pub               | 09.37 am | Tesco store bust stop <b>RQ</b>     |          |
| Brent Eleigh, Village Hall           | 09.41 am | Sudbury Health Centre <b>RQ</b>     |          |
| Lavenham (adj. Swan Hotel) <b>RQ</b> |          | Chilton roundabout                  | 13.04 pm |
| Little Waldingfield, Swan pub        | 09.49 am | Bantocks Road, White Hall           | 13.08 pm |
| Great Waldingfield, post office      | 09.53 am | Bantocks Road, Lynns Hall           | 13.09 pm |
| Bantocks Road, Lynns Hall            | 09.55 am | Great Waldingfield, post office     | 13.11 pm |
| Bantocks Road, White Hall            | 09.56 am | Little Waldingfield, Swan pub       | 13.15 pm |
| Chilton roundabout                   | 09.59 am | Lavenham (opp Swan Hotel) <b>RQ</b> |          |
| Sudbury Health Centre <b>RQ</b>      |          | Brent Eleigh, Village Hall          | 13.23 pm |
| Tesco store bus stop <b>RQ</b>       |          | Swingleton Green <b>RQ</b>          |          |
| Sudbury Bus Station                  | 10.04 am | Monks Eleigh, Swan pub              | 13.28 pm |
| Sainsbury's store front <b>RQ</b>    |          | Chelsworth, Peacock Pub             | 13.32 pm |
|                                      |          | Bildeston Market Square             | 13.37 pm |
|                                      |          | Brooksfield, Bildeston <b>RQ</b>    |          |

THE 112 SERVICE IS OPERATED BY GOSTART COMMUNITY TRANSPORT LTD  
 TELEPHONE 01787 242116 E MAIL [gostart.ct@gmail.com](mailto:gostart.ct@gmail.com) WEB SITE [www.gostart.org.uk](http://www.gostart.org.uk)  
 REGISTERED CHARITY 1145266 LIMITED COMPANY REGISTERED BY GUARANTEE 07489822



**Ipswich Route 111 Operated by Mulleys Motorways**

**Hitcham – Bildeston – Somersham - Ipswich**

**Monday to Saturday**

|                             |                                        |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Bildeston Clock Tower (opp) | Ipswich, Old Cattle Market Bus Station |
| 0720                        | 0817                                   |
| 0950                        | 1046                                   |
| 1350                        | 1446                                   |
| 1650                        | 1746                                   |

**Ipswich – Somersham – Bildeston – Hitcham**

**Monday to Saturday**

|                                        |                                |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ipswich, Old Cattle Market Bus Station | Bildeston Clock Tower          |
| 0840 (0850 in school holidays)         | 0932 (0936 in school holidays) |
| 1235                                   | 1329                           |
| 1540 (1550 in school holidays)         | 1642 (1643 in school holidays) |
| 1750                                   | 1843                           |

**Stowmarket Route 461 Operated by Hadleigh Community Transport & Chambers**

**Stowmarket – Great Bricett/Hitcham – Hadleigh**

**Monday & Thursday**

|                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Bildeston Clock Tower (opp) | Hadleigh Bus Station |
| 1305                        | 1340                 |

**Hadleigh – Hitcham/Great Bricet - Stowmarket**

|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Hadleigh Bus Station | Bildeston Clock Tower |
| 0950                 | 1003                  |

**Bury St Edmunds Route 379 – Wednesday only**

**Bury St Edmunds – Bildeston – Hadleigh**

|                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Bildeston Clock Tower (opp) | Hadleigh Bus Station |
| 1351                        | 1414                 |

**Hadleigh – Bildeston – Bury St Edmunds**

|                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Hadleigh Bus Station | Bildeston Clock Tower |
| 0942                 | 1009                  |

## Bildeston Parish Council

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026, 7.30pm,  
at Chamberlin Hall, Chamberlin Close, Bildeston.**

| Present                                                                 |                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Cllr Ray McCann, Chairman                                               | County Cllr Robert Lindsay |
| Cllr Robin Sedgwick                                                     | District Cllr Deborah Saw  |
| Cllr Virginia Tuck                                                      | Clerk – Angela Chapman     |
| Cllr Richard Lester                                                     | 1 x Residents              |
| <b>Apologies:</b> Cllr Helen Alcoe, Cllr Virginia Tuck, Cllr Alex Banks |                            |

### **C661/25/26** Chairman's Welcome & Apologies

Chairman McCann welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies noted.

### **C662 /25/26** Vacancy for Parish Councillor/s.

2 vacancies remain.

**C663/25/26** Declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests. Cllr Richard Lester – Kings Pightle Committee, St. Mary Magdalene church PCC, Sports Field Management Committee/Trustee

**C664/25/26** Requests for dispensation in respect of pecuniary interests. None.

**C665/25/26** Minutes of Last Meeting held 5th January 2026, approved as a true record of the meeting.

**C666/25/26** Public Session – to include County Councillor and District Councillor reports. Adjourned 1938hrs to receive reports from County and District Councillors and consider any matters raised by local parishioners.

**DC Deborah Saw** Full report from Babergh District Councillor Deborah Saw can be seen on [bildeston.org/parish-council/county-and-district-councillors-report/](http://bildeston.org/parish-council/county-and-district-councillors-report/)

**Bildeston Issues** Following up a query from a resident concerning the construction of a ditch on the Ipswich Road site which appeared to be at a higher level than the existing one I contacted Orbit who confirmed that their engineers were trying to achieve the connection at the right level from the roadside, across the ditch within the site. I have also asked Orbit to increase road cleaning during the current wet spell. I was alerted to the construction by Orbit of a temporary footpath behind Artiss Close as the footpath down the main road side isn't able to be constructed yet, see above.

## **cont'd Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 02/02/26**

Unfortunately, residents of Artiss Close had not been informed about this work and they are very concerned about security and safety aspects given the close proximity of the LPG tanks. I am talking with Orbit about this situation. The temporary footpath from the site into Artiss Close, can be made permanent. The PC agreed this would be a good idea. Tenants are expected to move into their homes at the end of this month.

**Budget** The council received notification of its provisional budget just before Christmas. Although we have a small surplus for 26/27 financial year the council's financial position becomes much more difficult in the two remaining financial years. Looking ahead to 27/28 and 28/29 our position worsens to an £882,000 deficit and then in 28/29 a £2 million deficit. On one hand, it is good to have the clarity of the government's multi-year settlement but this has not been equitable for rural councils like our own with a lack of recognition of the cost of providing services and need. works best for everyone.

Rural councils received 40% less than urban councils and we will receive less from the business rates we levy with central government receiving more. Our budget is still under tremendous pressure and vulnerable to unknown situations with limited reserves available to respond. We have made savings of £2.5 million for 26/27 but we will have to raise car parking charges from £1 to £1.20 an hour, two hours for £1.20 in a long stay car park. We cannot subsidise these car parks. Our rates bill alone for the car parks is now £380,000 since the government is changing the formula.

**Concerns about Sewage Sludge** Residents may have been unaware of the existence of a sewage sludge processing site near Wattisham air base working for Thames Water, although if the wind was in the right direction they may have smelt it. This site was operating without the necessary planning permissions. Thanks to Councillor Robert Lindsay and Councillor Dan Pratt of Mid Suffolk for raising the alarm. I put forward a motion at the last Babergh Council meeting calling for urgent action by the Government to tighten regulations governing the spreading of sewage sludge on agricultural land, citing serious concerns for public health, farming and the environment. This material contains 'forever chemicals' and microplastics and the testing regime hasn't kept up with the development of these chemicals.

We want the government to prevent chemical producers and companies from offloading commercial effluent into sewage sludge and to increase research into sustainable and safe agricultural alternatives, with Defra warning farmers of the risks of accepting sludge from water company contractors in the meantime.

**Energy Efficiency** In October last year we were able to deliver on our initiative to help listed building owners improve the energy efficiency of their homes by developing a Local Listed Building Consent Order, (LLBCO), so owners could install double and secondary glazing. We are the only council to have achieved this. We are now moving onto giving listed home owners the ability to put solar panels within the curtilage of the property. We are also look at making it easier to install air source heat pumps.

## **cont'd 2 Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 02/02/26**

*Using oil to heat your home?* This ward has more homes with oil-powered heating than anywhere else in the district, but there may be grants available to install energy improvement measures such as ground source heat pumps and extra insulation. You can call Warm Homes Suffolk on 0345 037 686 to find out more and book a free assessment. [www.warmhomesuffolk.org](http://www.warmhomesuffolk.org). You may also be able to bring down the monthly cost of oil through the Community Action Suffolk bulk buying scheme [www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk](http://www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk) Alternatively, Eastern Savings and Loan Credit Union offer interest-free loans to cover the upfront cost of oil and LPG. To find out more call 03336 000690. Eastern Savings And Loans Credit Union For further information about help with energy costs visit, visit our website: [www.babergh.gov.uk/energy-fuel-and-utilities](http://www.babergh.gov.uk/energy-fuel-and-utilities)

**Backing the bid** Ipswich is bidding to be the City of Culture in 2029. Babergh supports the bid because we believe it will be a positive initiative for the whole of Suffolk. We have many residents who work in Ipswich, and we can all experience the many cultural events that will take place. It will attract thousands of visitors to Ipswich and the surrounding areas. The government's Department for Culture, Media and Sport will then longlist up to eight bids, awarding each a grant of £60,000 to support them with developing and strengthening their full application over a three-to-four-month period from February until May/June 2026. The winning place gets a guaranteed £10 million of Government funding to help deliver its year-long programme of events.

**Want a creative career?** Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils together with East Suffolk and Menta, the not-for-profit organisation that helps Suffolk's small and micro businesses have launched a new initiative, Careeriosity which has been developed to support young people across the region by providing free access to creative skills development, industry insight, and practical career exploration opportunities.

**CC Robert Lindsay** Full report from Suffolk County Councillor Robert Lindsay can be seen on [bildeston.org/parish-council/county-and-district-councillors-report/](http://bildeston.org/parish-council/county-and-district-councillors-report/)

**Hadleigh to Stowmarket Bus latest** The KonnectBus service between Hadleigh and Stowmarket daily should start 13th April. I have asked for a timetable from the officer but as of yet don't have it. It appears he has left final details in the hands of the bus operator TMS, however, I am assured that it will be at Stowmarket in the morning to meet the first off-peak train to London.

With the £27m of new funding announced to be handed over by the Government to Suffolk over the next three years I am hoping that perhaps some could be found for extra services can be added to the four-a-day Ipswich service from Hitcham and Bildeston, the 111. It will require parishes to request it though. Discussion ensued about the new bus routes. It was agreed Cllr Virginia Tuck would contact TMJ and Kathryn Davies.



### **cont'd 3 Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 02/02/26**

**County council elections for May 2026 scrapped** The Government told county councils before Christmas that it would delay county elections if the councils told them they had "resource issues". At county council on Monday 12 January, a debate was held about "the resource implications" of an election in May on the delivery of Local Government Reorganization in Suffolk. The Conservative administration unanimously voted down an amendment proposed by my group to ask for a clear vote "that the council was in favour of the elections going ahead". A Cabinet meeting was held following the council debate, where the administration voted unanimously to write to the government outlining capacity concerns that might be felt if elections were to go ahead. On 22 January, the government announced that the elections in Suffolk, and in 28 other councils around the country, would not take place in May this year. The Government has said that the county elections will not be held at all, since there are shadow unitary elections in May 2027 and the county and district will be dissolved and unitary councils will start in May 2028.

#### **Council budget 2026-27 pennies away from breaching minimum reserve levels**

At Cabinet on Tuesday 27 January, the budget for the 2026-27 financial year was presented. The council is planning to raise council tax by the maximum 4.99% this year, reflecting the fact it is struggling to meet its rising costs. The recommended minimum level of reserves is 5% of the council's total £850m annual spend. In order to keep reserves just within that level (£42.5m), the council's pension fund committee has agreed to give the council a one-year-only £10m reduction in pension contributions for the coming financial year. Even then, and combined with planned savings of £46.5m, the council will be taking £5.9m from reserves to cover the remaining budget gap. Budget gaps are forecast to rise above £20m in the following two years, requiring more cost cutting measures. One of the biggest cost pressures is SEND. The Government, aware that it is not providing enough money, has been making councils borrow to fund this with the promise that it will take on responsibility for SEND funding by April 2028. But a promised white paper has yet to materialise. The council is in the meantime having to pay interest on the debt. This will be £5m in the year about to end, rising to £8.9m in the 2026/27 year and then a forecast £11m plus in the year thereafter. There are also concerns about the amount of money the Local Government Reorganisation will cost the council. This is currently estimated as £48m overall but will be divided between all Suffolk councils.

**Net Zero Carbon Report** Also at cabinet was the annual report on the council's efforts to reach net zero carbon by 2030. The council has cut its energy bills by £4.8m a year thanks to this initiative which reduced gas and electricity consumption from 2019. Measures included improving heating controls in the councils offices and a car park solar array. It reckons it will have cut emissions (from purely its own footprint – not those of customers or staff commuting) by 63% by 2027/2028, and is not producing a forecast thereafter because the council will cease to exist.

## **cont'd 4 Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 02/02/26**

**Suffolk Roads Rated Red by UK Government.** The government has rated Suffolk's road maintenance as Red, the worst category. This has struck a chord with residents in the county, who have been clear that they agree and want the quality of Suffolk's roads to improve. Suffolk County Council's administration, however, has denied that the rating is accurate, saying that overall the condition of Suffolk's roads are rated Amber, with the overall Red rating being arrived at because the Department for Transport did not include in its assessment £10m of highways funding that it brought forward from the 2025-26 financial year and invested early in a resurfacing programme in 2024-25. The council has met with the Department for Transport to press for the Suffolk rating to be raised to Amber.

**New 20mph Policy** At Cabinet on Friday 9 January, a new 20mph speed limit policy was approved which the administration said would make it easier for communities to apply for a 20mph speed limit. A series of hurdles such as accident injury record have been scrapped and the decision will be based on average speeds being below certain thresholds and a demonstration of support from residents. Obviously too late for us in Bildeston but it does perhaps signal a slightly improved attitude to improving life for pedestrians in villages.

**Resident** – the resident asked a question to DC Deborah Saw regarding the purchase of the Orbit built houses on Ipswich Rd. DC Saw confirmed Babergh DC do not currently have any intention to buy up any unsold properties. Orbit are marketing the shared ownership properties.

### **15minute period for discussion on Environmental Improvement project.**

The Council viewed and discussed the photos of locations in the village, supplied by Cllrs Ray McCann and Richard Lester. An initial list will be made of improvements to be made around the village and distributed to Cllrs.

*Reconvened 2026hrs.*

### **C667/25/26 Planning Applications**

Planning Appendix A - Items for comment

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION - DC/26/00120

Proposal: Householder Application - The installation of Painted Wood Bi fold Doors to (Southern elevation) Rear of kitchen replacing large pane and Single Door. Location: Tudor House, 7 Chapel Street, Bildeston, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 7EP  
Comments: No objections.

APPLICATION FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT - DC/26/00239

Proposal: Application for Listed Building Consent - Installation of painted wood bi fold doors to(Southern elevation) rear of kitchen replacing large pane and single door.Location: Tudor House, 7 Chapel St, Bildeston, Ipswich Suffolk IP7 7EP  
Comments: No objections.

Planning Appendix B – Items determined by Babergh District Council

DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S)

## **cont'd 5 Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 02/02/26**

### **TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990**

Proposal: Discharge of Conditions Application for B/15/01433 - Condition 22 (Illumination) Location: Land East Of Artiss Close And, Rotheram Road, Bildeston, Suffolk. Babergh District Council hereby gives notice that the details submitted in pursuance to the conditions referred to above have been determined as summarised below in relation to each relevant condition together with any appropriate comments, limitations or advice.

#### **APPROVED CONDITION(S):**

##### **22. SPECIFIC RESTRICTION OF DEVELOPMENT: ILLUMINATION RESTRICTION**

No external lighting shall be provided on the application site unless details thereof have first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Reason - In the interests of amenity to reduce the impact of nighttime illumination on the character of the area and in the interests of biodiversity

**C668/25/26 Clerks Report** I have been liaising with Ashtons Legal solicitors, including attending a Court hearing, remotely. The Vesting Order has now been granted for the land which is Chamberlin Close. We are now awaiting the Deed of Grant and the land to be registered to the Parish Council at Land Registry. Welcome pack is in draft form. The Asset Register has been updated. Please note the Scribe subscription has increased from £331 to £444, due to a 3-year review and an increase in the precept. I suggest the PC writes to Smith of Derby, who carried out the work on the automation of the clock, pointing out the problems of slowness and stopping; that the engineer has been out several times, and the PC should like an extended guarantee on the work.

Assertion 10 – this is a new digital and date compliance that the PC needs to adhere to. It will appear on the Annual Governance and Accountability Return AGAR 2025-26. I have been provided with a very useful check list by the internal auditor, Trevor Brown, which I will work my way through. The PC will need to adopt an IT policy to make sure all compliance is met. Also, review Website Accessibility Statement; adopt Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) Publication Scheme, Freedom of Information Act Model Publication Scheme Version 1.2 (2015-10-23) on March 2026; update and review GDPR Policy and Data Protection Act 2018.

**Finances** The P3 precept form has been returned to Babergh DC. £20,000 has been transferred to the deposit account to increase the interest income.

**Next meeting** The next meeting is due 6th April which is Easter Monday, so the meeting will be held on Tuesday 7th April.

##### **C669/25/26 Projects and Progress Reports**

- a. Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Philip Alcoe not in attendance, no update.
- b. Orbit Housing, Weavers Grove – new footpath – see C666/25/26 above.
- c. Welcome Pack – Cllr Virginia Tuck to work with the Clerk to finalise.
- d. Clock Tower clock – there have been time keeping problems with the new automation. PC agreed to write to the supplier.
- e. Village tidy up – Environmental Improvement project – see C666/25/26 above.

## cont'd 6 Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council 02/02/26

f.Welcome pack – see Clerks report

g.Playground monthly report – on SharePoint. Nothing to report.

h.update on village amenities

-Norman Ruffell's memorial bench 'opened' by the family and friends of Norman.

-Hole in fence between the Crown and Chamberlin Close play area to be repaired.

Clerk to organise.

-Brooks footpath – Cllr Robin Sidgwick confirmed pre-application sent to Babergh and SCC.

-SID – speed indicators – SCC have confirmed the posts will be installed by mid May 2026.

-Sports field – have requested the football pitch is cut shorter. Clerk to forward contractor's details to Sports Field committee.

### **C670/25/26** Administrative, Finance and Governance Reports

a.Payments for approval – authorised by Cllrs Tuck and Sidgwick.

| Payee                   | Description            | Net of VAT |
|-------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| O2                      | Mobile Phone           | 15.08      |
| ICCM                    | Subscription           | 26.00      |
| Ashtons Legal           | Legal fees             | 01886.67   |
| Starboard Systems Ltd   | Annual subscription    | 444.00     |
| An Accounting Gem       | Accountancy fees       | 31.25      |
| Ryman Stationery        | Stationery             | 10.82      |
| Viking Office Depot     | Stationery             | 74.99      |
| Unity Trust Bank        | Bank Charges           | 6.00       |
| A Chapman               | Clerk's expenses/admin | 39.00      |
| Parish Council Websites | Website maintenance    | 60.00      |
| SMS                     | Microsoft 365 subs     | 44.38      |
| Nedging Hall Estate     | Gate                   | 500.00     |
| A Chapman               | Clerk' salary          | 0.0        |
| HMRC                    | PAYE & NIC             | 274.71     |

b.Approval and signing Scribe of monthly accounting reports – checked and signed.

c.Appoint an internal auditor for yr 2025/26. Trevor Brown approved.

d.Clerks report – continuation approved.

e.Review Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. Reviewed and adopted.

f.Review Asset Register. Add 2 benches on Church Rd; Market Place land is historical ownership not gifted. All land under custodian trusteeship. Then adopted.

**C671/25/26** Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council Agenda to be published on website.

**C672/25/26** Items for next agenda

Neighbourhood Plan; SID; Welcome pack; Village environmental improvements; Playground report; Parish Councillor vacancies

Meeting closed 2119hrs. Date of next meeting: Monday 2nd March 2026 7.30pm, at Chamberlin Hall, Bildeston.Village website: [www.bildeston.org](http://www.bildeston.org)

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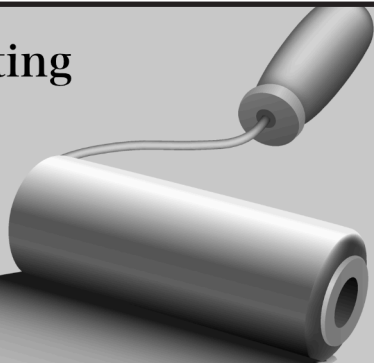
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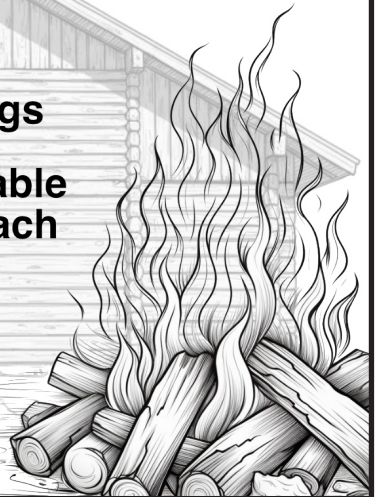
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