

# Barton Mills Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Jadi Coe [clerk@bartonmills.net](mailto:clerk@bartonmills.net) 07724 737841

Chairman: Mrs A. Dawson 01638 714449

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF BARTON MILLS

Held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018 at 7pm.

**Parish Councillors Present:** Cllr. A. Dawson, Cllr. P. Boura, Cllr. A. Harji, Cllr. F. Lewis, Cllr. R. Lewis, Cllr. N Horne & Cllr. G. Flack.

**Also Present:** Clerk, Jadi Coe. Cllr. B. Harvey – FHDC & Cllr. L. Busuttill - SCC  
5 Members of the Public were present.

**APM.18/05/01. Election of Chair for Annual Parish Meeting if the Chairman of the Parish Council is not present.**

The Chairman, Councillor Dawson welcomed everyone.

**APM.18/05/02. To Approve the Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

*Resolved APM 18/05/2.01* The minutes of the last Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were proposed as a true record by Cllr. Boura and the Minutes were duly signed by the Chair, Cllr. A. Dawson

**APM.18/05/03. Chairman's Annual Report**

This has been my first year as Chairman of the Barton Mills Parish Council.

We are pleased to welcome our new clerk Jadi Coe who took over from Vicky Bright in March.

We were very fortunate this year to receive monies from the estate of the late Tony Morley via Terry Waters to fund a new defibrillator in the village. This has been situated in the disused phone box outside the Bell Pub. I would like to thank Pamela and Malcolm Boura for their hard work in renovating the phone box so that it was usable, and also to Pamela in particular for all the work she did to obtain the defibrillator for the village. We had an opening ceremony in December followed by a small reception in the Bell Pub.

The Council funded a number of football coaching sessions for children in the school holidays. On the whole these were well attended and so we plan to continue with these for the time being.

The Barton Mills playing field and play area are both extremely well used facilities in the village. It is fabulous seeing children of all ages using the goals and basketball area. We are therefore proposing to fund a couple more 5-a-side goals in the forthcoming year with a contribution to them being made by the Burrell Trust.

Another project that has been undertaken by the Parish Council has been the replanting of the Peace Garden at the front of the village hall. Over the years this had become very overgrown and tired looking and so it was decided that as it was such a feature of the village that we would like to have it landscaped and planted with low maintenance plants. Pamela organised a work party to clear the old plants away and then the contractor Rob Ayers has started with the renovation of the garden, which hopefully will be looking good for this year's Armistice Day Service. As in past years the Parish Council hosted the reception following the Remembrance Sunday Service held at the Peace Garden

With regards to road safety we have all been aware of speeding motorists through our village. The Parish Council have been able to install this year a SID speed camera which is moved around various spots in the village on a fortnightly basis by a team of volunteers. Because of the data that had been collected from this sign showing that some cars had been travelling in excess of 80 miles per hour on this stretch of 30mph road!!! The police were happy to set up a speed trap on the Worlington Road and managed to "catch" speeding motorists.

Whilst on the subject of roads we are well aware of the increase in the number of potholes and the lack of repair to them. I would ask you all to report them to Suffolk County Council on their website. The more we do this the more likely we are to get them sorted out.

The only other major expenditure this year has been the new village notice board on the Worlington Road, and a further one that is replacing the small wooden information board on the village green.

The Parish Council has been very proactive in trying to secure more affordable housing for local people. We are currently liaising with Hastoe Housing following our Housing Needs Survey which identified that more housing was needed, particularly with one or two bedrooms. Hastoe are currently in negotiations with a local landowner to see if they can obtain a piece of land to build these houses on. As a timescale if we are successful then the houses are unlikely to be available for about 3 years. In the meantime if you wish to be considered for any houses that do become available you will need to be registered on the Homelink Website – so please do that now.

The final item I would like to mention is that Fiveways Farm appears to have finally been shut down. This took far longer than envisaged and has resulted in an awful lot of rubbish being left on the site. We are continually chasing this up and hopefully might be able to report next year of its clearance.

I would like to thank you all for coming here this evening and if you have any ideas of comments you would like to make then please do so. If you would rather not speak in public then please see one of us at the end of the meeting.

#### **APM.18/05/04. Financial Overview**

Cllr Dawson reported the following overview:

*Income received in the year totalled £26,828 which was just over £200 more than budgeted. Of this total £19,792 was received in the form of the precept which is collected through Council Tax. The council is able to claim back input VAT on expenditure made in the year. This amounted to £1,489. The Council applied for grants available from FHDC and SCC to fund specific projects, the donations in the year made up 20% of the total income. Nearly £4,700 of the total grants and donation was to help towards the cost of the defibrillator and for football coaching.*

*Expenditure in the year totalled £29,372, £4,350 more than budgeted.*

*The largest expense in the total of £10,050 spent on street lighting this includes the cost of the new lantern style lights, the upkeep and maintenance and the energy costs.*

*Admin expenses this year totalled £6,600. The main admin expenses are clerk salary, training costs of the clerk and councillors, insurance costs, postage, printing and stationery costs.*

*Payments to projects in the year totalled £7,137 making up 24% of total expenditure in the year; the projects included in the expense last year were for football coaching, SID and the defibrillator.*

#### **APM.18/05/05. Peace Garden**

It was stated what a lovely job Rob Ayers had done and that the work was now complete and advised the public to go see what had been achieved.

#### **APM.18/05/06. Affordable Housing**

Cllr Dawson stated that there was little to report on as a meeting between Hastoe Homes and potential land sellers was not happening until the following day but once more information was received this would be passed on to the public.

A recent Housing Need Survey for local people showed that the Parish was in need of affordable homes for local people. Since then BMPC have been in discussion with Hastoe Homes. The hope is to build 10 units of one bedroom and two bedroom homes (one bedrooms homes also having a second 'box' bedroom). If there are going to be three bedroom homes there will be very few. Currently no plans are drawn up and Hastoe Homes need to find the right site, with the right access and ensure funding is in place before any plans can be drawn up.

It was advised that if parishioners wish to be considered for one of these homes then they must register at Homechoice.

A member of public was concerned that if the new homes were built on Church Lane then the current road and footpath were not adequate. Cllr Dawson stated that as with any development Highways would be consulted. When the time comes we as the Council will take on comments of the residents and put these forward to the planners.

A member of the public asked if the land next to the current affordable housing would be considered and asked if this would be cheaper as it is owned by the Council. Cllr Dawson stated the land was owned by SCC but this would still need to be purchased in the same manner as private land.

#### **APM.18/05/07. Fiveways Farm**

Cllr Dawson reported that there had been recent concerns that not all the land was registered and Mr Dale continues to make further legal claims to ownership. Cllr Harvey and Cllr Busuttil commented that the land owned by FHDC was registered and the land and that owned by the Forestry Commission is also registered and in time this will be cleared. Cllr Dawson stated that everyone is making an effort to clear this.

#### **Public Forum:**

Cllr. Harvey FHDC introduced himself and gave the following report:

Good evening and thank you for giving me an opportunity to reflect on our last year's work.

Firstly, I would like to say how much I have appreciated the past three years as your DC and the support that both the Parish Council and Residents have given me during this period is very much appreciated.

##### Planning Issues

On a local level we have been able to advise and support various Residents queries and concerns raised during the planning and development process.

##### Locality Budget

During the last financial year each DC has an allocation of £2500 to be used in support of Community type projects.

My carry over for the 2018/2019 FY is £48.88

- Mildenhall Girl Guides: World Thinking Day - £250.00
- Freckenham Community Speed watch: Purchase of the new speed gun - £500.00
- Worlington Parish Council (signed by James pecuniary interest:) - £125.00
- Red Lodge Youth Football Club: Coaching and new equipment (joint bid with Red Lodge as some youngsters from Barton Mills, Freckenham and Worlington attend) - £250.00
- Bunbury Rooms: Refurbishment of the hall (joint bid with Mildenhall and Eriswell and Rows as used by community groups with participants from Manor ward) - £500.00
- Barton Mills Remembrance and Peace Community Garden - £500.00
- Freckenham Parish Council - Community Notice Boards - £500.00
- Barton Mills Village Hall - Community Notice Boards - £150.00

If any group has a proposed community schemes which might be in need of support, please let me know soonest

##### West Suffolk District Council

This joint process is now well underway and as I have been reporting to the Parish council over the past year the joint working group setup by St Edmund's Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council has worked well and the progress made has enabled the team submit its joint application which has been laid before parliament in order to form the new West Suffolk District Council.

We have received an initial response from the Secretary of State and are currently working towards forming our shadow authority later this year May/June time.

This shadow authority will continue to look at matters affecting the workings of the new District Council.

Revised Planning & Development Control – Local Plan and Long Term strategies

Licensing & Regulation – Which I currently chair we are looking at the changes required to bring both sets of Regulation into one joint document Taxi's, Clubs & Bars, Street traders etc.

Leadership – To select a new Joint Leader for the new council post May 2019

Borough vis District status – Mayoral and Civic duties

Financial Regulations – Council tax, Budget setting and long term financial strategy

##### Boundary Commission Review

During the current process the Boundary Commission has also stated a review of the current Ward Boundaries with an initial recommendation to regularise the catchment areas for each Ward in order to establish an average 2000 +/- 10% Electoral Residents in each ward.

In addition, jointly we currently have 72 District / Borough Councillors this number is now to be reduced to 64.

As you can imagine there are a large number of variances within the new area.

We are currently working through this process taken consultation with all interested parties during this process.

It is better for us to work through this process rather than have a new structure imposed upon us.

The effect on Manor Ward

Our own ward will be affected by these changes.

Manor Ward currently consists of three parishes: - Barton Mills, Freckenham and Worlington

This will be increased in size to include: - Tuddenham and Cavenham – there has also been representation to include Icklingham as well making a 6 parish ward of 2010 Electoral Residents.

No final decision has been taken at this time but this is the likely outcome.

This new proposed ward will come into effect after the next West Suffolk District Council elections being held in May 2019.

If anyone would like to have a look at the variance maps etc. I have these with me this evening.

On a personnel note, as you no doubt are already aware I currently hold the Vice Chair for FHDC and will be installed as Chair on the 9th May.

I am looking forward to a busy year.

My particular intention is to ensure that our Rural Community events are included in my diary.

Can't promise that I can attend all events but I will try.

There will be a Civic Reception held in St Marys Church Barton Mills with a reception in the Village Hall on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Only too pleased to take any questions that you might have this evening.

Thank you

Cllr Harvey was asked if FHDC could give money to the church. Cllr Harvey stated yes if this was in aid of a community project

- Louis Busuttill (as County Councillor representing Barton Mills) gave us an update on this year's budget, potholes, home to school transport, and the upcoming leadership election for Suffolk County Council.

Cllr Harvey commented that if you know of a pothole and it has not been ringed yellow then you must report it.

- A member of the public asked about the triangle piece of land at Chalk Hill that was purchased by the Parish Council many years and the plans for the use of this and. Cllr Dawson stated that a local person was interested in leasing the land for a project for 25 years but this was put on hold as the future use of the area was unclear as potentially this could be used by Highways with regards to future road use. Currently the land is a natural area.
- A member of the public raised his concerns over the following:
  - the recent work on the A11 and the fact that the whole road was closed that he deemed unnecessary
  - lack of prior warning or accurate details giving the exact road closure points,
  - the noise from the road caused a constant rumbling sound to be heard in his garden
  - Vehicles crossing the A11 and making sharp U Turns on the road by the Bull Hotel which could lead to a fatal accident,

Cllr Boura then proceeded to report on future works on the A11.

Traffic lights will be installed coming onto Fiveways from A11 North, A1 South and A1101 West (Mildenhall). The A11 South exiting Fiveways would have a reduced speed limit to 40mph and a fixed speed camera in place. A hard standing area would be created next to the A11 South approaching Fiveways allowing for a mobile speed camera to be present more often.

The work is planned to begin September/October 2018 and would likely cause 5-6 weeks disruption but this would help local traffic for the short term. A public exhibition/ meeting is expected to be held in August 2018.

It was stated that this work will hopefully help the traffic flow and reduce daily incidents occurring at the roundabout in short term. The long term plan is to for an A11 bypass but this would not happen for many years, therefore £400,000 has been budgeted to improve this road short term. Cllr Harvey stated he would like to see the cross over points on the A11 to Tuddenham closed permanently.

The meeting closed at 7:50pm