

# Barton Mills Parish Council

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

Chairman: Mr N. Horne 07590 672963

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Barton Mills

held in the village hall on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 at 7:30pm

In attendance: Chairman Cllr N Horne, Cllr K Fuller, Cllr R Lewis, Cllr E Jarvis, Cllr T Newman, District Cllr D Taylor, the clerk Jadi Coe and six members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### Public Forum

No member of the public wished to speak when they were given the opportunity.

### 23/10/01 Accept and receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr R Pollard, Cllr M Colsey, R Oke and S Mullender

### 23/10/02 Declarations of members interests

None

### 23/10/03 Minutes

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting dated 5<sup>th</sup> September proposed by Cllr K Fuller, seconded by Cllr R Lewis, all in favour.

### 23/10/04 Police Reports

None

### 23/10/05 County and District Councillors report

County Cllr L Stanbury sent his apologies.

District Cllr D Taylor reported on:

- The Western Way leisure centre, which he voted against due to the need to borrow too much money
- WSC have agreed to fund the cost of changing street lights to LED lights in parishes in the Forest Heath area, and they will back date this to April 2022, this will reduce energy consumption and therefore costs to the parishes. This will level up the differences in regard to street lights between the old Forest Heath area and the St Edmundsbury area.  
Cllr K Fuller asked whether street lights can be half lit at night to save on energy consumption, Cllr D Taylor confirmed this is up to the individual parish.
- The West Suffolk Local Plan, members voiced their concerns that WSC appeared to not have taken into consideration BMPCs comments when consulted.
- The recent Highways meeting in Mildenhall regarding the closure of the A11 gaps.
- A meeting he had with a local land agent who wants to develop land in the parish for 150 houses who had stated that the Parish Council were in support of. Cllr N Horne confirmed that the Parish Council did agree to support the proposals in principle, as the proposal would see growth in the village and the site would impact only a few current residents.
- Stone Curlews which have had an impact on a proposed development on Tuddenham, and that he wants to ask West Suffolk Planners how many new homes are being blocked by this and what they can do to move forward.

### 23/10/06 Planning and Environment

#### General & For Consideration:

None

#### Tree Applications (for information only):

None

#### Applications awaiting West Suffolk decision and pending appeals:

DC/23/0772/FUL use of land to hold car boot sales on Saturdays from April to October at Newmarket Road, Barton Mills, IP28 6AQ - *pending at 27.9.23*

It was reported that the applicant of DC/23/0772 has recently approached the Parish Council chairman and the District Councillor asking for support and if the Parish Council can remove their objections as Highways no longer have any

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objections. Cllr N Horne confirmed the objections were based on residents' objections but the Parish Council could discuss this again if the applicant contacts the council formally and asks if the objections can be removed, then an agenda item would be added to discuss this at a public meeting.

DC/23/0358/FUL Proposal Planning application - one dwelling at The Old Maltings, The Street, Barton Mills, Suffolk, IP28 6AA – *pending at 27.9.23*

DC/21/2285/FUL – 15 dwellings with associated landscaping, highways and engineering works at land used for car boot sale, Newmarket Road, Barton Mills – *pending at 27.9.23*

**Decided/approved (for information only)**

None

### 23/10/07 Clerk's Report, Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting and Correspondence

- Following the last meeting Mark Chambers reduced his quote for the gravel works from £540 to £430 and his quote was accepted. The clerk has liaised with the Village Hall caretaker and Mark, and the works should be carried out on a Friday, date to be confirmed.

- An email was received from Tuddenham Parish Council:

Tuddenham Parish Council (TPC) had a meeting with Matt Hancock to consider the options for the proposed changes to the central reservation gaps on the A11 which they believe could have a big impact on Parishes including Barton Mills.

It was agreed TPC will write to Paul West as cabinet member for Highways at Suffolk County Council (SCC) and Mohammed Hussain Business Services Co-ordinator Operations (East) at National Highways (NH) demanding the proposals are not actioned stating this is not the right time. TPC have suggested BMPC consider doing the same and copying Matt Hancock into these letters.

Matt Hancock also suggested lobbying for a meeting with SCC and NH inviting all Parish, District and County Councillors to join the meeting agreeing it is a good idea to create as much noise behind the scenes as possible. TPC would also like to invite BMPC to a meeting to consider a strategy for when the formal public consultation drops in our emails; as councils and residents will have just 21 days to respond. They will engage with the press and public via social media, drop in events, media coverage and to co-ordinate this in a timely professional manner is key.

It was agreed that BMPC would work with TPC and attend meetings arranged, the clerk to confirm this.

- The clerk confirmed that £2,300 was received on 28<sup>th</sup> September in regard to the water damage in BMFC caused by Anglian Water. This money would cover most of the costs in relation to the water damage which totalled £2,740.
- A resident emailed the clerk in response to the Barton Miller article asking for suggestions: They suggested that work is required to the weeds around the village in particular on Newmarket Road at The Bull end, and at the newly shingled island. It was agreed to report the weeds on the footpaths/roads to SCC and respond to the resident confirming this. As well as confirming this, to also confirm that the Parish Council have recently written to land owners asking that they cut back any tree/shrubs etc which encroach the public footpaths, and that the island is the responsibility of the parish council who would instruct a gardener to weed this when necessary.

### 23/10/08 Parish Matters

#### 1. Street Lighting

It was reported that a street light outside The Bell was not working. The clerk to determine light location and responsibility.

#### 2. Play Park

An estimate was received from Online Playgrounds totalling £6,443 broken down as follows:

Birds Nest Full Area - Safagrass uplift and removal and 50mm Forest Green Fibrefall resin bound recycled rubber mulch - £1,712.00.

IXO Overhead Ladder Wear Area - Safagrass uplift and removal 90mm, Forest Green Fibrefall resin bound recycled rubber mulch £1,995.00.

Flat Swings - Safagrass uplift and removal, 50mm Forest Green Fibrefall resin bound recycled rubber mulch £963.00.

Hip Hop Wear Area Circle - Safagrass uplift and removal, 50mm Forest Green Fibrefall resin bound recycled rubber mulch £749.00.

Rotator Wear Area Circle - Safagrass uplift and removal, 50mm Forest Green Fibrefall resin bound recycled rubber mulch £749.00.

Site set up & Preliminaries combine with 62051 if both ordered.

To travel to site with up to 3 staff members per vehicle including mileage £95.00

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To prepare maintenance works risk assessments and method statements covering playground repairs works £30.00

To hire, erect and remove fencing per panel including blocks, feet and clips £150.00

Return to site and collect security fencing once concrete foundations have cured / project is complete £275.00

Cllr N Horne to ask OLP whether they have installed the mulch locally so that this can be viewed and for a quote to replace bench slates.

A quote has been requested from Hags.

Quotes to be reviewed and agreed at the next meeting.

Cllr L Jarvis reported that the most recent play park inspection report was incorrect as it did not show the slide repairs.

She also reported that there is rotting wood on some of the equipment, Cllr N Horne confirmed OLP can provide replacement parts which are made from recycled plastic which would last much longer but in the mean time he has some paint if any work is to be carried out.

## 3.SID

Delivery of the new SID is due next week.

The SID rota has been agreed to the end of November.

## 4.Proposal of a new Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for a 30mph speed limit on part of the B1102 Worlington Road, Barton Mills

Suffolk County Council is proposing a new Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for a 30mph speed limit on part of the B1102 Worlington Road, Barton Mills. The TRO is required to give effect to the existing speed limit signs and road markings already present on site, which signify the start of the 30mph speed limit just before the built-up area upon entering Barton Mills.

The proposed TRO, which revokes an earlier TRO, is required for reasons of clarity and efficient administration of the restrictions. The measures will enable enforcement and encourage compliance with the signed 30 mph speed limit. The proposal to make the TRO is therefore made because it appears to the County Council that it is expedient to do so in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 “for avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising.”

If BMPC wish to comment on the above, response must reach SCC by 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

It was agreed to not comment on the new proposed TRO.

## 5.Highways issues

Cllr R Lewis reported that coloured markings have been made around previous road repairs on Station Road. It appears these road repairs were not carried out correctly as they have sunk and he wants to know who is going to pay for to get these repairs carried out correctly as he believes it should be the contractor if they have been negligent in their work.

The clerk to confirm with County Cllr L Stanbury.

## 6.Land for sale, Mildenhall Road

Report on funding options by Cllr R Oke was read by Cllr N Horne:

It seems there are three approaches - 1. Take out a loan; 2. Apply for grant funding; 3. Raise contributions from residents (or combination of these three options).

1. Loan: To go down the loan route we would first need to apply for borrowing approval from the Dept of Levelling Up - Housing and Communities and once approved we'd then need to apply for a loan from the PWLB (Public Works Loan Board).

We'd need to prepare and present a Business Case/Report to Council showing need, updated budget and detailed costings (basically to show that the PC can afford to pay back the loan), and benefits of the proposed land purchase. In the course of preparing the business case, we need to consider whether to raise some of the funds through precept increase (i.e., raise Council Tax), which would require full public engagement (there is a suggested process to follow to ensure all households are engaged). In any case, we'll need to demonstrate public engagement in the decision to proceed with the land purchase.

We need to consider whether the PC can service a loan: I did some modelling based using the PWLB loan calculator. At current interest rates, repayment of a loan of £80k over 30 years would be around \$6-7k per annum, depending on the repayment method applied. Obviously, this is just an example, but there would be an ongoing and significant financial commitment given the size of the PC's overall budget.

There will also be one-off legal costs associated with the conveyance of the land ownership.

If the PC decides to proceed further with this purchase proposal, as a first step I think an approach to the vendor to try to negotiate a reduction in price should be made.

2. Grant Funding: There is a link to a Grant Finder site below. I am not particularly familiar with grand funding applications, but I did notice one fund that might be worth looking into further: Royal Countryside Fund which

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supports community-led projects to improve the lives of those living in rural communities. There may be others more suitable to approach, needs further investigation.

3. Approach residents: Could be done in combination with a loan application, to reduce the overall loan liability. I believe this approach has been taken previously to secure a piece of land in the parish\*. It might be worthwhile to 'test the water' for residents' appetite to personally fund further land purchase.

The use of the land and funding options were discussed, comments included:

As the cost of living is increasing, this is not the right time to ask residents for donations

High, ongoing maintenance costs

Funds should be prioritised to other areas in the village for example the park and other assets

The land is often flooded

The river is due to be lowered which would decrease flooding on the field

Option to use as a dog park

No footpath to access the site

The land is closer to residents on Worlington Road

It may attract anti-social behaviour due to its location

If the Parish Council purchase the land, it prevents anyone buying it and using it for a purpose that the village would not want

Option to lease the land or part of the land if it is purchased

Annual costs would be high with very little benefits in return

It was confirmed the land owner has currently taken the land off the market as they would like to sell the Parish Council but they would need confirmation soon as to whether the council want the land or not.

It was agreed to ask for residents' opinions on this via social media and the Barton Miller.

## 7.Asset list

It was agreed that the asset list held for finance purposes need to be updated and made easier to read for the purpose of maintaining and recording the assets held. The clerk to produce this and request help from councillors as required.

## **23/10/09 Finance & Policies**

### 1.Parish Council Bank Balances

At date £35,830 is held in the deposit account and £3,688 in the current account.

### 2.Approve and authorise payment of invoices

It was resolved to pay the following invoices, proposed by Cllr T Newman and seconded by Cllr K Fuller, all-in agreement.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Gross</u>
30-Sep	J Coe	Salary	281.68	0.00	281.68
31-Jul	J Coe	Clerk expenses	29.70	0.00	29.70
01-Oct	West Suffolk Council	Emptying dog bins	27.73	0.00	27.73
08-Sep	Community Heartbeat	Defib rental	60.00	12.00	72.00
19-Sep	Community Heartbeat	Defib support	126.00	25.20	151.20
28-Sep	RH Landscapes	Grass cutting	400.00	80.00	480.00
29-Sep	S Limmer	Gardening	30.00	0.00	30.00
30-Sep	SALC	Payroll	45.00	9.00	54.00
30-Sep	Robert Lewis	Barton Miller	26.16	0.00	26.16
30-Sep	SCC	Land rent	65.00	0.00	65.00
30-Sep	Church Rooms	Room hire - NH Plan	10.00	0.00	10.00
			<b>1,101.27</b>	<b>126.20</b>	<b>1,227.47</b>

## **23/10/10 Parish Councillors reports (for information only)**

### Horse riding

Cllr T Newman reported that some people had been riding horses on the playing field. Cllr K Fuller confirmed he had confronted the riders but they chose to ignore his request to not ride on the playing field.

### NH Plan

Cllr N Horne reported that a meeting has been scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> October with Ian Poole from Places 4 People, a NH Plan consultant.

### Fallen tree

It reported that a fallen tree in the river has begun to establish itself and this needs to be dealt with before it becomes a problem. The clerk to report.

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## Accessible footpath sign

The sign for the accessible footpath by Five Guys needs moving, Cllr K Fuller agreed to look at this.

## Remembrance Sunday

Cllr N Horne confirmed he has a wreath

Refreshments and volunteers to be agreed via email

## **23/10/11 Barton Miller**

Land purchase opinions from residents

Remembrance Sunday

## **23/10/12 Items for future agendas**

Updated asset register

Play Park quotes

Update on land purchase

Tree on Grange Lane

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023

The meeting closed at 9:13pm

**J.Coe**

**J. Coe Clerk**