

Barton Mills Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Jadi Coe clerk@bartonmills.net 07724 737841

Chairman: Mr N Horne

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF BARTON MILLS PARISH

Held in Barton Mills Village Hall
On Tuesday 3rd May 2022 at 7:00pm.

Present: Chairman - Cllr N Horne, Cllr A Harji, Cllr K Fuller, Cllr C Miller, Cllr M Colsey, Cllr A Potts, Cllr T Newman, Cllr R Lewis, Cllr S Mullender, the clerk Jadi Coe, and seven members of the public.

The Chairman Cllr N Horne welcomed everyone to the meeting

APM/22/1 Election of Chair for Annual Parish Meeting if the Chairman of the Parish Council is not present.

Not applicable as the Chairman Cllr Neil Horne was present

APM/22/2 To Approve the Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting on 4th May 2021

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 4th May 2021 were proposed and agreed as a true record of the meeting held.

APM/22/3 Chairman's Annual Report

Cllr N Horne gave the following report:

This is our first in person Annual Parish meeting in two years. We resumed regular parish council meetings last June. We have been delighted since then to regularly have members of the parish in attendance.

As village life has returned to normal the council have continued with regular duties. As well addressing problems and concerns as they arise, we maintain services and facilities for the benefit of everyone.

Last year we committed a substantial portion of our budget to a street light repair and refurbishment program. Initially scheduled to take 2 years it has been an extensive and exhaustive task. Thanks to the hard work of councillors Harji and Colsey, and previously councillor Fuller, in driving this project we are well ahead of schedule and the task is nearing completion.

We now have a greater presence on social media allowing us to provide up to date news and information to the parish. Thanks to councillors Miller and Newman who take care of all updates on Facebook and Nextdoor.

While we try and address every issue as quickly as possible some tasks take much longer. Although taking longer than we hoped we are now able to proceed with the creation of our Neighbourhood Plan. Our application has been approved so we can now begin the process of developing an official plan for the future of our village. A neighbourhood plan is a document that gives us "direct power to develop a shared vision for our neighbourhood". This is not a council led project. It will rely on community involvement and consultation. More details will follow in the next few months. Again, I would like to thank councillor Potts who did the initial research to get this plan started.

The Environment Agency are proposing changes to the River Lark. We held a public presentation in October 2021 where the agency outlined plans to improve the flow of the river. We expect to hold further presentations to keep everyone informed of developments. This project will benefit the village.

Our efforts to provide a second "Exception site" for affordable housing continues. We had an overwhelmingly positive response to a consultation hosted by Havebury Homes in July 2021. Information was provided and questions answered to the approximate 64 people who attended. The planning application was submitted in October 2021. At the moment the application is still being considered. We await the results.

As a community we look forward to a weekend of celebrations for the Queens Platinum Jubilee. An organising committee was established and have worked tirelessly to provide a full program of entertainment and celebration with events taking place between the village green and the church. Lookout for the Royal Scarecrows around the village. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work of our clerk Jadi Coe. She does some incredible work behind the scenes to keep the council operating effectively.

Being a councillor can sometimes be challenging, sometimes difficult. As chair I can say I must strive to do better. But I can wholeheartedly say this parish council acts in the best interests of the people we represent. We would welcome suggestions and more importantly involvement from members of the public. You are all welcome to attend a meeting on the first Tuesday of every month.

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APM/22/4 District and County Councillors Reports

Cllr B Harvey reported on:

-The West Suffolk Local Plan has now been approved by West Suffolk Cabinet. The consultation period will begin on Thursday 26th May and end on Tuesday 26th July. It is very important that residents have their say during this period.

Cllr N Horne commented on the Plan: WSC has only allocated 12 homes and these are on the SCC site on Church Lane.

Cllr B Harvey confirmed other potential land may come forward following the next consultation, and the Parish Council can comment that they would like to see more homes built in the village. The consultation once open, will be advertised to residents in the usual ways.

-The Governments Council Tax rebate scheme is being administrated by Anglian Revenue Partnership. More information can be found at <https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/counciltax/council-tax-rebate-grant.cfm>

-WSC along with SCC have submitted their relevant representation report in regards to the Sunnica proposal. WSC are preparing the Local Impact Assessment report.

-Highways are looking at the A11 junctions and cross overs as there is a significant increase in the volume of lorries using these.

-The Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Cllr L Stanbury reported on:

-SCCs new strategy to help reduce violence against women and girls

-The freeze on costs for post16 travel costs

-98% of children were this year offered a place at their first-choice primary school

Suffolk Fire Service delivering firefighting equipment to Ukraine

APM/22/5 Financial Overview for Year Ending 31st March 2022

The clerk reported the following:

The Annual Accounts for 31st March 2022 have been completed by myself and have now been checked and approved by the internal auditor, Anthony Preece. Once the accounts and Annual Governance Statement are approved this evening, this will go to the External Auditors to be reviewed and signed off.

The accounts show an income received in the year of £29,564 with £25,736 coming from the precept, other income includes VAT reclaimed on expenses, grants and donations including those received from Cllr Lance Stanbury and Cllr Brian Harvey.

Total expenses in the year amounted to £36,416. The largest expenses include, the annual insurance, salary for myself, grass cutting, new bins, street light energy and maintenance costs. This year the Parish Council have spent £12,235 on new light units, these lights were replaced either due to not be repairable or not complying to current regulations.

Further costs for new lights are also expected in the current year 2022/23.

The income less the expenses resulted in a deficit of £6,851 in the year, however this has not affected the funds held by the council, as £6,500 was carried forward in street light reserves from the financial year 2020/21.

At the end of March 2022, the Parish Council holds £21,666 in the bank of which £4,940 is reserved for specific budget items to be accounted for in the year 2022/23.

APM/22/6 Any other issues that parishioners' wish to raise

A resident complimented the Parish Council on their presence on social media and that the Peace Garden always looks well cared for. The resident also reported that a street light in Church Meadow was dimly lit and that a post on the playing fields is loose.

A resident queried a recent news report, stating that a developer has agreed a land promotion agreement on 279 acres of land next to the A11 in Barton Mills which could see it used as a business park.

The Parish Council confirmed this is not in the local plan and it would conflict with the preferred A11 bypass route.

Cllr B Harvey confirmed that it is just speculation at this time.

The Parish Council to consider asking Jaynic to attend a future meeting to confirm plans.

N Horne

Mr. N. Horne (Chairman)