

Barton Mills Parish Council

Clerk to the Council:

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Clerk: James Bercovici
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Chairman: Mr R Lewis
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Minutes of the Meeting of Barton Mills Parish Council

Held in the Village Hall on Friday 20th January 2012 at 7.00 pm.

Attendance: Cllr Robert Lewis (Chairman)
Cllr Pamela Boura
Cllr Garry Flack
Cllr Frances Lewis
Cllr Steve Mullender
Cllr Charlie Peachey
James Bercovici (Clerk)

0. Opportunity for members of the Public to speak (3 minute limit, not statutory part of meeting).

1. Courtesies. Apologies and Signing of the Register. Declarations of Interest.

Apologies: Cllrs Amin Harji and Tim Harris, County Cllr Frost
Declarations: Cllr F Lewis (4d)

2. Police Matters

None advised

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2011

Cllr Peachey proposed agreeing the minutes after some revisions were agreed: all in favour.

4. Matters arising and pending

a. Affordable housing. Following the open day in November and subsequent Parish Council meeting, several issues were raised with Hastoe

1. Weather boarding
2. Position of the access road
3. Moving the properties back slightly so they are further away from the road
4. More trees to screen the development from neighbours opposite
5. More visitor parking to the rear of the development.

Cllr R Lewis summarized the current position: the Parish Council had identified its preferred site and drawings had been prepared and everything put to public consultation. He asserted that no final decision had been made. He said the open meeting had been well attended and that the concerns raised by Church Lane residents were being listened to. He said there had been some confusion between this and the Flagship scheme at the Church Lane Close garages. Church Lane residents had requested dialogue with Hastoe concerning the Church Lane scheme, especially in respect of its siting. Cllr R Lewis had attended a meeting between the residents and Hastoe who are now looking at design changes, most of which are acceptable although some are more problematic. The question of the site is the main concern; the residents had identified two other sites for consideration, both privately owned (end of Church Lane and the field behind Mildenhall Road and Church Meadow). There was, as yet, no feedback from Hastoe. At this point Cllr R Lewis declared an interest in the potential field site but said that, at this stage, the Parish Council was looking only at background ideas. Cllrs F Lewis and Peachey also declared an interest in the field site. Cllr Boura asked where access to the field would be if that site was chosen. Cllr R Lewis said two options had been suggested: through 24 Mildenhall Road or alongside 30 Mildenhall Road. He said that if delay to the scheme is necessary to investigate all options this would not affect funding for the scheme.

b. Village Green re-levelling. The Clerk is pursuing quotes.

c. Parking cones. The 100 Club has agreed a donation of £150 for this.

- d. Diamond Jubilee 2012. The Clerk has booked the village hall for Tuesday 7th February for a preliminary meeting at 7.30pm. Cllr R Lewis said the Parish Council would need to drive this but all ideas welcome. Cllr F Lewis asked if Cllr R Lewis would chair the meeting; also whether there would be a car boot sale on the Monday. Cllr Boura thought things should be planned on that basis. Cllr R Lewis asked for ideas for the celebrations such as fireworks and musical events. Other ideas included a children's tea party, a charity football match. Cllr F Lewis asked who would be paying for any such celebrations. Cllr R Lewis said the budget prepared by the finance committee included funds but that fundraising could take place on the day. Cllr F Lewis agreed to put a notice in the village hall window.

Church clock – the church has stated concerns about health and safety and proposes to electrify the clock next year. It is promoting this as a possible way to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and is seeking donations from the community including the Parish Council. The Clerk has asked for confirmation of who owns the clock. Dave Traher has advised that it belongs to the fabric of the church and is therefore owned by the Church Commissioners in perpetuity.

Cllr Boura thought the Jubilee could include an element of fundraising for the clock. Cllr Peachey reminded councillors that the clock was merely housed in the church, having been paid for by public subscription. Cllr F Lewis said the budget was around £4800 and that a locality budget grant had been applied for. She suggested the Parish Council may like to consider a grant of £500. Cllr R Lewis said the budget committee could include this so that if the Parish Council agrees this donation, the money is available. Cllr Harris asked if the bell could be set not to chime at night.

Cllr R Lewis said he had received a letter from Dave Traher informing him that the winding mechanism electrification had been completed for a total cost of £4858. The PCC and Preservation Trust had agreed to raise funds to cover the cost to mark the Diamond Jubilee. A grant of £750 had been received from the county councillor's locality budget and the Preservation Trust had donated £1000. He requested a donation from the Parish Council. Cllr R Lewis asked if the Parish Council would like to make a donation of £500. Cllr Mullender asked for clarification about the maintenance contract. The Clerk advised the current cost is £142 per year. Cllr Boura proposed a donation of £500: all in favour. Cllr F Lewis produced a sheet to be handed out, requesting donations from individuals.

- e. Street lighting update. Light 72 has been attended and is currently working. The Clerk has drafted a wayleave for a light to be situated outside the Brothertons' house. Cllr Boura said Pearce & Kemp had emailed to advise the outstanding work would be done in January.
- f. Parish Forum – 29th February. Cllr Boura is unable to attend.

5. Reports from the District and County Councillors

. Not present.

6. Finance - Standard Payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- a. £304.00 J Bercovici (clerk's net salary, December 2011) – chq. 1149
b. £76.00 HMRC (PAYE, December 2011 – cheque total = £206) – chq. 1150
c. £20.61 J Bercovici (clerk's expenses December 2011) – chq. 1149

Special payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- d. £500 St Mary's Church Preservation Trust (donation, as agreed at 4d, above) – chq. 1164
Cllr F Lewis proposed agreeing the payments: all in favour (except Cllr Boura who had incurred some expenses on behalf of the Clerk and consequently abstained).

Finance – other

e. 2012/2013 Precept. The Clerk outlined the proposed budget for the forthcoming year. Cllr R Lewis said that as there are now more houses in the parish, it would be a good opportunity to increase the council's income now without increasing the precept per household as there are some capital expenses coming up. Cllr Boura added that reserves are getting low. She proposed adopting the budget and requesting a precept of £18,735: all in favour.

7. Planning.

Note - *ITALICS: Parish Council comments passed to Forest Heath DC.* **Bold: Forest Heath DC decision**

General and for consideration:

- a. F/2011/0731/FUL Barton Mills Depot Millford Service Area A11 – erection of two storey modular building for office use. *Cllr Boura proposed no objections: all in favour.*

- b. F/2011/0762/FUL Plot 4A and 4B Bell Lane – erection of two linked cottages, garaging, parking, access road and associated site works (Departure from the Development Plan) *Cllr Boura proposed objecting on grounds of over-development of the site: one in favour, five against. Cllr Mullender proposed no objections: five in favour, one against.*

Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals.

- c. F/2011/0608/OUT 22 and part of 24 Mildenhall Road – outline application: erection of 2 dwellings (demolition of existing bungalow). *Cllr F Lewis proposed objecting to the application on the grounds that it is over-development of the site and not in keeping with other properties on the existing street scene. All in favour except Cllr Peachey.*
- d. F/11 Barton Mills Chalk Quarry – consultation on planning application to vary conditions. *Cllr F Lewis proposed no objections: all in favour.*

Forest Heath/Planning Inspectorate Decisions and Applications Withdrawn

- e. F/2011/0727/HOU Seckers Cottage, 16 The Street – erection of a two-storey rear extension (removal of existing log store). *Cllr Mullender proposed no objections: all in favour. APPROVED with conditions.*

Planning – other

8. Correspondence

Held by the Clerk – Standard items

- a. Forest Heath DC agendas/minutes (available at forest-heath.gov.uk).

9. Any other business (with consent of the Chairman)

- a. Scarecrow Festival. Cllr F Lewis advised the council that the Preservation Trust proposed to hold a Scarecrow Festival during the weekend of 7th/8th July.
- b. Play equipment. Cllr Boura said the council needs a proper procedure for minor repairs. Cllr R Lewis reminded councillors that Cllr Boura is responsible for inspections. If she identifies something needing urgent repair she needs to know whether she can instruct local volunteers or ask the Clerk to instruct professionals, as appropriate. Cllr Boura said the safety surface needs some attention at one edge. Cllr R Lewis proposed that Cllr Boura undertakes a risk assessment and effects the repairs as deemed necessary: all in favour.
- c. Cooption. Cllr R Lewis advised that a resident of Bridge Farm had expressed interest but is unwell this month so would attend the next meeting.

10. Date of next meeting: 10th February 2012