

Barton Mills Parish Council

Clerk to the Council:

James Bercovici
Barton Coach House
The Street
Barton Mills
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP28 6AA

Clerk: James Bercovici
Home (01638) 510803

Chairman: Mr R Lewis
Home (01638) 713363

Minutes of the Meeting of Barton Mills Parish Council

Held in the Village Hall on Friday 10th February 2012 at 7.00 pm.

Attendance: Cllr Robert Lewis (Chairman)
Cllr Amin Harji (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Pamela Boura
Cllr Garry Flack
Cllr Frances Lewis
Cllr Steve Mullender
Cllr Charlie Peachey
County Cllr Stephen Frost
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: Cllr Tim Harris, PCSO Dawn Rowan
Declarations: Cll F Lewis (6fiii)

2. Police Matters

PCSO Rowan had sent in a report detailing three crimes at Fiveways but none in the village itself.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2011

Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the minutes: 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.

Hastoe has provided an interim report to the effect that Forest Heath considers the two alternative sites unsuitable. The Clerk is waiting to learn the reasons for this. Cllr R Lewis thought it necessary to know

the reasons before discussing the matter further. He suggested considering this at the next meeting along with the suggested changes to the scheme under consideration and whether to agree and pursue the scheme.

- b. Street lighting. The four new columns have all been erected. Pearce and Kemp have been informed that they have put the wrong heads on 2 columns as the heritage lantern should be in Bell Lane and the parish light in Mildenhall Road. This will be corrected. These lights have still to be connected by UK Power Networks. Cllr Flack enquired about the old light on Grange Lane. Cllr R Lewis asked which lights were next to be upgraded. Cllr Boura said the light outside the Brothertons' house and one other; also the light on Worlington Road needs to be removed as it is now redundant.
- c. Village Green re-levelling. The Clerk is pursuing quotes. These have been impossible to obtain during the cold weather. Cllr Flack expressed concern about tyre marks on the village green; the Clerk was asked to report this to PCSO Rowan.
- d. Diamond Jubilee 2012.

A meeting was held on Tuesday 7th February to discuss ideas for the celebrations. Members of the community were invited, in particular people representing village organisations. Cllr R Lewis reported that the meeting was well attended and that there had been subsequent communications from others who had been unable to attend. There was a consensus that celebrations were desirable and around 30 suggestions were made which the Clerk was asked to circulate in advance of the follow-up meeting to be held on 21st February in the church room. At this meeting, a draft plan of events and timings would be drawn up. The Clerk was asked to advise the various organisations of the follow-up meeting and Cllr F Lewis said she would put up new notices.

- e. Play equipment. Previously, the Clerk had investigated the insurance position as to whether minor repairs can be carried out by volunteers and ascertained that the insurers required anyone working on Parish Council-owned property to have their own public liability cover in some circumstances. However, Cllr Boura had suggested the council needs a proper procedure for minor repairs. Cllr R Lewis proposed that Cllr Boura undertakes a risk assessment and effects the repairs as deemed necessary: all in favour. Currently, the frozen ground is preventing the repairs from being effected.

The Clerk was asked to write to the insurers stating that the usual repairman is John Squire who has a maintenance background and that the Parish Council has the manuals for the equipment.

5. Reports from the District and County Councillors

- a. County Cllr Frost reported that the council had passed its budget agreeing a council tax freeze for the forthcoming year. This would be funded by back office cuts such as vacating buildings where leases are ending. This would mean more people working at Endeavour House, for example. He also advised there is money left in his locality budget. Some suggestions were made; councillors agreed to discuss this at the March meeting.

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

- a. £264.00 J Bercovici (clerk's net salary, January 2012) – chq. 1165
- b. £66.00 HMRC (PAYE, January 2012) – chq.
- c. £21.06 J Bercovici (clerk's expenses January 2012) – chq. 1165

Special payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- d. £3774.06 Pearce & Kemp (replacement columns 90% complete) – chq. 1166
- e. £76.50 Barton Mills Village Hall (hall hire October to December 2011) – chq. 1167

Cllr Mullender proposed agreeing all the standard and special payments: all in favour.

Finance – other

- f. Donations (2011 donations in brackets)
 - i. Rainbow Playgroup (2011: goods to the value of £100 plus VAT)
 - ii. Citizens Advice Bureau (2011: £120)
 - iii. Barton Miller (2011: goods to the value of £180 plus VAT)
 - iv. Suffolk Accident and Rescue (2011: £100)
 - v. East Anglian Air Ambulance (2011: £150)

Cllr F Lewis said the cost of paper for the Barton Miller had increased but Cllr Boura said this was matched by income from advertising revenue. Cllr Mullender said the magazine is not supposed to be profit making so did not need any more from the Parish Council. Cllr R Lewis said if the Barton Miller team felt it needs more support, it should write to the Parish Council. Cllr Peachey agreed that he would

want to see the accounts before agreeing any more funding. Cllr R Lewis proposed increasing the donations to the other four groups/organisations by £10: all in favour (Cllr F Lewis abstained).

Receipts

g. £150 from the 100 Club for parking cones. The Clerk and Cllr F Lewis agreed to liaise on this.

7. Planning.

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

General and for consideration:

Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals.

a. 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.*

Decisions

b. 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.* **APPROVED**

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. Emergency Planning – Cllr Boura attended a meeting which aimed to encourage communities to prepare a short plan. FHDC has some funding to help. Cllr R Lewis asked if there is a model plan that could be used as a template. Cllr Boura thought a small working group would need to put together a draft. Cllr Mullender reminded councillors that this had been considered and rejected before but thought it could be looked at again. Cllr R Lewis agreed a simple plan may be a good idea. Cllr Boura agreed to produce information for the April meeting.

b. Grit bin – Cllr F Lewis reported that this is being used and asked the Clerk to remind residents of its availability in the Barton Miller.

10. Date of next meeting: 9th March 2012