

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 8th June 2012 at 7.00 pm.

Attendance: Cllr Robert Lewis (Chairman)
Cllr Amin Harji (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Kay Blanchard
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: PCSO Joanne Hook

Declarations: Cllrs R Lewis, Boura and F. Lewis (Jubilee expenses)

2. Police Matters

PCSO Hook had sent in a report outlining three thefts from motor vehicles and one theft of a motor vehicle from the village and one making off without payment from Fiveways.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2012

Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the minutes: all in favour.

4. Matters arising and pending

a. Affordable housing. The Clerk had been asked to request brick samples for neighbouring residents and councillors to consider. These were received for consideration at the meeting. Cllr R. Lewis thought the samples did not represent what was wanted by the local residents; he said he would get actual sample boards as he didn't think these were enough to go on. He asked the Clerk to outline the timescale (planning permission to be applied for in July with a decision in September/October and building work to start in November). He then outlined the situation with the Flagship development which has been put on hold, and said the Clerk is pursuing this. It was suggested that if Flagship is not pursuing the development, the land should be returned to use or converted to a play area. Cllr Harji suggested the non-development of the site is an affordability issue.

b. Village Green re-levelling. John Brown (of John Brown Landscapes) has advised that the job is too big for him but he estimates the cost of the work to be done at around £2,200. This compared with the existing quote of £680 but the Clerk suggested this should be confirmed, in particular he was concerned to ensure it was quoting for the same work. Cllr F Lewis advised the Burrel Trust may be able to help with this work. Cllr R Lewis suggested asking Tilbrooks for a quote. Cllr Harris asked about the timing of the work given the plans for the Jubilee weekend. Cllr Mullender proposed the Clerk accepts the best quote up to £1000 for work to start as soon as possible: all in favour.

Tom Duchesne has looked again at this with Cllr Peachey; the Clerk said he would follow this up. He had written as emails had bounced back. Cllr R Lewis thought it would be best to leave re-levelling until September.

c. Diamond Jubilee 2012. Cllr R Lewis said the main discussion about this would take place after the Parish Council meeting at 8pm when organisers would be coming to the hall so would not be minuted. There was some discussion about the Village Hall charges; Cllr R Lewis suggested writing to the committee to explain the position with regard to the weekend's finances.

- d. Street lighting - Work on the four replacement lights remains unfinished. Carillion has reported that one of the concrete lamp posts in Manor View is cracked and needs replacement with medium priority (3-6 months). Carillion declined to quote for this because they can't compete with Pearce and Kemp. Cllr Boura has asked Pearce & Kemp to quote for this.
- e. Emergency Planning. Cllr R Lewis said the Parish Council looks at this every couple of years. Cllr Boura outlined what would be involved: a local risk assessment, list of skills, places of safety, emergency contact list, local organisations, means of activation of the plan, actions agreed, arrangements for contacts. She said she would not be willing to prepare a plan on her own but would be part of a working group. She thought the plan would require annual review. Cllr R Lewis agreed with Cllr Boura that this is a good idea but Cllr Mullender observed it had previously been deemed unnecessary and asked what had changed. Cllr Peachey agreed; he thought such a plan would be overkill. Cllr Mullender pointed out that any major problems would be dealt with by the emergency services. After some discussion, Cllr R Lewis said he would liaise with Cllr Boura and make a recommendation at the next meeting.
- f. Tree by car park. Cllr Boura said the tree had come to life but was in need of attention at the base.
- g. Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee. Cllr Flack volunteered to take on the position. Cllr Boura proposed his nomination: all in favour.

5. Reports from the County and District Councillors

Not present

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

- a. £272.00 J Bercovici (clerk's net salary, May 2012) – chq. 1189
 - b. £68.00 HMRC (PAYE, May 2012) – chq.
 - c. £17.72 J Bercovici (clerk's expenses May 2012) – chq. 1189
- Cllr F Lewis proposed agreeing the standard payments: all in favour.

Special payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- d. £395.00 Mildenhall Scouts (marquee hire) – chq. 1190
 - e. £7.50 P. Boura (Jubilee expenses) – cash
 - f. £31.34 S. Anderson (Jubilee expenses) – chq. 1191
 - g. £319.10 Royal Mint (Jubilee medals) – chq. 1189 (payable to the Clerk)
- Cllr F Lewis proposed agreeing the special payments: all in favour except Cllr Boura who abstained.

Payments made since last meeting (re Diamond Jubilee)

- h. £138.00 Riverside Print Services (Jubilee leaflets) – chq, 1188
- Cllr F Lewis proposed agreeing this payment: all in favour.

Receipts

- i. £16.00 (Jubilee medals)
- j. £7,459.18 (FHDC: re allotments)
- k. £1,691.80 (FHDC: precept, 2nd instalment)
- l. £tba (Jubilee income)

7. Planning.

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

General and for consideration:

None

Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals.

- a. F/2012/0245/HOU 60 The Street – erection of detached double garage with Media Room/Gym over. Cllr Boura could see no grounds to object although she said she would prefer different windows. Cllr Mullender said he understood the planners had insisted on the windows on the current plans. *Cllr Boura proposed no objection in principle but added the comment that the windows should be changed to match the rest of the house. All in favour.*

Decisions

None

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

- a. Cllr Boura enquired about the timings of car boot sales on Nigel Warin's field. Cllr R Lewis said he would have an informal chat with Mr Warin about this.
- b. Cllr Boura said there is a list of things supposed to be on a Parish Council website in the current issue of Local Councillor. Cllr R Lewis suggested a review of the website should be an agenda item for the next meeting.
- c. Cllr Boura suggested that, as no reply has been received from the Highways Agency regarding the letter sent concerning surface noise on the A11, the Clerk should write to the MP.
- d. Cllr Boura raised the subject of changes to the Standards Board and standing orders and suggested this should be included as an agenda item for the next meeting.
- e. Cllr Peachey advised that Mike Clark has offered to get rid of the moles on the village green free of charge. Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to write thanking him for the offer and accepting it.
- f. Cllr R Lewis said he was unable to attend the Parish Forum but would be interested in an update on the LDF. Cllr Boura said she hopes to attend.
- g. Cllr R Lewis had received a call asking why Barton Mills should qualify for Village of the Year. He outlined the information given on the entry form and elaborated on the Jubilee celebrations.

9. Date of next meeting: 13th July 2012.
