

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 14th September 2012 at 7.00 pm.

Attendance: Cllr Robert Lewis (Chairman)
Cllr Amin Harji (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Pamela Boura
Cllr Garry Flack
Cllr Tim Harris
Cllr Frances Lewis
District Cllr Tim Huggan
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 Kay Blanchard, Cllr Steve Mullender, Cllr Charlie Peachey
Declarations: Cllr F Lewis (4f, 4h, 6e)

2. Police Matters

None reported.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 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 hoped to have these in time for the September meeting. 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). The planning application has now been received for consideration (see agenda item 7).

Cllr R Lewis 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. The Clerk has been advised that Flagship is in the process of assessing the site and liaising with FHDC to determine a way forward – no timescale given.

District Cllr Huggan said he would help pursue this. He advised that Flagship is experiencing financial difficulties but that new government money may make a difference to this. He said they are poor communicators. Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to write to Flagship suggesting that even a six month lease on the garages would help with the parking on Church Lane Close. He also wanted to know when the situation would be reviewed. He wondered whether Hastoe could be approached at some later date to buy and develop this land.

b. Village Green re-levelling. Tom Duchesne has looked again at this with Cllr Peachey and agrees it would be best to leave re-levelling until September. The Clerk is waiting for him to confirm his quote. The Clerk has approached the County Councillor for a grant from his locality budget. Cllr F Lewis had said the Burrell Trust could be applied to if there is a shortfall. Cllr Peachey thought the green needs fertilising as well as re-levelling. County Cllr Frost had offered a locality grant of £1,000 but needs a formal quote for this.

- c. Diamond Jubilee 2012. Tree bench – the Clerk had some quotes for a teak circular bench. Cllr R Lewis said he would look into costings for a metal bench. County Cllr Frost has enquired when the council wants to hold the formal opening of the tree. It was decided that the installation of a bench and the opening would be best delayed until the spring. The Clerk had obtained a quote of £1400 for a metal bench; Cllr Boura preferred metal but Cllr Harji thought wood looks better. Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to obtain a sketch of the proposed metal bench.
- d. Street lighting - Work on the four replacement lights has been completed. Carillion had reported that one of the concrete lamp posts in Manor View is cracked and needs replacement with medium priority (3-6 months). Pearce & Kemp has been asked to quote for this: awaiting quote.
- e. Emergency Planning. Cllr Blanchard had drafted a page for the Barton Miller to be included in the next issue.
- f. Website – Cllr R Lewis had asked councillors to look at the website with a view to moving it forward. Cllr F Lewis said the churches were unhappy at being included with clubs and societies but Karl Benton had said there is no room for another section. She suggested some amendments to work round this obstacle. Cllr Harji suggested the category could be for places of worship. Cllr Blanchard said there is nothing about the W.I. on the website.

Cllr R Lewis said the website needs review but felt this is not the best use of the council's time, suggesting that a smaller group could meet periodically and report back. He said it is important to update the site regularly and to promote it well. Cllr Harji asked if it is used much; the Clerk said he would look into monitoring this.

Cllr F Lewis thought the church would be happy to be included under the heading "Organisations" rather than "Clubs & Societies", observing that two village trusts were also under that heading. She advised that the church was setting up its own website which could be linked to the village website.

Cllr R Lewis asked who would be in the working group: he volunteered, along with Cllr F Lewis and Cllr Harris as well as the Clerk.
- g. SALC report – Cllr F Lewis attended the meeting and provided a report (filed with the minutes). The Clerk was asked to look into the programme offered by Fit Villages.
- h. Car boot sales. Cllr F Lewis mooted the idea of sharing sales between the various organisations but Cllr R Lewis didn't think it workable. He said he had chaired the meeting last year with representatives of the five organisations present. It was agreed to hold a meeting on Tuesday 13th November in the Church Room at 7pm. The Clerk said he would write to the organisations who usually showed interest in this.
- i. Parking – Cllr F Lewis suggests a light should be installed over the gates into the field and a notice to indicate extra parking spaces. Cllr Boura said £2,000 had been budgeted this year. Cllr R Lewis asked what sort of light was wanted. After some discussion it was agreed to investigate solar lighting to illuminate a sign and the Clerk was asked to obtain a price for a sign installed reading "Overflow car parking through gate".
- j. Field by A11 – the field is for sale. Cllr R Lewis has spoken with the current owner, Nigel Warin, about this. He says the timings have not changed: booters arrive around 11am and the public at noon. He has faced similar problems due to bad weather as organisations holding sales in the village. He plans to plough up the field at the end of the year; the field is for sale with offers to be received by 21st September.
- k. Parish Council assets – the Clerk is holding the laptop computer, purchased for the parish plan, which does not work and would like permission to scrap it. Councillors agreed to this being removed from the assets list and also the filing cabinet (to be offered via the Barton Miller).
- l. FHDC meeting to discuss the role of parishes and the District Council on 13th September at the Jubilee Centre. Cllr Boura reported.
- m. A11 noise reduction. Cllr Boura suggested asking the Highways Agency to plant trees etc or screen the road as an interim measure.

5. Reports from the District Councillor

District Cllr Huggan reported on proposed changes to the planning requirements, expressing concern that if implemented, the democratic rights of neighbours would be removed. He said that in any case very few such applications were made so the proposal was more political than practical. He did, however, think there could be room for amendments to the Barton Mills development line, having discussed this with Cllr R Lewis. He also discussed shared services, noting more movement to St Edmundsbury and said that he was asking Parish Council chairmen to decide how to dispense his £2,500 locality budget between the three parishes in his ward.

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

- a. £544.00 J Bercovici (clerk's net salary, July/August 2012) – chq. 1197
 - b. £136.00 HMRC (PAYE, July/August 2012) – chq.
 - c. £31.36 J Bercovici (clerk's expenses July/August 2012) - chq. 1197
- Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the standard payments: all in favour.

Special payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- d. £636.40 Suffolk ACRE (Zurich insurance) – chq. 1198
 - e. £217.50 Barton Mills Village Hall (hall hire April-June including Jubilee weekend) – chq. 1202
 - f. £443.48 BA Electrical (wire socket for external temporary supply and supply 50 metre lead) – chq. 1199
(the Clerk applied to both the Burrell Trust and the 100 Club for a grant – these organisations decided between them that it would be better for the Burrell Trust to consider this given the restrictions on how it can spend money – only on the field and village hall - compared with the wider remit of the 100 Club). Cllr R Lewis further clarified this, informing councillors that there had been no time to go through the proper procedures.
 - g. £337.50 OPGS (grass and hedge cutting, June and July) – chq. 1201
- Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the special payments: all in favour.

Receipts

- h. £100 St Mary's Church (car boot sale donation)

7. Planning.

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

General and for consideration:

- a. F/2012/0544/FUL Land at Church Lane – erection of 6 No. affordable houses with new vehicular access and landscaping (Departure from the Development Plan). *Cllr Boura proposed no objection subject to a small amendment that the footpath be extended across all the houses to the driveway to enhance the visitor parking access to the front of all the houses: all in favour.*

Cllr F Lewis asked when publicity would go out for possible residents. Cllr Boura thought the criteria for conditions and procedures for who should be awarded the properties should be set out in the application; the Clerk said he would seek clarification on this. Cllr R Lewis thought the right balance had been struck between shared ownership (two properties) and rental properties (four).

- b. F/2012 /0464/FUL Land at Bay Farm – installation of a 7.5MW Solar Farm (Major Development) (Departure from the Development Plan). *Cllr Boura proposed no objections: all in favour.*

Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals.

- c. F/2012/ - Use of storage building for the relocation of chalk processing plant including revised layout and modification to the building to accommodate chimney: consultation on planning application which will be determined by Suffolk County Council. Cllr Boura thought there was no problem with this.
- d. 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.*

Forest Heath Decisions

- e. F/2012/0397/FUL Land to rear of Bull Cottage, Newmarket Road – Erection of dwelling (access via The Street) (Development affecting a Public Right of Way). *Cllr Boura proposed objecting to the application on the grounds that it is overdevelopment of the site, too close to the adjacent property and not in keeping with the area: all in favour. REFUSED*

Planning – other

- f. 17a The Street – front boundary wall. Cllr Boura detailed the progress of the wall opposite her home and suggested the Parish Council should make a complaint that a condition was not complied with (namely the wall colour) and that the procedure followed by FHDC was inadequate.
- g. FHDC Single Issue Revue. Cllr Boura said this would not affect Barton Mills directly although District Cllr Huggan thought every village would have to take its share of the 1200 new homes. Cllrs R Lewis and F Lewis declared an interest if the settlement boundary was to be discussed and left the meeting. Cllr Boura said she understood there would be a separate consultation about this and suggested a meeting to consider a response to the current matter.

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

- a. Football Club. Cllr R Lewis said Cllr Mullender had asked him to advise the council that the football club is not currently running a Saturday team, only a youth team on Sundays although there are plans to resurrect the Saturday team in the future.
- b. Allotments. Cllr Boura said Paul Kerridge had asked that weeds be cut back before they seed.
- c. Boundary wall. Cllr Boura said that Rose Ormbo had asked if the Parish Council would write to her neighbour at 15 The Street regarding the front boundary wall between the two properties. Cllr F Lewis asked if planning permission is required to change a boundary wall in a conservation area. She was advised that it may be necessary if the wall is in excess of 1.2 metres high.

9. Date of next meeting: 12th October 2012.