

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 12th October 2012 at 7.00 pm.

Attendance: Cllr Robert Lewis (Chairman)
Cllr Pamela Boura
Cllr Garry Flack
Cllr Tim Harris
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: Cllr, Amin Harji and Kay Blanchard

2. Police Matters

PC John Gowing reported on a number of thefts from motor vehicles and advised residents to remove valuables and to ensure their cars are kept locked. Only Barton Mills was affected and there are no clues or witnesses.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2012

Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the minutes: all in favour.

4. Matters arising and pending

- a. Affordable housing. The Clerk had collected brick sample boards from the architect which he brought to the meeting. Cllr R Lewis asked to find out more about the selection process – what will the criteria be? Cllr Mullender thought councillors should not be involved in consideration of individual applicants, only with the general criteria. Cllr R Lewis said the parish council should begin to promote the project more as soon as planning permission is granted.
- b. 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. The Clerk is investigating other quotes for this given the price.
- c. Emergency Planning. Cllr Blanchard had drafted a page for the Barton Miller to be included in the next issue. The Clerk has received no responses so far. Cllr Boura advised that there are two relevant meetings in the near future. Cllr Flack asked if the parish council is going to pursue this if there is no interest. Cllr Peachey proposed dropping the subject for review next year: all in favour except Cllrs Boura and R Lewis who asked the Clerk to advise Cllr Blanchard and let he know about the meetings.
- d. 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". He has made an enquiry with H Signs but not yet received a quote. Cllr Flack thought this project a waste of time. Cllr F Lewis outlined the original plan. Cllr Flack asked if there had been any progress with the football club light. Cllr Harris asked if tree pruning would reduce the loss of light from other streetlights. Cllr Peachey agreed and Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to obtain quotes.

- e. Fit Villages - the Clerk met with Henry Tapp and discussed what is available and how best to proceed. It was agreed to send in an advertisement for publication in the Barton Miller and to contact organisations.
- f. Boundary wall. Cllr Boura said that Rose Ormbow had asked if the Parish Council would write to her neighbour at 15 The Street regarding the boundary wall between the two properties. No reply received.
- g. Street lighting - quote to replace column in Manor View with a Standard Parish Style Lighting Column and Lantern, £1332.30 ex VAT (£570.00 plus VAT per column for the Pearce and Kemp works plus £762.30 ex VAT for the UK Power Networks same day disconnection and reconnection). Cllr Boura proposed accepting the quote: all in favour.
- h. Website - Cllr R Lewis said he had met with the Clerk and Cllr F Lewis and identified some current problems such as the updating of information and had agreed some minor changes to be immediately implemented. He said the site is not doing what it needs to as there is limited scope for development and said they had looked at some other sites and would get a price for a re-modelling. The Clerk said he would look again at the OneSuffolk option. Cllr R Lewis also said that the site needed more publicity.
- i. Field re-levelling - the Clerk said he would look into getting more quotes if he was unable to obtain one from the village groundsmen.

5. Reports from the District and County Councillors

Not present.

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

- a. £272.00 J Bercovici (clerk's net salary, September 2012) – chq.
- b. £68.00 HMRC (PAYE, September 2012) – chq. (£204: July - September)
- c. £32.54 J Bercovici (clerk's expenses September 2012) - chq.

Special payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- d. £73.25 Proludic (play equipment parts) - chq.
 - e. £378.00 BDO (external audit fee) - chq.
- Cllr Boura proposed agreeing all the payments: all in favour.

f. Cllr F Lewis advised the Burrell Trust had agreed to pay the BA Electrical Invoice

7. Planning.

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

General and for consideration:

- a. F/2012/0569/OUT 22 and part of 24 Mildenhall Road - resubmission of F/2011/0608/OUT - outline application: erection of 2 dwellings (demolition of existing bungalow)

Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals.

- b. 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).

- c. 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.*
- d. 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.

Forest Heath Decisions

- e. 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.* **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. Acknowledgement of complaint received from Simon Phelan.
- 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 arranged to meet with Cllrs Harji and Flack to agree a response.
- h. Tree applications - Cllr F Lewis proposed a policy change, that the Chairman, Clerk and Planning Officer should decide whether to consider tree applications: three in favour, two against, two abstentions. In light of this decision, application F/2012/0606/TPO (Fell 1 x Pine tree at Breckland Pines 47 The Street) was discussed. Cllrs R Lewis and Mullender declared an interest. Cllr Boura thought the tree valuable to the street scene but Cllr Harris disagreed saying the owners should decide. Cllr Peachey agreed the pine cones could be problematic but Cllr Flack thought if the tree is healthy and not damaging property it should be left. *Cllr Harris proposed no objection to the application: two in favour, one against.*

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

- a. Cllr Peachey expressed concern about the beech tree at the Dhoon, suggesting the Clerk ask the Tree Officer if it is dangerous.
- b. Cllr Boura had received an update concerning the A11 from the Highways Agency. She reported that preparations were going well and it was hoped that work would start on building the road in the new year. She advised there would be an exhibition in Elveden between 22nd and 24th November.
- c. Cllr Flack asked the Clerk to follow up the Grange Lane flooding problem.
- d. Cllr Flack asked what the parish council proposed to do about the WW1 commemorations in 2014. Cllr R Lewis pointed out this did not need to be considered until next year. Cllr F Lewis took the opportunity to discuss Remembrance Day, asking Cllr Peachey if he would organise the wreaths. Cllr Peachey agreed to this and proposed raising the Royal British Legion donation to £70: all in favour.
- e. Cllr Mullender raised the subject of declarations of interest. A general discussion followed. Cllr F Lewis insisted that a general agreement made before the last elections to the effect that councillors should, as a matter of courtesy, discuss concerns with the Clerk or the Chairman before making a formal complaint. The Clerk observed that this is not enforceable; more a "gentleman's" agreement.

9. Date of next meeting: 9th November 2012.