

Barton Mills Parish Council

Clerk to the Council:

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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 9th November 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 Tim Harris
Cllr Frances Lewis
Cllr Steve Mullender
County Cllr Stephen Frost
PCSO Dawn Rowan
James Bercovici (Clerk)

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

Jackie Stirges highlighted the general untidiness of the village, in particular overgrown hedgerows and trees. She said that fly-tipping has been going on and there are weeds on the paths and the football club light is not working. Cllr R Lewis said it is useful to have this sort of input, advising that most of the areas cited are not Parish Council responsibility but that the relevant organisations could be approached, in particular Suffolk CC (County Cllr Frost was present). Cllr Boura thought the trees needed crown lifting rather than topping; Cllr R Lewis thought this a high expenditure item. He said it would be necessary to contact Forest Heath about fly tipping. Cllr F Lewis thought an item in the Barton Miller requesting residents to maintain plant growth coming from their gardens onto pavements would help but Cllr R Lewis thought it would be better to write to residents concerned and said he would liaise with Jackie Stirges to identify specific properties. Cllr Mullender thought this a particular problem along Newmarket Road.

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

Apologies: Cllr Charlie Peachey

2. **Police Matters**

PCSO Becky Simpson attended the meeting and reported on two burglaries in the village, warning residents to be vigilant. Cllr Mullender asked if the burglary that led to the theft of a car was linked to an earlier one. PCSO Simpson said it was thought the cars were being stolen to order.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2012**

Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the minutes: all in favour.

4. **Matters arising and pending**

a. 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 has managed to obtain one other quote so far for £1600.

Cllr Blanchard expressed a preference for a wooden bench and there was general agreement. Cllr Harji pointed out this would need maintenance; Cllr Harris volunteered to undertake this. Cllr R Lewis observed that Cyan (which offered the preferred bench at the most competitive price) could carve an inscription. He proposed ordering the bench with the inscription "Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee 2012": all in favour. The Clerk agreed to ask for installation advice.

- b. Emergency Planning. It was agreed to defer further discussion for at least another year. However, there has been one expression of interest from a nurse residing in the village. After a brief discussion, Cllr R Lewis said the earlier decision, not to pursue this at this time, still stands.
- c. 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.

Cllr R Lewis had looked into signs and solar lights and found they should not cost in excess of £100. Cllr Boura said the positioning needed be decided; Cllr F Lewis said the right-hand gate needs a bolt to fix it to the ground when open. The Clerk said he would talk to John Squire about this. Cllr F Lewis proposed obtaining a sign up to one metre in width: all in favour except Cllr Flack (abstained).

Cllr Flack said the corner of the car park is flooding again. Cllr R Lewis thought a soakaway and drain were needed. Cllr Harji suggested asking County Cllr Frost for a locality grant.
- d. Fit Villages - there have been five responses expressing interest in activities such as Tai Chi, Yoga and Pilates in particular. The Clerk has contacted Henry Tapp to discuss whether this can proceed. Some further suggestions were received at the meeting and Cllr Blanchard said the WI would discuss the project. Cllr R Lewis suggested carrying this forward to the next meeting.
- e. Website - The Clerk has investigated the OneSuffolk option and done some preliminary work to transfer to this free software. It should be noted that, as the OneSuffolk software develops, the parish website will be able to upgrade. The Village Hall committee has agreed to host a banner in the window publicising the website and the Clerk has obtained an agreement in principle from the Barton Miller editor to let the website feature on the back page each month (although it will take a few issues to move things around to accommodate this).

The Clerk outlined the OneSuffolk option. Cllr R Lewis said another group meeting was required. Cllr F Lewis said there was general agreement to have a colour cover for the Barton Miller paid for by the Parish Council who could also use the back cover to promote the website. Cllr Blanchard thought colour for every issue would detract from special occasions. The Clerk agreed to obtain a quote from Riverside Press for ten issues of 520 copies. Cllr F Lewis reported that the Village Hall agreed to a banner in the window.
- f. Field re-levelling - the Clerk has obtained a formal quote from the village groundsman for £780. Cllr Boura said this would need to be done in March. Cllr F Lewis proposed accepting the quote: all in favour.
- g. Dog bin on Grange Lane. Cllr F Lewis raised this at the last meeting and the Clerk subsequently received an email from Claire Tilbrook on the subject. Forest Heath DC has advised that the costs of this would be passed to the parish as follows: installation £320 plus weekly emptying at £137.80 per year. Cllr F Lewis thought a dog bin should be erected on the side of the field at the end of Grange Lane. Cllr Boura proposed this: all in favour.
- h. Street light in Manor View - Cllr Boura advised this would be installed the following week.
- i. Remembrance Day - Cllr F Lewis advised that refreshments had been arranged.
- j. Meeting Dates 2013 - the Clerk listed the second Friday of each month, recommending the April meeting be held on the third Friday. These were agreed with the exception that the January meeting should also be on the third Friday to allow time for the budget group to meet early in the New Year.

5. Reports from the County Councillor

Cllr Frost advised that the Chalk Quarry has been approved - see 7d. He advised that Guy Smith would be visiting Grange Lane on 28th November to look at flooding problems. Cllr Flack asked if he could look at the footpath to Mildenhall as well. In response to Jackie Stirges' observations before the meeting, he warned that Suffolk CC had cut back almost completely on this sort of work.

Cllr R Lewis advised Cllr Frost of the quote for levelling the playing field; Cllr Frost said this would be no problem.

6. **Finance - Standard Payments for approval (inc. VAT)**
- a. £272.00 J Bercovici (clerk's net salary, October 2012) – chq. 1208
 - b. £68.00 HMRC (PAYE, October 2012) – chq.
 - c. £20.60 J Bercovici (clerk's expenses October 2012) - chq. 1208
- Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the standard payments: all in favour

Special payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- d. £150.00 Old Parsonage Garden Services (grass cutting, September 2012) - chq. 1209
 - e. £689.94 Pearce & Kemp (replacement column) - chq. 1210
 - f. £45 Village Hall (hall hire: July and September) - chq. 1211
- Cllr F Lewis declared an interest in respect of item 6f. Cllr Boura queried item 6e but proposed agreeing the other special payments: all in favour.

Cllr R Lewis raised a further invoice from BA Electrical for £16.90. The Clerk said the invoice would need to be addressed to the Parish Council so could be raised at the next meeting.

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), as amended by plans received on 01/11/2012. [See also b, below]. Cllr Boura said the changes did not incorporate the amendment required. Cllr R Lewis suggested resubmitting the previous views. He said he had asked the Clerk to seek clarification of the selection procedure which he had received; Cllr R Lewis outlined the intention for the Parish Council to be involved in determining the selection criteria but not in considering individual applications.

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/2012/0606/TPO Breckland Pines 47 The Street - Fell 1 x Pine tree. 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.* **REFUSED**
- f. 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) **WITHDRAWN**

Planning - other

- g. Development Management Policies Submission - outlined by Cllr Boura who advised that submissions could be made up to 14th December.
- h. Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document - Cllr Boura advised that Forest Heath has set out the s 106 and other criteria for developments. In particular, there must be a local connection for affordable housing in developments in rural parishes on exception sites. Consultation continued to 14th December.

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

- a. Car boot sale meeting - Cllr R Lewis said this will be held on 13th November at 7pm in the church room.
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- b. Village Hall representative - Cllr Flack said he could not manage Wednesday meetings. Cllr F Lewis advised that meetings are held on Tuesdays.
- c. Open Spaces and Playing Fields - Cllr Boura said she hoped to attend the forthcoming meeting at Forest Heath.

9. **Date of next meeting:** 14th December 2012. Cllr Boura gave her apologies; Cllr F Lewis agreed to deal with any planning matters.
