

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 14th December 2012 at 7.00 pm.

Attendance: Cllr Robert Lewis (Chairman)
Cllr Garry Flack
Cllr Frances Lewis
Cllr Steve Mullender
Cllr Charlie Peachey
District Cllr Tim Huggan
PCSO Bill Butcher
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: Cllrs Pamela Boura, Kay Blanchard and Amin Harji

2. Police Matters

PCSO Butcher reported one theft of heating oil over a period of five days from an unoccupied residential property and one burglary of an unoccupied dwelling. He said three arrests had been made in respect of the latter offence. He advised there would be a new PCSO, David Cowan, from January. Cllr F Lewis asked about the law relating to cold calling; PCSO Butcher advised it is acceptable up to 8pm but that the police should be informed in advance.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2012

Cllr F Lewis proposed agreeing the minutes: all in favour.

4. Matters arising and pending

a. Diamond Jubilee 2012. Tree bench – the Clerk has ordered the bench with the inscription "Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee 2012" carved twice around the bench: the total cost including delivery and VAT £1,080. It is unlikely to be available for installation before the new year. Also available: teak protection (two bottles at £24.99) and anchors (four sets including installation tool for £205 although two sets for £115 may be sufficient). Cllr Mullender proposed purchasing two anchor sets (more could be purchased later if needed) and the teak protection at a total cost of £1244.97: all in favour.

b. 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. The groundsman has quoted £360 either to fell the tree or for crown reduction. Cllr Peachey thought this expensive; the Clerk agreed to obtain more quotes.

Cllr Boura has looked at all the trees at the playing field and does not think any are in need of crown lifting. One adjacent to Grange Lane and several on the Mildenhall Road side are growing shrubby growth from the bottom of the trunk which needs to be removed. Some of the trees adjacent to the car park and on the opposite side of the field need ivy removing. This work would be suitable for the groundsman and doesn't require a tree surgeon.

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 has raised this with John Squire. Cllr F Lewis proposed obtaining a sign up to one metre in width: all in favour except Cllr Flack (abstained). The Clerk has obtained a quote for the sign (post and installation not included) from Neil Horne for £30 which has been accepted.

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. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for this work and to proceed if the cost does not exceed £250 plus any locality grant he can obtain.

- c. 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. No further interest expressed.
- d. 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 Barton Miller editor has advised that this has been agreed but requested that the Parish Council provides all the paper for the magazine; she advises that this would require around 41,600 sheets (10 issues of 8 sheets, 520 copies) which equates to 17 boxes per year. The total contribution to the Barton Miller would need to increase to around £170-£200 ex VAT per year. Cllr F Lewis declared an interest. The Clerk has obtained a quote for colour printing of the cover of the Barton Miller: £550 per annum (Riverside Press). As an alternative, the Clerk agreed to investigate purchasing a dedicated printer and to provide an estimate of costs.

The Clerk outlined the OneSuffolk option. Cllr R Lewis said another group meeting was required. The Clerk said he would liaise with Cllr Harris.

- e. A11 - the Clerk has received a reply from the Highways Agency concerning the proposal to plant trees alongside the A11 to reduce noise pollution. It is not considered financially viable.
- f. Recycling bins - request from Salvation Army to install a clothes recycling bin next to the other recycling bins. Cllr F Lewis thought there are enough recycling bins already and pointed out there is a clothes bin in Mildenhall. Cllrs Flack and R Lewis thought a three month trial would be appropriate although Cllr Flack expressed concern about the size of the bin. Cllr Mullender was also concerned whether it would be a fire hazard. Cllr F Lewis said it would need to be located by the glass recycling bins. It was agreed to defer a decision to the next meeting once the Clerk had obtained more information.
- g. Verges and hedges - Cllr R Lewis outlined the areas which had been highlighted as problematic. Cllr Mullender thought permission would be needed to work on Suffolk County Council-owned land; Cllr Peachey thought these areas would be the responsibility of the county council. He thought the footpath to Mildenhall was in a poor condition. Cllr R Lewis suggested asking County Cllr Frost to look at the problem.
- h. Car boot sales 2013. Cllr R Lewis outlined the agreement reached by the organisations and commented that the meeting between them had been difficult, suggesting that the parish council should agree in September the criteria for 2014. The agreement for 2013 is as follows:

Bank holiday	Hall	Field
Easter	Village Hall	Village Hall
May Day	WI	Allotments Association
Spring	Allotments Association	St Mary's Church
Summer	St Mary's Church	Football Club (+ barbecue)

- i. Parish Forum follow up. The Clerk forwarded from FHDC to all councillors a list of actions identified at a Parish Forum meeting attended by Cllrs Boura and Flack. Cllr R Lewis outlined the report and said it did not represent a consensus of opinion from the parish council. He thought the format insulting. Cllr Mullender suggested inviting the FHDC officer to a parish council meeting to explain further.
- j. Dog bin update. The Clerk advised that the Enforcement Officer had suggested holding back on this as changes were being discussed.

5. Report from the District Councillor

District Cllr Huggan distributed his report (filed with the minutes).

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

- a. £272.00 J Bercovici (clerk's net salary, November 2012) – chq. 1212
 - b. £68.00 HMRC (PAYE, November 2012) – chq.
 - c. £42.66 J Bercovici (clerk's expenses October 2012) - chq. 1212
- Cllr F Lewis proposed agreeing the standard payments: all in favour.

Special payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- d. £24.14 F Lewis (Remembrance Day expenses) - chq. 1213
- e. £55.85 Big Red Wine Co (Remembrance Day expenses) - chq. 1214
- f. £50 John Squire (play equipment repairs) - chq. 1215
- g. £225 Old Parsonage Garden Services (October grass cutting) - chq. 1216
- h. £689.94 Pearce & Kemp (Replacement column) - chq. 1210
- i. £1598.76 Pearce & Kemp (Manor View replacement column) - chq. 1217
- j. £1244.97 CYAN (Jubilee bench) - chq. 1218

Cllr F Lewis declared an interest (item d). Cllr Mullender proposed agreeing the special payments: all in favour (Cllr F Lewis abstained).

Receipts

- j. £369.58 Burrell Trust (electrical work for Jubilee)

Other

- k. Locality Grant - letter received from the Allotments Association advising that the plans to erect a fence on the north side of the site have been put on hold as there are some unforeseen costs related to other aspects of the original application. The BMAA requests that the outstanding amount of £1032.92 be returned to the association. Cllr Flack declared an interest. Cllr R Lewis proposed that, further to its written request the money should be passed to the Allotments Association which is to be asked to provide written confirmation that the money will be spent on capital items: four in favour, one abstention.

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/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 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.

Previously: *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/ - 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

- 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.* **APPROVED with conditions**

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

- a. Cllr F Lewis reported on the SALC meeting.
- b. Cllr R Lewis advised that Barton Mills now has fibre-optic Broadband, suggesting this is advertised in the Barton Miller.
- c. Cllr Flack asked about street lighting on Church Lane Close, saying it is very dark. Cllr F Lewis said there are several dark patches throughout the village.

9. Date of next meeting: 18th January 2013