

# 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 19<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at 7.00 pm.

**Attendance:** Cllr Robert Lewis (Chairman)  
Cllr Kay Blanchard  
Cllr Pamela Boura  
Cllr Garry Flack|  
Cllr Tim Harris  
Cllr Frances Lewis  
Cllr Steve Mullender  
Cllr Charlie Peachey  
PC John Gowan  
James Bercovici (Clerk)

**0. Opportunity for members of the Public to speak (3 minute limit, not statutory part of meeting).**  
None present.

**1. Courtesies. Apologies and Signing of the Register. Declarations of Interest.**  
Apologies: Cllrs Amin Harji and Steve Mullender  
Declarations: Cllr F Lewis (Finance - other), Cllr R Lewis (6e)

**2. Police Matters**  
PC Gowan reported 6 crimes, all on the A11.

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2013**  
Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the minutes: all in favour.

**4. Matters arising and pending**  
a. Playing Field - a sub-group of Cllrs R Lewis, Boura, Harji, Flack and Mullender agreed to look at various issues concerning the field:

i. Trees - pruning or felling of any trees to improve lighting at the vehicle entrance to the field. Work on trees around the field - the clerk had obtained quotes from the groundsman totalling £435. Cllr Boura suggested leaving the decision to fell the tree to the field group. Cllr Peachey said the car park would be completely lit if the tree is felled. Cllr F Lewis passed on complaints about the trees on Grange Lane which some felt were too big and blocked the view of the field. Cllr R Lewis said the field group needed to look at both concerns. He said the options were to do nothing, fell the tree or install a separate light. Cllr F Lewis suggested the possibility of installing a security light on the side of the village hall. Cllr Boura thought it could be mounted on a pole for more height. Cllr Peachey asked who would pay the running costs. Cllr Boura thought this could be set from dusk to late evening rather than motion sensed. Cllr R Lewis agreed it should not be a floodlight and asked Cllr Boura to investigate. It was agreed the trees require crown lifting and removal of growth around the base. The Clerk was asked to obtain fresh separate quotes for Mildenhall Road and Grange Lane.

ii. Parking - installation of a light and notice at the entrance to the field. Neil Horne has the sign and Cllr R Lewis has looked into signs and solar lights and found they should not cost in excess of £100. Matting will be required to protect the field - Cllr Boura has advised that for two metres in width by 20 metres in length, the cost would be £245.20 ex VAT and thought two quantities of this would be appropriate. This would require seven packs of pegs costing £225 ex VAT so the total would be £715.40 ex VAT. (£2,000 budgeted in the current financial year). Cllr Boura suggested asking Neil Horne to install the sign. Cllr Flack asked about priorities between football players and people parking cars. Cllr R Lewis suggested obtaining a standard notice stating that cars are parked at the owner's risk. Cllr Flack suggested the

overflow parking could double up as disabled parking for car boot sales etc. Cllr R Lewis thought sleeves (two per gate) are needed for the bolts.

iii. Protection of the grass around the new seat - additional matting required. The Clerk said he had obtained a price for a bench in memorial to John Wiggin: £748 ex VAT. Cllr Boura thought it would be good to have one and suggested inviting public subscription. Cllr F Lewis agreed that a bench should be purchased and reminded councillors that he had also been on the village hall committee and Rosemary Club. Cllr Boura suggested applying to Cllr Huggan for locality budget funding. Cllr Peachey proposed purchasing the bench, subject to obtaining a grant: all in favour.

iv. Soakaway - it had been thought that a soakaway would be required for the car park; however, Cllr Mullender suggested asking Suffolk Highways to unblock the drains on Mildenhall Road which were causing the flooding of the car park and would alleviate the need to install a soakaway. Cllr F Lewis thinks a soakaway is needed in any case. Cllr R Lewis said he and the Clerk would chase up quotes.

- b. Leisure facilities – Cllr Boura attended a meeting at FHDC on "Open Spaces and Playing Fields". She reported that the Community Levy (replacing s106) would mean that all new developments will contribute to leisure facilities. She advised that Barton Mills is in the middle zone and that all such villages had to put forward projects which Forest Heath DC would then prioritise. She suggested making this an agenda item for the next meeting. Cllr Harris asked if the village hall would be eligible for funding.

Cllr Boura asked if the parish council wants Barton Mills on the list for equipment or facilities in which case it would be necessary to put forward a project. She suggested a hard play area or trim trail equipment. Cllr R Lewis suggested an all weather surface under the goals; Cllr Peachey suggested portable goals but Cllr Mullender advised these were less durable. Cllr Harji thought a sub-committee could meet to discuss this. Cllr Boura thought a development plan for the field is necessary. Cllrs Flack, Harji and Mullender all agreed to be involved with this. Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to contact FHDC to ascertain whether there is any cut-off date for this and the requirements of any proposal.

Cllr Boura thought the council should put in a bid for a multi-use hard court for games. Cllr Flack said this is not what is wanted; the Clerk confirmed this had been rejected during the last development of the play equipment. Cllr Harris suggested asking potential users what they would like. Following a general discussion, the Clerk was asked to obtain approximate prices for moveable goals.

- c. Website - Cllr R Lewis said the parish council had debated the colour cover and agreed its proposal. Cllr Boura agreed. He offered to print the first issue on his work printer at a cost of £0.055 per copy so that everyone involved could see how the logistics would work. Cllr Boura suggested trialling the colour cover for a couple of months to see how it goes.

Cllr R Lewis said he would bring a camera to the next meeting to photograph councillors for the website.

Cllr Mullender suggested setting up a poll on the website to determine the popularity of the colour cover. The Clerk said he would look into this.

Cllr R Lewis said he would print the May cover. Cllr Boura thought there is too much wording on the April back cover. Cllr Flack thought the colour cover a waste of money and said others had said the same. Cllr R Lewis insisted the parish council had agreed and voted to buy a printer to produce the colour cover. The Clerk clarified this stating that he could get a better deal by buying the inks and obtaining a free printer. Cllr Boura proposed giving the Clerk a budget of £350 ex VAT for this: all in favour except Cllr Harris who abstained.

- d. Clean Up Day - Cllr F Lewis reported that around a dozen volunteers helped collect rubbish, including along the old A11.
- e. Noticeboard - Cllr F Lewis asked when this will be renovated.
- f. Dog bin - Cllr F Lewis asked when a new dog bin will be installed.
- g. Rubbish outside the Bell - Cllr Boura enquired about this. Cllr R Lewis said he would approach the landlord again.
- h. Cllr Frost - Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to write to Stephen Frost to thank him for his help during his period of office.

## 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, March 2013) – chq. 1232  
b. £68.00 HMRC (PAYE, March 2013) – chq.  
c. £17.72 J Bercovici (clerk's expenses March 2013) - chq. 1232

**Special payments for approval (inc. VAT)**

- d. £310.00 SALC (subscription) - chq. 1233  
e. £39.60 Balmforth (colour printing, April) - chq. 1234  
f. £39.60 Balmforth (colour printing, May) - chq. 1235

**Receipts**

- g. £1422.50 Burrell Trust donation

**Finance - other**

Cllr F Lewis requests that the Parish Council accepts a donation from the Preservation Trust of £333.33 and purchases a plaque to commemorate the electrification of the clock for £400 inclusive of VAT. Cllr R Lewis proposed this: all in favour except Cllr F Lewis who abstained.

7. **Planning.**

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

**General and for consideration:**

- a. F/2013/0154/LBC Dental Surgery, The Manor, Newmarket Road - alterations to boundary wall to create a new gateway.  
b. F/2013/0134/FUL Dental Surgery, The Manor, Newmarket Road - creation of a new access onto Newmarket Road to serve the Orthodontic Practice, including a new gateway in existing boundary wall. Creation of a new parking area. Cllr Boura outlined the plans. *Cllr Peachey proposed no objections: all in favour except Cllr F Lewis (against).*

**Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals.**

- c. 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. *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.*

**Forest Heath Decisions**

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

- a. Church Lane Close. Cllr R Lewis said he had spoken with Lee Webster of Flagship who told him a reorganisation is taking place. Flagship has three former garage sites and is still working out the site in Barton Mills. No funding currently available and planning permission expires in April 2014. He said he is aware there are contentious issues with the site but said that Flagship owns a house at the end of the footpath on Bell Lane so one possibility would be to create access to the site from Bell Lane. Cllr R Lewis told him he thought the parish council would support this. However, Lee Webster had said that the scheme had been granted only on appeal so Flagship is nervous about re-submitting an application. Cllr R Lewis said he would get back in touch with Lee Webster to ask if he could attend a parish council meeting.
- b. Parish Forum on 16th May - Cllrs R Lewis and Boura plan to attend.
- c. A11 field car boot sales. Cllr Flack enquired about these. Cllr R Lewis thought two had been held so far this year.
- d. Football Club - Cllr Flack enquired; Cllr R Lewis said the club is still operating but not currently running a Saturday team.
- e. Annual Parish Meeting - Cllr Boura suggested an update on works and the application procedure for the Hastoe development. Cllr F Lewis wondered about the Flagship site but Cllr Boura thought it too soon for this.

9. **Date of next meeting:** 10th May 2013 to be followed by Annual Parish Meeting.