

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 July 2013 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 Charlie Peachey
District Cllr Tim Huggan
County Cllr James Waters
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: Cllr Steve Mullender
Declarations: none

2. Police Matters

PCSO Butcher outlined three recorded crimes since the last meeting, all at A11 services. He advised that police priorities currently centred on anti-social behaviour and that at a recent speed check, one offender had been caught driving at 36mph in the village. He said that, locally, bikes and motorbikes have been stolen to order and advised residents to ensure things are kept secured.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2013

Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the minutes: all in favour.

4. Matters arising and pending (italicised text refers to historical background)

a. Playing Field - various issues:

i. Car park lighting. *Cllr R Lewis had suggested waiting to see if the reflective sign erected by Neil Horne works without additional lighting as the cost may outweigh the benefit.* In respect of the tree to be felled, Cllr Boura suggested the Clerk undertake a risk assessment and Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to write a letter for him to sign confirming the Parish Council has agreed to fell the tree.

ii. Field parking. *Matting may be required to protect the field - Cllr Boura had 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 R Lewis questioned whether matting is needed given the occasional use of the field for overflow parking. He suggested removing this item from the agenda and reviewing the matter later.

Cllr James Waters said he will look at filling in the dip by the gate with hardcore next week when he will quote for this and for the soakaway. Cllr R Lewis proposed that if the cost of this is less than £250, the Clerk should have authority to proceed: all in favour.

iii. Dip in field. *Cllr R Lewis had suggested that funds for lighting the sign could be diverted to filling in the dip on the car park side of the gates.* The Clerk has clarified the original locality grant for this and instructed the contractor to undertake this work in discussion with the football club.

iv. Jubilee gate. *The Clerk had previously suggested that the gate needs attention but wanted to know how far councillors want to take this. Cllr F Lewis agreed and the Clerk was asked to find a suitable*

contractor. Cllr R Lewis had thought sleeves (two per gate) are needed for the bolts. The Clerk has asked John Squire to do this.

The Clerk had asked Matt Wilson to quote for the repair work for the gate; the estimate is between £300 and £350. Cllr R Lewis said that as Matt is village based and is known to work to a very high standard, he didn't think further quotes were necessary. However, Cllr Peachey said John Squire should be asked to quote. Cllr R Lewis said there is a wood worker in Manor View who could provide a third quote. He said that if three similar quotes were obtained, the Clerk should have authority to select the most appropriate in liaison with himself and Cllr Boura: all in favour except Cllr Peachey (abstained).

v. Car park disclaimer. Cllr Flack had expressed concern about the positioning of the overflow parking and whether a sign should be installed to advise car owners that the parish council is not liable for any damage occurs. Cllr Boura suggested it would be best to see where people park and decide if there is a problem. Cllr F Lewis agreed there should be a notice. The Clerk has investigated this and found various options offering different sizes and materials. He outlined the sizes available and councillors asked him to obtain two signs, both 300mm x 400mm.

vi. 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. One quote has been received from Dave Wickin (£1454), also for re-levelling the field. The Clerk obtained another quote prior to the meeting from Mitchell & Mayle in Isleham for £1455. Cllr Waters suggested digging the area out and filling it in to make a natural soakaway. Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to obtain quotes. The Clerk has met with James Waters who advised the meeting he will quote for this next week. Cllr Boura proposed that, if the new quote is the lowest, the Clerk should order this work immediately, using the field parking fund to pay for it: all in favour.

vii. Swings. Cllr Boura asked if the Clerk could obtain quotes for painting the toddler swings.

Cllr R Lewis observed that the field is being used a lot which he thinks is a good thing. The Clerk was asked to request quotes from the groundsman for re-seeding and general treatment of the field.

- b. Leisure facilities. The Clerk had been asked to obtain approximate prices for portable goals. He had found a set of goals including nets for £2120 on the internet and Cllr R Lewis thought them suitable. However, the Clerk had also talked to a local specialist who thinks they are not appropriate and has provided a quote himself. Cllrs Mullender and Flack agreed to look at the proposed goals and make a recommendation to the Parish Council. Cllr R Lewis said an application should be made for a grant; however, Cllr Waters said he had discussed this with Ian Shipp who had said there is less money in the s106 fund than thought. However, if there is a benefit to younger residents to have some coaching, the parish council could apply for goals and a professional coach over the summer holiday. The Clerk has made the application and hopes to have confirmation of this in good time to order the goals in time for the summer holiday.

Cllr Huggan advised that an application to the Tuddenham trust for coaching would probably be successful if the activity is open to children from Tuddenham too. Cllr Harris asked if there are any planned activities for girls. Cllr R Lewis suggested asking young people if they would like to see any other activities via the Barton Miller. Cllr F Lewis asked how any activities would be publicised before the next Barton Miller. The Clerk advised that he has a database of over 80 email addresses for Barton Mills residents; Cllr Huggan said that FHDC is giving leaflets out to all school children so it may be possible to have this included.

- e. Street lighting. Installation of an Intelligent Lighting Systems would cost of £45 per unit. This would turn lights off or dim them at chosen times (but they could be quickly switched back on if needed) and also report faults automatically. The Clerk was asked to ascertain the impact on energy costs.

5. Reports from the County and District Councillors

Cllr Huggan outlined the Newmarket Vision document which he thought could provide a useful template for a similar document for Mildenhall which would involve Barton Mills. He warned that Barton Mills would be paying for its own elections in future, although this cost would be shared if the elections coincide with district elections. He said he had received some applications for his locality budget but would welcome more.

Cllr Waters advised that Suffolk CC is facing a budget gap of £157 million.

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

- £280.00 J Bercovici (clerk's net salary, June 2013) – chq. 1246
- £70.00 HMRC (PAYE, June 2013) – chq.
- £28.36 J Bercovici (clerk's expenses May 2013) - chq. 1246

Cllr R Lewis proposed agreeing the standard payments: all in favour.

Special payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- d. £136.51 Eurooffice (Barton Miller donation and paper supplies) - chq. 1247
 - e. £36.00 Ayentee Accountancy (internal audit) - chq. 1248
 - f. £225.00 OPGS (grass cutting, May 2013) - chq. 1249
- Cllr R Lewis proposed agreeing the special payments: all in favour except Cllr F Lewis who declared a personal interest in item d and abstained.

7. Planning.

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

General and for consideration:

Cllr Boura expressed concern about an application for the Fiveways site which had not been passed to the Parish Council yet but which included some important variations which she considered important enough to merit consideration by the council. She said the Brandon Road exit had been omitted and half the pedestrian access had gone. The Clerk said he would apply for an extension so the application could be considered at the next meeting.

Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals.

- a. F/2013/0224/FUL/SD Walnut Tree Farm - conversion of barn and stores to create a dwelling, including single storey front and rear extensions (Departure from the Development Plan). *Cllr Boura thought this very cramped as well as being outside the line. Cllrs Mullender, R Lewis and F Lewis agreed. Cllr Boura said she was uncertain whether the plot is inside or outside the conservation area. Cllr F Lewis declared a prejudicial interest as the plot is outside the development line; Cllrs R Lewis and Mullender did the same. Cllr Boura proposed objecting as it is outside the development line and out of scale (over-development of the site): all in favour (Cllrs R Lewis, F Lewis and Mullender did not vote).*
- b. F/2013/0241/ADI Esso Service Station, Fiveways - display of an internally illuminated free-standing price sign. *Cllr Boura proposed no objections: all in favour.*
- c. F/2013/0275/HOU 32 Church Lane - removal of existing conservatory and construction of single story rear extension. *Cllr Boura proposed no objections: all in favour.*

Forest Heath Decisions

- d. F/2013/0199/HOU Mulberry House 39 The Street - Erection of a single storey rear extension to dwelling and open car shelter extension to existing detached garage. Cllr Mullender left the meeting for this item. *Cllr Boura proposed no objections: all in favour.* **APPROVED with conditions**

Cllr Boura advised that the application for a proposed barn conversion at Walnut Tree Farm had been withdrawn and that a new plan would be submitted. The applicant had indicated that Parish Councillors would be welcome to visit the site.

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

- a. Church Lane Close garage site. Cllr F Lewis asked if Cllr R Lewis had followed this up with Flagship; he said he would do so in time for the September meeting. Cllr Boura said she hoped the current permission would expire so that new plans would have to be submitted as she does not like the current proposals.
- b. Car boot sales. Cllr Flack asked if the rules for sales could be discussed in September in advance of the meeting between the various organisations. Cllr R Lewis suggested that individual groups could be written to for their input. Cllr Harji thought it would be better for the groups to discuss this between themselves but Cllr R Lewis thought it better for the Parish Council to direct things.
- c. Church Lane development. Cllr R Lewis said the sign erected at the site contained inaccuracies and thought it should read "Sponsored by Barton Mills Parish Council". He asked the Clerk to let Isobel Wright know that there is no Barton Miller in September.
- d. Cllr Boura advised that there is ivy overhanging the road along the street and suggested the county council be asked to sort this out.

Cllr R Lewis concluded by saying that lots of difficult issues had been dealt with at the meeting.

9. Date of next meeting: 16th August (planning matters only).