

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 13th September 2013 at 7.00 pm.

Attendance: Cllr Robert Lewis (Chairman)
Cllr Pamela Boura
Cllr Garry Flack
Cllr Frances Lewis
Cllr Steve Mullender
Cllr Charlie Peachey
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 Blanchard and Harji. County Cllr Waters. PCSO Cowan

Declarations: Cllrs F Lewis and R Lewis (7b as outside the development line)

2. Police Matters

PCSO Butcher outlined the report, filed with the minutes.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 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. Jubilee gate. *The Clerk had suggested that the gate needs attention but wanted to know how far councillors want to take this. He 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 has requested quotes for the repairs to the gate. Cllr R Lewis had 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). The Clerk said he would contact Matt Wilson again and other local specialist woodworkers.

ii. Soakaway in the car park. *Quotes have been received from Dave Wickin (£1454), also for re-levelling the field and from Mitchell & Mayle in Isleham (£1455). Cllr Waters suggested digging the area out and filling it in to make a natural soakaway. The Clerk has met with James Waters who advised the meeting he will quote for this. 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. The Clerk has reminded James Waters who is chasing the quote.*

iii. Swings. *Cllr Boura asked if the Clerk could obtain quotes for painting the toddler swings. The Clerk had asked John Squires to quote for this.*

It was reported that John Squires is unwell so the Clerk was asked to write to him to thank him for his help and to look for someone to quote for this work.

iv. The Clerk was asked to request quotes from the groundsman for re-seeding and general treatment of the field. Cllr Peachey asked why the football pitch had been moved; Cllr Mullender said this is usually done to protect the goal mouths. Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to write to the football club to ask for prior notice of any intention to move the pitch and to request clearing up after matches and practise sessions. Cllr Peachey said the pavilion is a disgrace but was advised that funds are now in place to undertake the refurbishment work.

- c. 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 advised there would be no impact on energy costs unless lights were changed to LED bulbs Cllr Boura asked if the Clerk could investigate a wayleave to erect a street light at 59 The Street.
- d. Church Lane Close garage site. Cllr R Lewis advised that he had left a message for Lee Webster. He noted that the planning application is set to expire in April 2014.
- e. Car boot sales 2014. Cllr R Lewis advised that no requests to change the rules had been received except for some minor additions: cones to be out along Mildenhall Road including in front of Lamb Court; organisers to clear and remove all rubbish at the end of the day. It was agreed to hold a meeting for the organisations to agree a proposal for 2014 on Tuesday 5th November starting at 7pm in the church room. Cllr Flack thought only one organisation should provide refreshments; Cllr Peachey agreed, Cllrs F Lewis and R Lewis disagreed. Cllr Flack put forward the idea of all organisations pooling resources to share all the sales equally; Cllr R Lewis said this is unworkable.
- f. Bus Service - the Clerk has received an updated timetable of buses serving Barton Mills following a restructuring of routes and times (distributed with the agenda). Cllr Boura said there had been no consultation on the cancellation of most buses servicing Barton Mills from 1st September and that signs had not been changed (she advised that she had laminated and posted the revised timetable herself). Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to write to Suffolk CC advising that the services are necessary and asking why there was no consultation over their cancellation. Also, to contact Stephenson's for an explanation of why the service was withdrawn.
- Cllr F Lewis advised that at the SALC meeting, Dial-a-Ride (tel: 01638 608080) and voluntary services had been discussed. Cllr Mullender suggested availability of lifts and car sharing could be included on the website.
- g. Fiveways Roundabout. Cllr Boura advised that the Fiveways roundabout would be closed for reconstruction works throughout the whole of the first three weekends in October with the fourth weekend reserved as a contingency in case the work was incomplete. She said that all non-local traffic would be diverted at Newmarket to Thetford via Bury St Edmunds whereas local traffic would come through Red Lodge and Worlington. The Clerk was asked to contact the Highways Agency to make the case for temporary lights in Worlington.
- h. Bridge Farm crossing - James Waters has advised that following email communication from Mr Andy Griggs regarding speeding along the B1102, more specifically along the section where Bridge Farm Close sits, a site visit was organised between James Waters, Mr Griggs and Guy Smith (Assistant Highways Manager at Suffolk County Council) last Friday morning to be able to see the problem first hand. Following a detailed discussion, the following outcomes and course of action were established:
- In order to understand the speeding issue Guy Smith promised to undertake a speed survey (which would be covert and last for a week) – sometime over the next month or so.
 - Suffolk County Council would then analyze results and feedback our conclusions, initially to James Waters.
 - If there was a speeding problem we would then put this to the local SNT (Safer Neighbourhood Team – Police) for them to address/prioritize.
 - If the SNT didn't think this could be corrected by enforcement alone – they would then ask Suffolk County Council to prepare an engineering solution.
 - If an engineering solution could be found – then implementation would be based on availability of funding.
- Cllr R Lewis said a pedestrian crossing is needed (also at Parker's Mill in Mildenhall). Cllr Boura thought there should also be a 30mph sign.
- i. Affordable housing. Isobel Wright of Hastoe had forwarded a report advising that, subject to weather conditions, it is anticipated that completion will be around the end of April 2014. She plans to hold an open meeting in the village hall in early November.
- j. SALC report – Cllr F Lewis said the need to advertise voluntary bus services had been highlighted. She is unable to attend the next meeting on 3rd December; Cllr Boura thought she would be able to attend.
- k. Ivy has been cut back from overhanging the road at 15 The Street. Cllr R Lewis thought this a good example of successful parish council intervention.

5. Reports from the County and District Councillors

Cllr Waters' report had been covered elsewhere in the meeting; no report from Cllr Huggan.

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

- a. £560.00 J Bercovici (clerk's net salary, July/August 2013) – chq. 1251
- b. £140.00 HMRC (PAYE, July/August 2013) – chq. 1252 (re. April to June)
- c. £27.72 J Bercovici (clerk's expenses July/August 2013) - chq. 1251

Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the standard payments: all in favour

Special payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- d. £240.00 BDO (Audit) - chq. 1253
- e. £67.50 BMVH (hall hire: April-June) - chq. 1254
- f. £1858.00 Mark Harrod (football goals - purchased) - chq. 1250
- g. £221.70 Inkjets & Toners (inks) - chq. 1251
- h. £300.00 OPGS (grass cutting, June/July) - chq. 1255
- i. £510.00 SP Landscapes (tree works, Grange Lane) - chq. 1256
- j. £34.28 Signature Signs (car park signs) - chq. 1251
- k. £636.40 Suffolk ACRE (insurance) - chq. 1251

Cllr F Lewis proposed agreeing the special payments: all in favour

Finance – other

Cllr Boura said the Parish Forum meeting had recommended that parishes hold in reserve the pre-set cost of elections which would be around £1700 for Barton Mills. This should be included in the 2014/15 budget.

7. **Planning.**

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

General and for consideration:

- a. F/2013/0416/HOU/BH - 22 The Street - erection of car port and creation of additional vehicular access. *Cllr Peachey proposed no objections: all in favour.*
- b. F/2013/0417/FUL/SD - Walnut Tree Farm, Bell Lane - Re-submission of planning application F/2013/0224/FUL - Conversion of barn to form new dwelling and erection of extension to rear (following demolition of large storage building to rear) and creation of new vehicular access (Departure from the Development Plan). Cllrs R Lewis, F Lewis and Mullender left the meeting for this item. *Cllr Boura proposed no objection to the principle of this application as it would preserve an existing building: two to one in favour. She then proposed to comment that the south elevation gable end should be preserved intact with roof lights providing natural light rather than the proposed gable end windows: this was agreed.*

Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals.

Forest Heath Decisions

- c. 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.* **APPROVED with conditions**
- d. 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.* **APPROVED with conditions**
- e. 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). *Cllrs F Lewis, R Lewis and Mullender declared prejudicial interests. Cllr Boura proposed objecting as it is outside the development line and out of scale (over-development of the site): all in favour.* **WITHDRAWN**

Planning – other

Fiveways Development – Cllr Boura said that some of her earlier concerns about the proposed changes did not apply when the plans were viewed and that the developer had contacted her via the Clerk and clarified the position to her satisfaction.

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

- a. Car park signs. The Clerk had purchased two signs. Cllr F Lewis said they need to be positioned high, above car level. Cllr Boura offered to undertake this. Cllr Flack said people didn't know where to park on the field. Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to write to the football club to encourage players and supporters to use the field, entering by the Jubilee gates. Cllr Mullender said cones must be used.
- b. Hedges across footpaths. Cllr Peachey had received complaints concerning properties on Bell Lane, Newmarket Road and Mildenhall Road at Hassall's Corner. The Clerk said he would put something in the Barton Miller about this.
- c. Potholes at Hassall's Corner. Cllr Boura asked the Clerk to contact Suffolk CC.
- d. Remembrance Day. Cllr F Lewis gave advance notice of this, proposing that the Parish Council provides refreshments as in recent years. Cllr Peachey said he would organise the wreaths.

9. **Date of next meeting:** 11th October 2013 (apologies from Cllr F Lewis)