

# 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 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 7.00 pm.

**Attendance:** Cllr Amin Harji (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr Kay Blanchard  
Cllr Pamela Boura  
Cllr Garry Flack  
Cllr Frances Lewis  
Cllr Charlie Peachey  
County Cllr James Waters  
PCSO David Cowan  
James Bercovici (Clerk)

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

Cllr F Lewis passed on apologies on behalf of David Shipley who has ongoing queries in respect of buildings he describes as dilapidated. She said he would bring paperwork to the next meeting.

**1. Police Matters**

The Clerk read the report forwarded by PCSO Cowan who subsequently attended the meeting: four crimes had occurred in the village. PCSO Cowan advised that DNA evidence had been found at one crime scene.

Cllr Boura advised that Bridge Farm residents had reported the area as a crime black spot although no crimes had been reported to the Parish Council by the police. Cllr Blanchard said she is aware of one resident only who is sometimes approached by the police. Cllr Harji asked the police to report any crimes for Bridge Farm to the Parish Council.

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

Apologies: Cllrs R Lewis and Harris  
Declarations: Cllr F Lewis (item 6e)

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 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 had asked John Squire to do this but is looking for a suitable alternative. He has arranged to meet a local handyman.*

*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 has tried to contact Matt Wilson again and other local specialist woodworkers. *No response from Woodworx and Trevor Chapman has advised that the present gates are not really worth repairing and it will cost a great deal to do it all properly but has refrained from providing a quote.*

ii. 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. He has arranged to meet a local handyman.*

iv. *The Clerk has requested a quote from the groundsman for re-seeding and general treatment of the field. Cllr Boura suggested asking him to quote for re-seeding in March.*

b. Street lighting. *Cllr Boura asked if the Clerk could investigate a wayleave to erect a street light at 59 The Street. The Clerk notes that wayleaves are unpopular devices and has obtained a quote for almost £1000 so has drafted one for consideration. He has forwarded this to Colin Brotherton. Cllr Boura suggested a £10 payment for this would be appropriate.*

- c. SALC Report. The Clerk distributed Cllr F Lewis' report which she then outlined.
- d. Litter on field - Cllr Boura said that the field was still being littered during football matches and that the 5-aside goals were not being moved regularly. The Clerk said he would raise this with the football club.
- e. Parish Forum - Cllr Boura reminded the meeting of an earlier discussion about what constitutes the 'local area'. She said there would be a team of ten officers covering Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury so there is a need to link parishes together. She thought wards would be kept in groups. She also reported that the fire service had made a presentation and had indicated a willingness to talk to parish councils about fire safety and provide articles for parish magazines.

**5. Reports from the County Councillor**

Cllr Waters discussed finance, advising that SCC needs to save £36 million but doesn't know how to achieve this. He thought that by keeping services local, this could be more readily achieved. Negotiations are underway but he thinks most of the savings will come at the cost of redundancies.

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

- a. £280.00 J Bercovici (clerk's net salary, November 2013) – chq. 1266
  - b. £70.00 HMRC (PAYE, November 2013) – chq.
  - c. £28.00 J Bercovici (clerk's expenses October 2013) - chq. 1266
- Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the standard payments: all in favour.

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

- d. £60 RBL Poppy Appeal (donation) - chq. 1265
  - e. £32.11 F Lewis (Remembrance Day refreshments) - chq. 1267
  - f. £78.55 BRW (wine for Remembrance Day) - chq. 1268
  - g. £412.50 OPGS (grass cutting/hedge trimming, September to November) - chq. 1269
- Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the special payments: all in favour except Cllr F Lewis who abstained.

Budget & Precept Committee - to meet on 6th January.

**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**

**Forest Heath Decisions**

- a. DC/13/0302/HH - 4 Mildenhall Road - Erection of single storey front extension, alterations to carport to form garage and alterations to existing flat roofed rear extension to create a lean-to roof. **APPROVE with conditions**

**Planning - other**

Land south of Worlington Road. Cllr Boura said the meeting had been well attended and thought two points were pertinent: should the development take place at all and should the Parish Council seek to influence any development? Cllr Harji asked if the proposal is outside the development line; Cllr Boura said it is but that the developer thinks it will be accepted by FHDC because of the housing shortfall. However she saw this as creating a suburb of Mildenhall, linking the town with Worlington. She said the application will be submitted so it would be better to influence the proposal which she proceeded to outline. Cllr Peachey objected to discussing the plans until they had been submitted.

Cllr F Lewis advised there would be approximately 30% social housing (out of around 80 altogether); Cllr Boura thought most of the remaining houses would be rented to USAF personnel. Local residents who attended the meeting were invited to comment: they thought that if the Parish Council makes comments at this stage, it could be seen as tacit approval. They said the road is already very busy and were concerned about the increase in traffic. They understood there is land in the village set aside for development and thought that should be used first. They pointed out that the outline plans for Bridge Farm had been for fewer than were actually built so the 80 proposed dwellings could become 100. They also saw the gap between Worlington and Mildenhall disappearing under these plans. As the site is on the parish boundary, Barton Mills would not have any say in any further development leading out of Mildenhall in that direction.

Cllr F Lewis said that, as the proposal is outside the development line, this would set a precedent. Cllr Harji suggested forwarding a comment to this effect only. Cllr Boura expressed concern about pedestrian access to the site. Cllr Waters said FHDC needs 7,000 new homes over the next few years but that there is no land supply so that developers are looking at sites which bolt on to villages. Cllr Blanchard was concerned

that the Parish Council and local residents had not had sufficient opportunity to consider the proposals. It was agreed that Cllrs Boura and Harji would draft and submit a response.

**8. 2014 Meeting Dates**

The following meeting dates were agreed:

January 10th	February 14th	March 14th	April 4th*	May 9th	June 13th
July 11th	August 8th**	September 12th	October 10th	November 14th	December 12th

\* Cllr Boura offered to take the minutes at this meeting

\*\* For consideration of planning matters only (so there will be no meeting unless there are any planning matters to consider)

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

a. Litter clearing - Cllr F Lewis has been asked if the Parish Council would buy some litter pickers which volunteers would use for clearing up the village in addition to the annual FHDC effort. She has plenty of high-viz jackets. Cllr Harji asked about the cost; Cllrs Boura and F Lewis said they already had litter pickers. Cllr Peachey proposed buying ten: all in favour.

b. 30mph signs - the Clerk has been asked to put forward a suggestion that the Parish Council buys 30mph bin stickers to encourage drivers through the village to keep to the speed limit. These are available from smartwheelie.co.uk and cost £135 for 250, £210 for 500 or £390 for 1000. Cllr Boura proposed buying 250: all in favour.

Cllr Waters advised that he had a 'Quality of Life' budget which could help towards the cost of a flashing speed sign. He said he would investigate this.

c. Footpath to Mildenhall - Cllr Flack raised this; Cllr Waters said he would look into it.

d. Trees on Grange Lane - Cllr Flack said these need severe pruning.

e. Grange Lane road sweeping - Cllr Flack said this is not taking place.

**10. Date of next meeting: 10th January 2014**