

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 10th January 2014 at 7.00 pm.

Attendance: Cllr Robert Lewis (Chairman)
Cllr Amin Harji (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Pamela Boura
Cllr Garry Flack
Cllr Tim Harris
Cllr Frances Lewis
Cllr Charlie Peachey
District Cllr Tim Huggan
PCSO David Cowan
James Bercovici (Clerk)

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

1. Police Matters

PCSO Cowan outlined three crimes in the village and one at Fiveways (report filed).

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

Apologies: Cllrs Blanchard and Mullender; County Cllr Waters

Declarations: none

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 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. Cllr Boura advised that John Squires intends to complete this when the weather improves.*

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. Cllr F Lewis asked that quotes should come to the Parish Council rather than be decided by the Chairman and Clerk. Cllr Peachey said the gate is not properly used. Cllr Boura said it would gradually worsen but that it would be years before it falls to pieces. Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to continue to obtain quotes and also ascertain the cost of new gates.

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.* Cllr Boura advised that John Squires intends to complete this when the weather improves.

iii. *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 had obtained a quote for almost £1000 so has drafted one for consideration. He had forwarded this to Colin Brotherton. Cllr Boura suggested a £10 payment for this would be appropriate.* Cllr F Lewis asked for clarification of this payment; it was explained that a small payment would be necessary to validate the contract. Cllr Boura said Colin Brotherton is happy with the wayleave and the proposed position of the light.

Cllr Boura proposes to make recommendations for street light upgrades for the forthcoming year. She said that, if the new budget is approved, there will be money for three new lights including the one outside 59 The Street. She recommended two others: outside Walnut Tree Farm and either the Street at the end of Church Meadow or Mildenhall Road near the car park entrance. She suggested that, if the position of this light is seven metres from its current position, it would light up the car park better from that end and thought, as such, that this was the better choice. Councillors agreed. Cllr R Lewis asked her to obtain quotes for the three lights. She said she would also make enquiries about the removal of the redundant light on Worlington Road.

- c. 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. The club secretary is adamant that both teams clear up after matches and invites councillors to inspect the field around 4.30pm on match days. He adds that there are no home games until 25th January so any litter in the meantime is unconnected with the football teams. He believes the problem stems from users of the 5-aside goals which have attracted many more people including a large proportion (he estimates 60%) from outside the village. He is unable to ask users of the goals to move them as he does not know who is using them. Cllr Boura said the football club has an interest in moving goals to maintain the field and has the manpower to do this.*
- d. 30mph bin stickers - At the December meeting Cllr Boura proposed buying 250 at a cost of £135: all in favour. However, the Clerk subsequently discussed this with the Finance Committee and it was agreed to increase this to 500 for £210. Cllr Harji asked which houses would receive the stickers; Cllr R Lewis said not Church Meadow etc. Cllr Boura said it should be just the through roads. Cllr Peachey thought something should be put in the Barton Miller about this. Cllr F Lewis thought the Clerk should draft a letter to explain the purpose and use of the stickers to householders. Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to bring a map of the village to the next meeting.
- Cllr Waters had 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.
- e. Playing Field requests - the Preservation Trust requests booking of the field for the weekend of June 7th and 8th 2014 for its Scarecrow Festival. Cllr F Lewis declared an interest in this item. Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the booking: all in favour.
- f. Litter pickers - Cllr F Lewis advised that she is investigating prices which look to be around £10 each.
- g. Barton Miller cover - Cllr Boura said she had been asked to raise the subject by Joy Willis who would prefer to return to a black and white cover. There was also a question mark over who is to design the cover as Neil Horne has retired from this. Cllr F Lewis said there are generally no problems with the colour cover; Cllr R Lewis said that any problems did not emanate from the Parish Council. Cllr Peachey asked how much the colour cover cost; the Clerk explained that the back cover should cost £100 but this was offset by the cost of printing so the net cost to the community is around £700 per year. Cllr Huggan suggested the church could apply to his locality budget for a colour laser printer. Cllr Harris suggested that if the colour cover is a problem for the Barton Miller team, the Parish Council could produce a flier. Cllr R Lewis wanted to see how things work with a different designer and suggested the church applies for a locality grant.

5. Reports from the District Councillor

Filed with the minutes. The Clerk was asked to check the timetable for the Local Plan update with FHDC planning.

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

- a. £280.00 J Bercovici (clerk's net salary, December 2013) – chq. 1271
b. £70.00 HMRC (PAYE, December 2013) – chq. 1272 (£210 = Oct-Dec 2013)
c. £17.12 J Bercovici (clerk's expenses December 2013) - chq. 1271

Special payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- d. £210 Smartwheelie.co.uk (payable to the Clerk) - chq. 1271

Cllr Boura proposed agreeing all payments: all in favour.

Finance - other

- e. Request for a donation to Mildenhall Scouts from Keri John of 36 Mildenhall Road. She has been selected to represent Suffolk in the World Scout Jamboree 2015 in Japan. She has to raise £3,300 within around 18 months so that she and people in a 3rd world country can attend. Cllr F Lewis proposed a donation of £100 to Mildenhall Scouts to help Keri John attend the Jamboree: all in favour. Chq. 1270

- f. Budget & Precept Committee - met on 6th January. Proposed budget circulated to councillors with the agenda. The Clerk outlined the proposals. Cllr Boura proposed adopting the budget and requesting a precept of £18,938 for 2014/15: all in favour.

7. Planning.

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

General and for consideration:

- a. DC/13/0877/FUL - Land Between 4 And 6 Wiggin Close: Change of use of existing grassed area to 2 parking spaces. Cllr Boura proposed no objections: all in favour.
- b. DC/13/0817/FUL - East Of England Ambulance Service, Fiveways: Erection of a single storey extension to provide a new workshop bay. Removal of existing showroom windows and replacement with smaller windows and erection of a new modular building for office/store. Note: plans had not been received in time for the meeting. Cllr F Lewis proposed that Cllrs Boura and R Lewis consider this application and decide an appropriate response on behalf of the Parish Council.
- c. DC/13/0927/OUT - Land South Of Worlington Road: Outline application - residential development of up to 78 dwellings with creation of new vehicular access (Major Development and Departure from the Development Plan). Note: plans had not been received in time for the meeting. Cllrs F Lewis and R Lewis declared interests. Cllr Boura suggested that if the plans were the same as those discussed in December, the comments submitted by her and Cllr Harji could be submitted to FHDC but, if they are different in any way, an extension could be asked for. Cllr R Lewis thought the plans should be considered properly at the next meeting. He thought the public should be notified of this in the Barton Miller and that the plans should be available for the public to view from 6.45pm before the start of the meeting.

Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals

Forest Heath Decisions

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

- a. Cllr Peachey reported the deaths of Olive Jennings and Charlie Workman, both of whom had been active members of the community, including works for the Parish Council. Cllr R Lewis suggested Cllrs F Lewis and Peachey provide the Clerk with more information so he could acknowledge their contributions to the community in the Barton Miller.
- b. Cllr Harris advised that he would be moving out of Barton Mills within the next month but that he is happy to continue as a councillor until a suitable replacement is found.
- c. Cllr F Lewis advised that the Fit Villages project would be running a four week taster of pilates, starting the following week.
- d. Cllr F Lewis advised the Parish Council of the new parish priest, Sandie Barton. Cllr R Lewis suggested she should be invited to the start of the next meeting to introduce herself.

10. Date of next meeting: 14th February 2014