

# Barton Mills Parish Council

## Clerk to the Council:

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Barton Mills Parish Council

Held in the Village Hall on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 7.00 pm.

**Attendance:** Cllr Robert Lewis (Chairman)  
Cllr Pamela Boura  
Cllr Amin Harji (Vice chairman)  
Cllr Frances Lewis  
Cllr Garry Flack  
Cllr Kay Blanchard

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 Charlie Peachey and Steve Mullender, Clerk James Bercovici

Declarations of interest: none

It was agreed that Cllr Pamela Boura would take the minutes.

No written resignation had yet been received from Cllr Tim Harris and Cllr Garry Flack said that he would follow this up. When this is received, Cllr Pamela Boura will start the process to fill the vacancy.

2. **Police Matters** No report

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

After one correction to 7c to change "consultation meeting" to "planning committee meeting", Cllr Pamela Boura proposed agreeing the minutes: all in favour.

4. **Matters arising and pending**

a. Affordable Housing. *Cllr R Lewis had learnt that single people and couples are only eligible for one bedroom properties and, consequently, they are ineligible for the rental-only houses being built for Church Lane although the restriction is not applicable to shared ownership properties. However, he learnt that Hastoe could apply to have the restriction lifted and suggested that the process be stalled whilst this amendment is sought. Paul Turner of Hastoe confirmed that Hastoe has requested that FHDC readvertise the rental properties and consider applications from households under-occupying by one bedroom against the standard needs assessment. Cllr R Lewis said the intention was for Hastoe to let no more than one additional bedroom per household so, for example, a couple would be eligible for a two-bedroom property (there will be two 3-bedroom homes and four 2-bedroom homes). Cllr Boura pointed out that if applicants were on benefits they would not receive enough to cover the rent.*

*Hastoe has received three new application forms for the shared ownership properties, two from residents of Barton Mills. They are closing this round of allocations on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March and hope then to be able to allocate to the strongest local connection who pass the affordability checks.*

*Cllr Boura thought it would be interesting to know the statistics of the applications - for example, how many applicants needed only one bedroom. Cllr R Lewis said the Bury Free Press wants to do a feature and that the Parish Council could be involved.*

Cllr Robert Lewis reported that there had been 132 applications for the 4 rental properties but it wasn't known at present how many of these met the local needs criteria. Hastoe will analyse the applications and supply this information.

After a rigorous selection process, the new tenants have been chosen and will move in towards the end of April. There are also suitable applications for the 2 shared ownership properties. One successful applicant has expressed their delight to Cllr Robert Lewis and thanked the PC for initiating the scheme.

It was hoped to organise publicity around the handover of the keys.

- b. Car parking. *Cllr Boura had asked to review the subject of matting on the field for the overflow car park and around the tree seat. Note: at the February meeting, the Parish Council rejected the idea of replacing the Jubilee gate; Cllr Waters had already allocated £1,000 of his locality budget to this and needs to be able to allocate it for another Parish Council project.*

*The Clerk has learnt that the contractor intends to build the soakaway in the next two weeks. Work has been delayed until now because of the weather.*

*Cllr Boura said matting is needed to prevent further deterioration of the field where overflow parking occurs. She was concerned about the entrance to the car park but the Clerk was able to advise that this is included in the soakaway job so should be done soon. Cllrs R Lewis and Boura agreed to plan the area. Cllr Boura said she thought the cost would be around £350 but would get an up-to-date price. Cllr Harji suggested getting a double strip as originally planned.*

*Cllr Peachey suggested field repairs for the locality budget. The Clerk thought this could be problematic as the grants are usually for capital projects. Cllr R Lewis suggested upgrading of the playing surface. The Clerk agreed to pursue prices for seeding and fertilising. Cllr Peachey thought more should be budgeted for the maintenance of the field.*

It was agreed to purchase 2 rolls of grass protection matting (2m x 20m) and the appropriate quantity of pegs in order to re-inforce the grass surface inside the gate and around the Jubilee seat. The cost of this will be about £750. The matting will be laid by a working party to be organised by Cllr Pamela Boura on a Saturday in May. Some topsoil and seeding is also needed to improve the field and it was agreed to ask Cllr James Waters if he will fund these improvements from his locality budget instead of the new gates which are not currently required.

Cllr Pamela Boura has purchased and applied preservative to the gates.

John Squires has completed the work on the bolts to hold open the gates and has confirmed that he will also complete the painting of the swings and the repairs to the seats. The clerk to be asked to chase up the soakaway and the repairs to the access to the field.

Old Parsonage Garden Services has commenced the filling of the trenches on the field but the soil supplied

is of poor quality and contains foreign material such as glass and metal objects as well as lumps of stone, brick etc and is therefore not suitable for use on a playing field. Cllr Robert Lewis has tried to take this up with the contractor but has been unable to contact him. He will try to obtain a copy of the specification, try to contact the contractor again and also try to find an acceptable solution before the start of the Car Boot Sale season..

- c. Street lighting. *Pearce and Kemp are progressing the quote and Cllr Boura had a site meeting with them on Tuesday 11th March. They hope to have a quote in time for the April meeting.*

The quote had not yet been received.

- d. FHDC have donated 6 litter pickers to the PC. Derek and Lindsey Judd have offered to organise regular litter picking sessions.

- e. John Wiggin memorial bench - this has been delivered to Cllr Peachey's house. The Clerk has accepted a quote of £200 from Matt Wilson to install a concrete base and provide bolts for the bench.

It was agreed to site the bench between the 2 existing benches, adjacent to the play area. Cllr Frances Lewis will liaise with Matt Wilson.

- f. Tidy Up Day on 5 April: Cllr Frances Lewis outlined the arrangements.

- g. Footpath. *Cllr Flack said the flooding problem still needs to be sorted out. Cllr Peachey said this is an ongoing problem that needs a permanent solution. Cllr R Lewis asked if this is a job for the Environment Agency. Cllr Peachey said it is. Cllr Boura suggested a boardwalk along the problem stretch. Cllr R Lewis said he would look at it with Cllr Peachey before the next meeting.*

Cllrs Robert Lewis and Charlie Peachey have not yet looked at this problem.

- h. Village Hall bins. Cllr F Lewis has been advised by FHDC that the Village Hall will have to pay for bin emptying in future. The brown bin at the Village Hall belongs to the Parish Council. The cost of each fortnightly emptying will be £2.28. so for the year will be £59.28.

Cllr Robert Lewis proposed to accept this commitment. Agreed unanimously.

5. **Reports from the District and County Councillors**

None available

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

- a. £280.00 Clerk's net salary (March 2014) – chq. 1281
- b. £70.00 HMRC (PAYE March 2014) – chq. 1282 (£210 to cover Jan – March payments)

Cllr F Lewis proposed accepting the standard payments: all in favour.

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

- c. £858.99 AO.com (Village Hall Cooker – payable to David Traher) – chq. 1283
- d. £35.90 Pamela Boura (refund of cost of preservative for Jubilee Gates) – chq. 1284

Cllr P Boura declared an interest in 6d. Cllr F Lewis proposed accepting the special payments: all in favour (Cllr Boura abstained).

**Receipts**

- e. £100 Allotments Association rent

7. **Planning.**

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

**General and for consideration:**

- a. DC/14/0414/HH - 23 The Street: Erection of detached garage and two storey annexe accommodation with Juliette balcony. Demolition of existing garage/store.

Cllr F Lewis expressed some concern about the creation of what is really an additional dwelling. However, Cllr Boura clarified that the proposal included the information that it was to be an annexe to be used in connection with the existing house only and that many other houses in Barton Mills already had annexes. She also commented that the existing garage was an unattractive building. Cllr Robert Lewis proposed, and it was agreed unanimously, that the parish council had no objections.

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

- b. DC/14/0286/HH - 3 Church Meadow - erection of single storey rear extension and first floor extension over garage. Cllr Boura proposed no objections: all in favour.
- 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 January 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.* The Parish Council has received strong objections from some local residents: Leonard Laker of Worlington Road and David Little of the Old Station.

Note: this item was brought forward to the beginning of the meeting (after item 0). Cllr Boura thought there are two independent issues: the development of the field, creating a suburb of Mildenhall, linking Barton Mills with Worlington. Second, the plans themselves. Cllr Peachey said he opposes the proposal as it is outside the development line (Cllr F Lewis said the Parish Council had agreed this policy several years before).Cllr Peachey said, also, that this is good agricultural land which is needed. Cllr Harji thought that if other proposals had been rejected because they are outside the development line then this should be rejected as well; on the other hand, he could see the need for more houses. One local resident commented that she had applied for permission to develop on her land and had been told 'no' categorically. Cllr R Lewis outlined FHDC's need to build outside the development line if there is a strategically good reason. Cllr Waters said FHDC has no 5 year land supply and will find itself 700-800 houses short. The Clerk outlined Mr Laker's letter objecting to the application. Mrs Laker expressed particular concern about the pedestrian access. She said she had witnessed three accidents on Station Road in the last three years.

Cllr Boura proposed that the Parish Council objects to the application on the grounds that it would create a suburb of Mildenhall within Barton Mills, it would link Barton Mills to Worlington, there would be considerable issues with both traffic and pedestrian access and it is outside the development line: all in favour.

Cllr R Lewis encouraged members of the public to write in to FHDC with their objections. Cllr Boura offered to attend the consultation meeting to reinforce objections.

**Forest Heath Decisions**

- d. 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. **APPROVED with conditions**
- e. DC/14/0146/FUL - 36 Mildenhall Road: Erection of a one-and-a-half storey dwelling and alterations to vehicular access. Cllr Boura thought this overdevelopment of the site. Cllr F Lewis agreed. Cllr R Lewis decided to declare an interest; Cllr F Lewis followed suit. Cllr Boura proposed objecting on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site and because the layout is not in keeping with the rest of Mildenhall Road: three in favour, two against. **REFUSED**

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

- a. Cllr Pamela Boura drew the council's attention to part of the new Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership Plan which refers to improvements to the A11 at Fiveways as the top priority regional road improvement for the period post 2021. This plan has been submitted to the government.
- b. Cllr Amin Harji reported potholes in Newmarket Road at the Chalk Hill junction with the A11. Cllr Pamela Boura will report these to Cllr James Waters for attention.
- c. Cllr F Lewis asked if anyone knew if the Pilates sessions which had commenced in January under the "Fit Villages" scheme were continuing. Cllr Pamela Boura said that she would check with Sue Norton when she returned the key. (She later confirmed that these had run for the preliminary 4 weeks only.)
- d. Cllr Garry Flack suggested scattering poppy seeds in the wild area at the far end of the playing field to commemorate the fallen of WWI. This was agreed unanimously and Cllr Flack will put this in hand.
- e. Cllr Pamela Boura will prepare the Parish Council page for the May Barton Miller including reports of items discussed at the meeting.

**9. Date of next meeting: 9<sup>th</sup> May 2014.**

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will commence at 7 pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting will follow at 8 pm and the theme will be housing in the village. We will have updates on the Hastoe and Flagship developments and there may be news from Worlington Road. Cllr R Lewis will organise this and prepare a back page for the Barton Miller to advertise the meeting.