

Barton Mills Parish Council

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Minutes of the Meeting of Barton Mills Parish Council

Held in the Village Hall on Friday 13th June 2014 at 7.00 pm.

Attendance: Cllr Amin Harji (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Kay Blanchard
Cllr Pamela Boura
Cllr Garry Flack
Cllr Frances Lewis
Cllr Steve Mullender
Cllr Charlie Peachey
District Cllr Tim Huggan
PCSO Bill Butcher
James Bercovici (Clerk)

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

Dennis Crone attended the meeting with his daughter. He was extremely unhappy with Cllr R Lewis' report on the footpaths which he insisted is factually incorrect and had not been given appropriate thought. He said it was very upsetting for his wife who had been approached by people who accused the family of causing the flooding. He insisted the Environment Agency believes the banks to be leaking and they have cut down some trees this week which saw the level drop four inches, causing the flooding to stop. He said the Environment Agency thinks it no problem to lower the level and suggests this should be tried before spending money on raising the footpath (although he did not rule this out as an additional measure).

Cllr Harji said a working group had been formed to look at the problem; Cllr Mullender said a provisional meeting date had been arranged and admitted the report is incomplete. Mr Crone's daughter said her mother wants a formal apology from the Parish Council to be published in the Barton Miller.

Cllr Peachey entered into a discussion with Mr Crone about how the water flows under the river. Cllr Harji observed that no-one on the Parish Council is an expert in this area; Mr Crone agreed, saying that the Environment Agency has experts in this field.

Mr Crone's daughter said that the only organisation that should produce a report is the Environment Agency and that Cllr R Lewis' report should not have been published until looked into properly. Cllr Blanchard offered apologies that the matter became personal for the Crone family. Cllr Harji agreed with this.

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

Apologies: Cllr R Lewis
Declarations of interest: Cllr F Lewis (7d)

2. **Police Matters**

Report received for the year to March 2014. PCSO Butcher outlined the statistics: village crimes down 43 to 37 (14%) and A11 crimes down 25 to 18 (28%). PCSO Cowan is leaving Mildenhall to join the Ministry of Defence Police and will be replaced by PCSO Tristan Askew.

3. **Co-option**

Two candidates have come forward to be considered for co-option. Cllr Harji introduced Claire Tilbrook and Keith Fuller.

Claire Tilbrook said she had lived in the village for two years having moved from London where she had undertaken voluntary work; now she wants to take on something new. She is an experienced solicitor. Cllr F Lewis observed that the Tilbrook family has been in the village for a long time.

Keith Fuller said he had lived in the village since 2008 and works in Cambridge as a buildings surveyor. He is keen to maintain the fabric of the village. Cllr F Lewis said he had been involved in the recent scarecrow festival.

The candidates were invited to withdraw from the meeting so that discussion could take place. Merits of both candidates were acknowledged before Cllr Peachey proposed the co-option of Keith Fuller: six in favour.

4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2014**

Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the minutes: all in favour.

5. **Matters arising and pending**

a. Field and 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.*

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 Boura suggested deferring this to June as there would be another car boot sale and the Scarecrow Festival in early June.

Cllr Boura said that two 20x2 metre rolls of matting from Sure Green in Braintree, including 100 pins, together with an additional three packs of pins would cost £661.75 plus VAT, including delivery. She proposed ordering this to be delivered to the field: all in favour.

John Squires has confirmed that he will complete the painting of the swings and the repairs to the seats.

The Clerk was asked to chase up the soakaway and the repairs to the access to the field. He has tried calling and email the contractor but without response. He said he would email County Cllr Waters about this. Cllr Harji said he would ask Matt Wilson if he is able to install the memorial bench soon.

b. Street lighting. *Pearce and Kemp are progressing the quote and Cllr Boura had a site meeting with them on Tuesday 11th March. She reported that she is still waiting for the price of the lantern but Pearce & Kemp has the price for the connection by UK Power. No progress.*

c. 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. He produced a report which was emailed to councillors in advance of the meeting. Cllr Mullender outlined Cllr R Lewis' findings, summarising them to be a blocked pipe under the garden of Riverside House. Cllr Peachey agreed to join a working party on this. Cllr Waters said he had forwarded Cllr R Lewis' report to Guy Smith and Mildenhall Parish Council. He acknowledged that, with the decreased bus service, the footpath was used more than before. He said he had a quality of life budget which could be used to help. Cllr Mullender said he thought the focus should be on the pipe first and to look at other solutions after that. Cllr Harji asked Cllr Mullender to organise a working party with Cllr R Lewis and others.*

The Clerk received a complaint about this report from Mr Crone which he forwarded to all councillors (see 0). Cllr Boura asked how councillors wanted to respond to the complaint. Cllr F Lewis said that Cllr R Lewis should apologise for the tone of his report. Cllr Harji said he would discuss this with Cllr R Lewis.

d. Standing Orders. Cllr Boura had suggested it would be appropriate to review these at the June meeting. The Clerk has forwarded the current standing orders together with new model standing orders to all

councillors. Cllr Harji said there is no need to read through the documents; Cllr Mullender asked if this is urgent. Cllr Boura suggested she prepares a draft. The Clerk said he would email the documents to Cllr Fuller.

6. Reports from the District Councillor

Cllr Huggan's report is filed with the minutes. He added that he has a new locality budget of £2500 available and would welcome applications except from parish councils. Capital projects are preferred but there may be a way around this in some cases. Cllr Mullender suggested organisations should be informed of this.

Cllr Boura enquired about the position with the proposed development on Church Lane Close as she believed the consent has expired. Cllr Huggan said he thought Flagship had not been successful in raising all the money needed for this; he said he would make enquiries.

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

- a. £294.00 Clerk's net salary (May 2014) – chq. 1291
 - b. £73.50 HMRC (PAYE May 2014) – chq.
 - c. £25.96 Clerk's expenses (May 2014) - chq. 1291
- Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the standard payments: all in favour.

Special Payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- d. £12.00 F Lewis (barrier tape) - chq. 1292
- e. £375.00 OPGS (grass cutting: April/May) - chq. 1293

Cllr Boura enquired about the need for barrier tape; Cllr F Lewis explained this concerned car boot sale arrangements. Cllr Mullender proposed agreeing the special payments: all in favour (except Cllr F Lewis who abstained).

Receipts

- f. £50 St Mary's Church (donation re. car boot sale)

9. Planning.

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

General and for consideration:

Forest Heath decisions. Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals

- a. AP/14/0014/REF APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL Ref. DC/14/0146/FUL - 36 Mildenhall Road: Erection of a one-and-a-half storey dwelling and alterations to vehicular access. Previously, 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. Cllr Boura proposed no changes: all in favour (Cllrs Mullender and F Lewis abstained).
- b. 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 Development and Control meeting to reinforce objections but said she would be unable to attend if it is on 2nd July.

Forest Heath Decisions

- c. 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. REFUSED.*

Planning - other

- d. Rural Parishes Alliance - Cllr Boura had prepared a report which was distributed to councillors with their agendas.

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

- a. Car park - Cllr F Lewis observed that some cars were using the Parish Council-owned car park as a permanent car park and asked if this is acceptable. Cllr Harji suggested asking the new PCSO who is doing this. Cllr Boura recommended drawing their attention to the fact that the car park is privately owned.
- b. Hedge overgrown on Church Lane between Manor View and Burrell Crescent, the responsibility of Suffolk CC.
- c. Hastoe - the Clerk was asked to chase Hastoe for the statistics relating to the applications for occupancy. Cllr Peachey asked if all the homes were now occupied; Cllr Harji said he thought mortgage applications were still holding things up with the shared ownership properties.

11. **Date of next meeting:** 11th July 2014. Cllr Boura asked if the August meeting could be put back to 15th August if it is to be for planning matters only as she is unable to attend on 8th August. The Clerk said he would be unable to attend on 15th but thought it made sense for Cllr Boura to be available for a meeting concerning planning matters only. Cllr Harji agreed the meeting date should be changed to 15th August.