

# Barton Mills Parish Council

## Clerk to the Council:

James Bercovici  
Barton Coach House  
The Street  
Barton Mills  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
IP28 6AA

Clerk: James Bercovici  
Home (01638) 510803

Chairman: Mrs M. Davis  
Home (01638) 515526

---

## Minutes of the Meeting of Barton Mills Parish Council

Held in the Village Hall on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at 7.00 pm.

**Attendance:** Cllr Robert Lewis (Chairman)  
Cllr Amin Harji (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr Kay Blanchard  
Cllr Pamela Boura  
Cllr Garry Flack  
Cllr Keith Fuller  
Cllr Frances Lewis  
Cllr Steve Mullender  
District Cllr Tim Huggan  
County Cllr James Waters  
James Bercovici (Clerk)

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

Bob John raised the subject of the footpath, insisting that the County Council needs to sort it out. Cllr R Lewis said that the Parish Council had spent a considerable amount of time on this in recent weeks although, on paper, it has nothing to do with the Parish Council (it neither owns nor has responsibility for the footpath) but, clearly, it is desirable to have it fully usable. Bob John thought there should be funding for this.

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

Apologies: Cllr Charlie Peachey  
Declarations of interest: none.

2. **Police Matters**

No report received.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the minutes: all in favour.

4. **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.*

*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. 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.*

The matting was laid by Cllrs Flack and Boura with help from Malcolm Boura. It was found there were insufficient pins to complete the task: three more bags are needed to complete the job at an additional cost of £94.50. It is suggested that the exit from the field should be done as well; this would require one

roll of matting and 5 packs of pegs at a total cost of £354. A cheaper grade of matting could be used around the jubilee seat and for the entrance to the field behind the football club building (where slabs were previously suggested). A roll with 2 packs of pegs would cost £122.95. The total additional cost to complete all the work suggested above is £605.20 + VAT including delivery. This brings the total cost of the work to £1266.95 ex VAT; Cllr Waters has offered £1,000 towards this leaving £266.95 un-budgeted.

Cllr Boura observed that income this year from the car boot sales covers this shortfall but Cllr Mullender suggested waiting to see how the matting works with mowing. However, Cllr F Lewis agreed it is desirable to complete the job now so Cllr Boura proposed buying the two rolls with all necessary pegs as above: all in favour except Cllr Mullender (against).

*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. Matt Wilson advised the Clerk that the concrete base would be laid over the weekend of 6/7 July and the bench could be installed later, once it has set. The Clerk was asked to remind Matt Wilson to complete this.*

Cllr Waters advised that the contractor for the soakaway has said the job will be done but has not called him back. Cllr R Lewis said that Mark Hayward has revised his original quote to £950 To include a 300mm diameter x 600mm deep gully with a removable sump bowl and road grade removable grate set in to concrete. A 110mm pipe will then connect this to a 1.2 cubic meter soak away located on the village green just the other side of the hedge. He can do the job in the next few weeks. He has also quote £754 for the area by the gate. Cllr R Lewis suggested leaving the gate to the next meeting but pursuing the car park quote now. Cllr Boura proposed accepting this quote: all in favour. Cllr Fuller asked if there would be any discount for doing both jobs together; Cllr R Lewis thought it unlikely given that Mark Hayward lives in the village and has all his equipment to hand in any case.

- 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. Cllr Boura has received all the quotes relating to this now: for one parish light opposite 14 Mildenhall Road and two Heritage lanterns, one each outside 58 The Street and Walnut Tree Farm, the cost of the lights is £3,645.16 x VAT and £3,229 ex VAT for the power supply connection; the total for the installation of these lights and the removal of a redundant light from Worlington Road is £7116.18 + VAT.*

Cllr Mullender asked if these lights are LEDs; Cllr Boura said they are not. Cllr Waters said Lakenheath is putting in LEDs; the Clerk was asked to contact their clerk. Cllr Mullender wondered what the savings would be for LEDs. Cllr Mullender proposed proceeding with the quotes: all in favour.

- 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.*

Cllr R Lewis met with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and others on Tuesday 8th July.

Cllr R Lewis said he had cleared things a little with Mr Crone and made it clear that no-one is accusing him of responsibility for the problem.

He outlined the latest findings in his report (filed with the minutes) concluding that the footpath needs to be raised by six inches over around 100 yards at a cost of between £4,000 and £5,000. Cllr Waters said he could arrange for Guy Smith to prioritise this from his quality of life budget.

Bob John said he had talked to the FHDC officer in charge of footpaths and suggested a concrete

topping but was told this was not possible for environmental reasons. He said the leaks were caused by crayfish so that the banks will eventually break causing problems which will cost millions rather than thousands to rectify. Cllr R Lewis agreed but said the Environment Agency had indicated an unwillingness to spend any more now. Cllr R Lewis admitted the proposed solution addresses the symptoms only but said it can be achieved in a few weeks. He said that flood defences are not a Parish Council matter but that sorting out the footpath is.

He suggested that the Clerk liaise with Cllr Waters on this. He has discussed this with Mark Hayward, a local builder, who has quoted £3-£4,000 for the job and can do it soon. Cllr Boura thought alternative surfaces should be considered. Cllr R Lewis agreed this for a longer term strategy but thought the footpath needs to be up-and-running again soon. He proposed obtaining a formal quote from Mark Hayward to raise the footpath by six inches over a 100 yard stretch then apply to SCC for funding: all in favour. Cllr Boura reminded the council that three quotes would be required.

Cllr R Lewis said the longer-term issues need to be addressed too and suggested that he and the Clerk write a letter to the Environment Agency, countersigned by other organisations, to press for the work to be done. He recommended suggesting that Mr Sheldrick works on his drains and ditches and persuading Mr Crone to work on his pipe which is half full of silt. He said the mesh in front of the pipe catches leaves, twigs etc causing a block and raising the water level. Les Wilson suggested alternative pipework which Cllr R Lewis agreed might work.

Bob John asked if the paperwork from the time the watermeadow was established would show areas of responsibility. Cllr R Lewis pointed out that was over 20 years ago and it would be difficult to go back that far. He said it was important to achieve a solution, not start an argument.

- 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.*

Cllr R Lewis suggested that he, Cllr Boura and the Clerk could liaise to put together a draft for the September meeting.

- e. 30mph bin stickers. Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to purchase more bin stickers for the new houses on Church Lane and to make up the shortfall from the previous batch. 100 more stickers have been purchased. These were handed to Cllr R Lewis for distribution.
- f. Flagship development. The Clerk outlined his recent communications with Lee Webster and said he would chase for the clarification he had requested, copying in Cllrs Huggan and Waters.
- g. Hastoe statistics. The Clerk said he would chase the statistics relating to the applications for the affordable homes as these will provide useful evidence to support applications for future similar developments.

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

- a. Cllr Huggan presented his report (filed with the minutes). Cllr R Lewis asked if either he or Cllr Waters knew why the consultation for the site allocation document had been suddenly delayed. Cllr Huggan thought Newmarket may be challenging it.
- b. Cllr Waters said the A11 potholes were sorted and said he agreed that the footpath should be topped with granite. He agreed with Cllr Huggan's analysis of county matters. Cllr Flack said the pothole on Grange Lane had reappeared.

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

- a. £294.00 Clerk's net salary (June 2014) – chq. 1295
- b. £73.50 HMRC (PAYE June 2014) – chq. 1296 (£213.50 April-June)
- c. £25.66 Clerk's expenses (June 2014) - chq. 1295
- Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the standard payments: all in favour.

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

- d. £794.10 Sure Green (matting for field, payable to the Clerk) - chq. 1294
- e. £2.50 P Boura (grass seed, payable to the Clerk) - chq. 1295
- f. £59.95 Smartwheelie.co.uk (30mph stickers, payable to the Clerk) - chq. 1295
- g. £276.00 BDO (external audit) - chq. 1297
- h. £36.00 Ayentee (internal audit) - chq. 1298

Cllr Boura declared an interest in 6e. Cllr R Lewis proposed agreeing the special payments: all in favour (Cllr Boura abstained).

#### Receipts

- i. £100 Barton Mills Allotments Association (donation re. car boot sale)

#### Other

- j. Conclusion of audit without issue.

### 7. Planning.

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

#### General and for consideration:

- a. DC/14/1088/HH - Puffin Lodge Station Road: Erection of single storey rear extension. *Cllr Boura proposed no objection: all in favour.*
- b. F/2014/Variation of Condition 2, 9 and 10 of Planning Permission F/2011/0278 - Barton Mills Chalk Quarry, Chalk Hill. *Cllr Boura proposed no objection: all in favour.*

#### 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. Cllr Boura said this item was not on the agenda for the meeting on 2nd July and may be on 6th August instead but that Cllr Huggan would not be at that meeting. She thinks planning officers will recommend approval.

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

9. **Date of next meeting:** 15<sup>th</sup> August 2014 (planning only).