

# 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

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Barton Mills Parish Council

Held in the Village Hall on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7.00 pm.

**Attendance:** Cllr Robert Lewis (Chairman)  
Cllr Amin Harji (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr Frances Lewis  
Cllr Charlie Peachey  
PCSO Tristan Askew  
James Bercovici (Clerk)

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

Brian Keane intends to bring plans for the old builders yard on Worlington Road. He is proposing a mixed development incorporating nine residential including affordable and small office units in around 1.1 acres.

Cllr R Lewis said he thought this should be part of the meeting and included as an additional agenda item. He said he would declare an interest and Cllr F Lewis did the same, leaving just two councillors to ask questions.

Brian Keane's architect, Craig Farrow said this was a pre-application consultation with the Parish Council. The site is currently in operation as a builders yard and cycle repair shop. It was intended to retain the commercial aspect with the offices and there would be ample parking, he said. Above the offices would be a two-bedroom flat and the site would also include two two-bedroom affordable houses and a three-bedroom house. There would also be four- and five-bedroom properties exploiting the view over the Lark. He said there was general support from Julie Sheldrick at FHDC. The road view would not be the rear aspect of any of the properties.

Cllr Harji said that the office/flat building would be three-storey whereas other buildings along that stretch were mostly bungalows. He also had concerns about parking provisions and that it falls outside the development line. He was surprised that FHDC could be in favour of this proposal, especially as, with the proposed development on the other side of Worlington Road, Barton Mills was providing a very large number of new properties for the district. He said he was concerned that local residents had been vocal in their opposition to new developments. Craig Farrow countered that it is a brown field site and that FHDC has no five year plan so was welcoming proposals such as this. Brian Keane pointed out it also incorporates office space and suggested that a black clad barn is in keeping with traditional buildings in Barton Mills. Craig Farrow said the plan for the office/flat was 8 metres to the ridge.

Brian Keane said there would be a range of properties and that an application to build a factory would be granted even though it would be inappropriate. Craig Farrow agreed, saying the site is better suited to residential properties.

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

Apologies: Cllr Kay Blanchard, Cllr Pamela Boura, Cllr Garry Flack, Cllr Steve Mullender, County Cllr James Waters

Declarations of interest: Cllr R Lewis (item 0), Cllr F Lewis (item 0)

2. **Police Matters**

PCSO Tristan Askew reported two thefts (other), one of a trailer and one of garden ornaments. Also, five incidents of making off without payment from the petrol stations and two domestic incidents. Nothing reported for Bridge Farm Close. He also gave advice for Hallowe'en.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2014**

Cllr Boura had requested an amendment which was agreed. Cllr F Lewis proposed agreeing the minutes: all in favour.

4. **Matters arising and pending**

a. Field and car parking. Previously, Cllr R Lewis had said only the entrance to the field remained outstanding. He reminded councillors that a low quote had been followed by two higher quotes from Mark Hayward. Cllr Flack thought it would be better to obtain the necessary three quotes and proceed; Cllr R Lewis asked if councillors would delegate this to himself, Cllr Boura and the Clerk. Cllr F Lewis proposed this course of action adding that, once quotes had been received and considered, instructions should be given to proceed with the work: all in favour.

Cllr R Lewis said that three quotes had been received with Mark Hayward's quote of £1,153 the lowest. The Clerk had suggested he could approach the 100 Club for a contribution. It was suggested that he could also approach the Burrell Trust and Cllr James Waters. Cllr R Lewis proposed that, if the Clerk could obtain a grant of at least £500, reserves could be used for this work to be undertaken immediately and added back through next year's precept: all in favour (except Cllr Peachey who abstained on the grounds that he is a member of the 100 Club).

Cllr Boura said there were other issues with the field such as dead branches in the trees at the far end of the field along Grange Lane. The Clerk said he would obtain quotes. Cllr Boura said more topsoil is needed for the field; Cllr Flack said that Colin Bailey may have some available. Cllr R Lewis said he would ask Mark Hayward who has a motorised wheelbarrow. Cllr Boura and her husband had collected topsoil and filled in the remaining areas. Cllr R Lewis suggested it would be appropriate to write a letter of thanks to them in respect of this and other work they had undertaken on the village green.

Cllr Boura said Rita Wilson has complained about litter after football training. Cllr Boura agreed that she had picked up blue tape after training sessions. John Winward advises that Barton Mills FC has no control over who turns up and leaves litter. He says that Barton Mills train on a Tuesday and the pitch is cleared both then and on Saturday match days. Barton Mills players do not go up there at any other time. He says the 5-a-side goals are attracting more people from outside the village and BMFC has no control over who uses them or the mess they leave behind. He says the goals have caused more problems than benefits for BMFC in terms of litter. He says BMFC never use the 5-a-side goals.

Cllr R Lewis enquired about the cost of installing a litter bin and having it emptied regularly. The cost of purchasing a bin depends on the bin but would probably be around £185 excluding VAT. Installation would be additional to this. The weekly cost of emptying would total £145.60 excluding VAT per year. This would need to be added to the budget. Cllr R Lewis suggested, as this does not seem to be a big problem, it could be re-visited at a later date if necessary.

b. Footpath. Glyn French of Suffolk CC has advised that a boardwalk is considered to be the only real practical long term solution but it is relatively expensive and therefore dependent on funding. He has secured some funding from Quality of Life budgets, enough to complete the boardwalk (but not enough for all the desired works such as clearing vegetation and relaying the surface). He hopes the work will be able to take place in early October.

Cllr R Lewis said this work had been delayed to the half-term week. Cllr Peachey asked what type of boardwalk would be installed and asserted that the money would be better spent on solving the drainage problem and improving the footpath. Cllr R Lewis agreed and said there were ongoing emails with Suffolk Wildlife Trust but that the priority for the Parish Council was to work towards the path being usable again. He said this work would achieve that.

c. Standing Orders. Cllr R Lewis has been unable to progress this and suggested it should be deferred to November or later as he hoped that an officer from FHDC would attend to explain the proposals for the changes to the development line.

d. Car boot sales 2015 - the meeting will take place on 13th October. Organisations have been informed.

e. Parish Forum - the next meeting is on Wednesday 22nd October at 7pm (venue to be confirmed) which Cllr Boura advised she will not be able to attend and thought Cllr R Lewis would also be away then. The subject is planning policy so Cllr Boura asks if anybody else is able to attend. No-one was able to attend the meeting but Cllr R Lewis said it would be better to have the FHDC officer attend the Parish Council meeting in any case.

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

Not present.

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

- a. £294.00 Clerk's net salary (September 2014) – chq. 1309
  - b. £73.50 HMRC (PAYE September 2014) – chq. 1310 (£220.50 = July-September)
  - c. £23.02 Clerk's expenses (September 2014) - chq. 1309
- Cllr Harji proposed agreeing the standard payments: all in favour.

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

- d. £6.51 Pamela Boura (grass seed and rat poison) - chq. 1311
  - e. £10 Colin Brotherton (consideration for the wayleave) - chq. 1312
  - f. £4,165.42 Pearce & Kemp (power connections) - chq. 1313
  - g. £640.18 Community Action Suffolk Insurance - chq. 1314
  - h. £412.50 OPGS (grass cutting August and September) - chq. 1315
- Cllr R Lewis proposed agreeing the special payments: all in favour/

**Receipts**

- i. £1000 Suffolk CC (locality grant re. soakaway)

**Planning.**

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

**General and for consideration:**

**Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals**

- a. F/2014/Variation of Condition 2, 9 and 10 of Planning Permission F/2011/0278 - Barton Mills Chalk Quarry, Chalk Hill.
- 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). *Cllrs F Lewis and R Lewis declared interests. 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.*

**Forest Heath Decisions**

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

- a. Remembrance Sunday. Cllr F Lewis said the service would take place as usual at 10.45am, this year on 9th November. She asked if Cllr Peachey would obtain the wreaths for the usual donation.; he confirmed he would. She asked if the Parish Council wanted a reception as in the past few years; Cllr R Lewis agreed this. She asked if the Clerk would provide the wine and she would arrange other refreshments. The Clerk and Cllr Harji agreed to help set up the hall. Cllr R Lewis said he would advertise the reception on the back of the Barton Miller but it was agreed it should not be advertised as a Parish Council event.

- 8. **Date of next meeting:** 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Cllr Blanchard had previously tendered her apologies for the November meeting.