**Barton Mills Parish Council**

**Clerk to the Council:**

James Bercovici Clerk: James Bercovici

Barton Coach House Home (01638) 510803

The Street

Barton Mills

Bury St Edmunds Chairman: Mr R Lewis

Suffolk Home (01638) 713325

IP28 6AA

 **Minutes of the Meeting of Barton Mills Parish Council**

Held in the Village Hall on Friday 16th January 2015 at 7.00 pm.

**Attendance:** Cllr Robert Lewis (Chairman)
Cllr Kay Blanchard
Cllr Pamela Boura
Cllr Garry Flack
Cllr Keith Fuller

 Cllr Frances Lewis
Cllr Steve Mullender
Cllr Charlie Peachey
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).**

Craig Farrow attended along with a resident of Church Meadow to discuss the planning application at 7a. He outlined the proposal for properties of teo to five bedrooms and an office for five people. He said the concerns about parking had been taken on board and the ridge height had been dropped by half a metre in response to concerns. Cllr Boura asked if the Highways concerns about parking had been taken into consideration; she was told they had been. Cllr Mullended enquired about the size of the plot; Craig Farrow told him it was about 1.2 acres and that each property would have a decent amount of garden and parking space.

1. **Courtesies. Apologies** **and Signing of the Register. Declarations of Interest.**Apologies: Cllr Amin Harji, PCSO Tristan Askew

Declarations of interest: Cllr F Lewis, Cllr R Lewis, Cllr Mullender (7a)

1. **Police Matters**
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2014**Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the minutes: all in favour.
3. **Matters arising and pending**

a. Planning discussion with Marie Smith of FHDC. Specifically, long term planning strategy for the Village: the LDF, SHLAA, village boundaries, when the Parish Council can consider the development of the village, commenting on planning applications. Marie Smith has confirmed her attendance at the February meeting. Cllr Boura said the maps provided did not include Worlington Road and asked the Clerk to enquire about this.

b. Field and car parking. Mark Hayward has been instructed to undertake the work at the entrance to the car park. Cllr Waters agreed to finance this from his locality budget; the cheque has been received. Cllr Boura asked when the work would be done; the Clerk advised that he had instructed Mark Hayward and understood it would be undertaken imminently. Cllr R Lewis said he would chase this with Mark Hayward. Cllr Flack said a time limit should be put on this; Cllr R Lewis said he had been instructed three months ago and suggested giving him until the end of February. Cllr Peachey noted that the job is over-funded as grants had been received from both Cllr Waters' locality fund and the 100 Club. Cllr R Lewis suggested giving the 100 Club an option to have money returned unless they would be happy for the money to be used elsewhere.

Cllr Boura had enquired about climbing equipment for Under 7s. Funding has been provisionally agreed (subject to actual cost) and the Clerk has arranged to meet with representatives of relevant providers.

c. Footpath boardwalk. The Clerk had contacted Claire Dickson of Suffolk CC, requesting the gap be filled. He received an email from her confirming that the contractor has been issued with an order to extend the boardwalk the additional 30 metres to join the two sections, to be carried out as soon as possible. Weather permitting, the works will be carried out over the Christmas period.

It is agreed that there is a need for the remaining section from the edge of the southern boardwalk to Barton Mills requires some surfacing works when money is available. The proposal is to resurface the route with hoggin and raise the finished surface level by 3 to 4 inches.

Cllr Peachey asked what will be done about the actual problem. Cllr R Lewis said that Claire Dickinson had spoken with Suffolk Wildlife Trust about the drainage and with the Environment Agency about the leaks. The solutions would be tricky, he said, and the problem ongoing so it would be better to find an immediate solution whilst still seeking a long-term solution.

Cllr F Lewis said the gap had been filled and was well received by members of the community. Cllr R Lewis said the water levels were still very high so the section from Hassall's Corner to the boardwalk was a little muddy but that Suffolk CC had said the height of this section would be raised. The Clerk was asked to find out when this would be done.

d. Standing Orders. Cllr R Lewis outlined the need to review these. He said the Clerk had expressed concern that some standing orders would never be followed by the Parish Council or were irrelevant to Barton Mills. He wondered whether the full council should consider the standing orders over a period of time. Cllr Fuller said they would need to see them in advance of any such consideration; Cllr Mullender agreed. The Clerk forwarded these to all councillors.

Cllr R Lewis said this should be postponed again and thanked the Clerk and Cllr Boura for their work on this to date. The Clerk offered to bring hard copies to the February meeting. Cllr R Lewis wondered if the council is permitted to change standing orders so close to an election; the Clerk said he would check this. Cllr Boura suggested a draft could be prepared for approval at the Annual Meeting in May in any case.

e. Church Lane Close: Cllr Waters said previously that he would look into the lack of progress of the development of the garages site. Lee Webster informed the Clerk that work would begin in January. Cllr Peachey confirmed that he had been told it would commence on 19th January.

f. Fiveways Farm - LSR Solicitors & Planning Consultants is instructed by FHDC on its planning enforcement matters, including the illegal settlement at Fiveways Farm. They advise that Mr Dale, the person in breach of planning control, is currently in prison. They have therefore had a hiatus in their correspondence with him recently. The Forestry Commission and the Highways Agency (both whose land Mr Dale is trespassing on) are commencing legal proceedings against Mr Dale for trespass. After much deliberation, it was decided that the Forestry Commission would commence legal proceedings instead of the Council issuing an enforcement notice, as it will be quicker to reach a conclusion in the long run. An enforcement notice can be (and definitely would be in this case) appealed, which could prolong the process of land recovery by up to a couple of years. So the Forestry Commission (and Highways Agency) has instructed solicitors to deal with its case for trespass, which is now underway. FHDC enforcement action is on hold for the time being, pending the outcome of the legal action above. A horse charity and the RSPCA are also investigating whether any criminal offences have been committed in respect of the welfare of the horses that are currently on the land.

 Cllr F Lewis said several people had expressed concerns, in particular for the welfare of the horses, sanitation and pollution of the waterways. Cllr Huggan said the Forestry Commission approach would be quicker and added that the cost of enforcement would not come out of local funds in that case. He said he would look into the progress of this to try to ascertain if there is a timescale for eviction.

g. Church Meadow trees - Cllr Waters' PA has advised that Suffolk CC Highways department visited the site yesterday and have confirmed that a work request has been raised for the removal of the lower twigs/branches.

h. Footpath to Bury St Edmunds - Cllr R Lewis outlined a suggestion of a coordinated path connecting Barton Mills to Bury St Edmunds (and, in effect, West Row to Bury). He suggested a dialogue should be started with other parishes along the route. Cllr Huggan thought this a fantastic idea which would require linking different organisations. He thought it would be a medium to long-term project and it would be necessary to bring in private organisations for funding. Cllr Mullender said many existing paths would simply need upgrading and connecting but the route would be fantastic and very scenic. Cllr Huggan pointed out that future maintenance would have to be considered, hence the need to include outside organisations. He added that the Forestry Commission which owns some of the land concerned does not always see the commercial potential but he thought it would be good for local businesses as Barton Mills would be an ideal overnight stop between Cambridge and Bury. Cllr Boura thought the first stage for development could be from Barton Mills to Lackford Lakes. Cllr R Lewis suggested including this on the February agenda and wondered which FHDC department would be able to offer advice on this. Cllr Waters thought Community and Leisure and suggested emailing him and Cllr Huggan in the first instance. He said a caravan park was being considered for West Stow and other commercial projects were being discussed at St Edmundsbury

i. Football coaching in the summer holidays for school children. Cllr R Lewis reminded councillors od the scheme from 2013. Cllr Waters was unsure whether funding would be available again but Cllr Huggan said there are other groups which may be able to help; the Clerk observed that the Football Club would be able to apply for Cllr Huggan's locality budget for funding. Cllr R Lewis suggested the Parish Council may be able to contribute. Cllr Waters wondered about s106 funds; Cllr Huggan said he would investigate this.

j. Public transport. Cllr Peachey expressed concern about the lack of transport for residents wanting to travel to Mildenhall and beyond. He suggested that one of the buses travelling along Kingsway could be diverted through Barton Mills. Cllr Boura asked if anyone had tried Suffolk Link. Cllr Waters said the county council had stopped some routed but than had an increase in funding so had increased routes through Freckenham, for example. He would ask if the bus could be diverted as suggested. Cllr Boura said the operator makes its decision based on commercial grounds unless the county contributes funds.

1. **Reports from the District Councillor**Cllr Huggan’s report is filed with the minutes. He discussed the closure of Mildenhall base. Cllr Fuller said there is a big problem with residual pollution which needs to be cleaned up before any businesses would be interested in the land.

Cllr Waters said the tree works and footpath had been completed and that road works were being done. In respect of the base, he said no-one knew what is going to happen with the land yet and that time-tables were required in respect of the departure of USAF as it is necessary to start making plans now if they are leaving in five years.

Cllrs Mullender, Huggan and Waters left the meeting.

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

a. £294.00 Clerk’s net salary (December 2014) – chq. 1322

b. £73.50 HMRC (PAYE December 2014) – chq. 1323 (£220.50 for September to December)

c. £19.28 Clerk's expenses (December 2014) - chq. 1322

Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the standard payments: all in favour.

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

d. £262.50 OPGS (grass and hedge cutting, October/Noveme=ber) - chq. 1324

Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the special payments: all in favour.

**Other**

e. Budget and precept. Cllr R Lewis said the sub-committee proposed to keep the precept at the same level as last year. The Clerk outlined the proposal. Cllr R Lewis explained that the general capital reserve was intended for ongoing upgrading of street lights but had been marked as 'general' in case another more pressing capital project came forward. Cllr F Lewis asked where the paper for the Barton Miller was included; the Clerk advised this was allowed for in the donations budget. Cllr Boura proposed applying for a precept of £19,090: all in favour. Cllr R Lewis thanked the Clerk for his work in preparing the budget.

7. **Planning.**

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

**General and for consideration:**

a. DC/14/2346/ADV - Proposed Mcdonalds Land To NW of Fiveways Roundabout. Advertisement Consent - Various site signage.

b. DC/14/2347/FUL - Proposed Mcdonalds Land To NW of Fiveways Roundabout. Advertisement Consent - installation of customer order display.

The above items were considered together. Cllr Boura proposed 'no comment': all in favour.

c. DC/14/2377/FUL - 36 Mildenhall Road. Revised scheme of DC/14/0146/FUL - Demolition of existing double garage and pole barn and erection of single storey one bedroom dwelling and new garage for existing property. Cllr Boura reminded the meeting of the earlier proposal and its outcome then highlighted the differences in the new application. However, she thought the fundamental objection remained and *proposed objecting on the grounds that the layout of the proposed development weould not be in keeping with the rest of Mildenhall Road: all in favour except Cllr Peachey (abstained).*

d. DC/14/2320/FUL - 26c Worlington Road. Erection of 9 no. dwellings (including 2 no. affordable) and 1 no. B1 office unit. Cllr F Lewis and R Lewis declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting for the duration of this item which Cllr Boura chaired. She outlined the proposal which Cllr Peachey declared himself opposed to on the grounds that it is outside the development line for Barton Mills. Cllr Blanchard said she would have like to see where the land is. Cllr Fuller was also against the application for the reasons given by Cllr Peachey and *proposed objecting to it on these grounds: all in favour.*

**Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals**

e. PL\0245\14 (F/14/1862/CMW) - Barton Mills Quarry, Herringswell Road. Siting of storage container beside storage building to house generator to power chalk processing plant located within the building. *Cllr Peachey proposed no objections: all in favour.*

f. F/2014/Variation of Condition 2, 9 and 10 of Planning Permission F/2011/0278 - Barton Mills Chalk Quarry, Chalk Hill.

g. 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.* **APPROVED (at committee)**

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

a. Village sign. Cllr F Lewis asked where the sign is; Cllr Boura advised that Neil Horne has it and Cllr F Lewis asked if he can put it back.

b. Car outside Bridge House. Cllr F Lewis asked if something could be done about this as she considered it too close to the junction and thought it was never moved. Others said it did move and Cllr R Lewis suggested councillors could monitor the situation.

c. Football field vandalism. Cllr Fuller said the field is open to joy riders and wondered whether the filed needs to be secured. Cllr R Lewis said the police could be asked at the next meeting. Cllr Boura expressed gratitude to those residents who help to keep the field clean of rubbish.

d. Barton Miller. Cllr R Lewis said he would like to see the publication digitalised so it could be uploaded on the website and forwarded by email. This would require Publisher. He suggested that Cllr Boura may like to oversee this as a member of the Barton Miller team. The Clerk suggested, in that case, that the church could apply to Cllr Huggan for a locality grant to cover the cost of buying the software (around £90).

e. Playing field. Cllr Boura said a dip had appeared in the far corner at the end of Grange Lane where cars turn. She suggested two cubic metres of gravel could be spread there. The Clerk said he could get gravel delivered.

9. **Date of next meeting:** 13th February 2015.