**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 17th April 2015 at 7.00 pm.

**Attendance:** Cllr Robert Lewis (Chairman)
Cllr Amin Harji (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Pamela Boura
Cllr Keith Fuller
Cllr Frances Lewis
Cllr Steve Mullender
Cllr Charlie Peachey

 District Cllr Tim Huggan
County Cllr James Waters

 PCSO Tristran Askew
James Bercovici (Clerk)

0. **Opportunity for members of the Public to speak (3 minute limit, not statutory part of meeting).**
The Conservative candidate for the forthcoming district council elections, Brian Harvey introduced himself.

1. **Courtesies. Apologies** **and Signing of the Register. Declarations of Interest.**Apologies: Cllrs Kay Blanchard and Garry Flack

Declarations of interest: Cllr F Lewis (6d)

1. **Police Matters**

Report received and filed. Cllr R Lewis asked PCSO Askew if there was any news about Fiveways Farm. He was told that the matter has been to court and it has been established that the land belongs to the Forestry Commission so there is no right to occupy. PCSO Askew didn't know any more than this and said it is not a police matter at this time.

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2015**Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the minutes: all in favour.
2. **Matters arising and pending**

a. Play equipment. Cllr R Lewis proposed that if funding can be obtained for most of the cost of a suitable unit (as quoted by Proludic and agreed by the Parish Council) with a shortfall of no more than £2,000, a suitable unit for 3-7 year olds should be purchased: all in favour. The Burrell Trust has made a donation of £1,700 and the 100 Club has donated a further £1,115 so total funding is £18,545 against the total cost of the project of £18,379, so the project is over-funded by £166 so, as instructed, the clerk has ordered the installation.

The Clerk advised that the 100 Club had suggested keeping the over-funding for use towards repairs and renewals. Cllr Boura said it could be used for moving the balancing equipment. Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to write to both the Burrell Trust and the 100 Club to thank them for their donations. Cllr F Lewis said her understanding was that the Burrell Trust wanted to help fund this as it play equipment is within its remit and this would therefore leave the Parish Council finances available for things such as street lighting, which the Trust is unable to help with. Cllr R Lewis also thanked Cllr Boura for her input.

b. Standing Orders. Following discussions over the last several meetings, Cllr R Lewis thought this should be left to the May meeting for the new Council to appoint a sub-committee which can later make recommendations to the full Council.

c. 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 could help through his locality budget and that the terms had been revised so that, where the population is under 1,000, the Parish Council could apply. However, it was decided that, for now, it would be better if the application came from the Football Club. The clerk forwarded a request to the club secretary and said he would chase him up.

d. Street lights. Permission from Miss Davies of Walnut Tree Farm has been received. Cllr Boura has advised that the three replacement columns have now been erected and the associated electrical work is scheduled for 20th April. Twelve lights will then have been replaced by the PC over recent years. Another two have been replaced as part of new development.   This leaves twelve on the list but it is possible that the further developments in Worlington Road will take care of two more of these. It was agreed that Malcolm Boura could remove a branch from a tree.

e. Annual Meeting/AGM. Cllr F Lewis had asked if anyone had had any thoughts about any suitable topics. Cllr Mullender suggested discussing the closure of the base and its impact on Barton Mills. Cllr R Lewis thought a display of the proposed new play equipment may be of interest. Cllr Boura suggested the base closure but Cllr Waters said there would be no update on this until September.

Cllr Fuller suggested the proposed foot/cycle path to Bury St Edmunds. He pointed out that it is currently possible to get from West Row to Prickwillow on unused farm track and suggested representatives from other organisations could be invited to attend the meeting to discuss this. Cllr R Lewis said he could organise maps and suggested speaking with West Stow and the Lark Valley Association (Cllr F Lewis volunteered to contact the latter group). Cllr Huggan said there is just a small gap in the paths from Wicken Fen to West Row and suggested inviting ??? to talk about how they had achieved their path. Cllr Mullender pointed out there is a footpath already to Bury St Edmunds so there should be no rights of way issues, just an upgrade required.

f. Village of the Year competition - application form received. Cllr R Lewis suggested that Barton Mills doesn't enter this year; generally agreed.

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

a. Cllr Huggan presented his report (filed with the minute), highlighting the review of the Local Core Strategy and the need to link something to the Rural Coffee Caravan's visit in July to encourage attendance.

b. Cllr Waters reported that Colin Noble is the new group leader of Suffolk CC and that he is pushing the devolution agenda as he believes that money goes further locally. In terms of the footpath to Mildenhall he asked the Clerk to remind him by email; also the 30mph flashing speed sign. Cllr F Lewis asked about the bus service. Cllr Waters asked about the old service; Cllr R Lewis asked Cllr Boura to email details of this to the Clerk who could then forward this to Cllr Waters. Cllr R Lewis then wanted to congratulate Suffolk CC for dealing with online complaints effectively. Cllr Boura said resurfacing was needed at the A11 junction.

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

a. £294.00 Clerk’s net salary (March 2014) – chq. 1336

b. £73.50 HMRC (PAYE March 2014) – chq. 1339

c. £37.64 Clerk's expenses (March 2014) - chq. 1336

Cllr Boura proposed agreeing these: all in favour.

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

d. £130.20 Euroffice (Barton Miller donation, payable to the Clerk) - chq. 1336

e. £66.00 National Allotment Society (membership) - chq. 1337

f. £324.00 SALC (subscription) - chq. 1338

Cllr Boura proposed agreeing these: all in favour except Cllr F Lewis who abstained (re item d).

7. **Planning.**

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

**General and for consideration:**

a. PL/007/15 Barton Mills Chalk Quarry - use of chalk bagging plant within part of storage building. Cllr Boura outlined the plans and proposed no objection: all in favour.

**Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals**

b. DC/15/0275/HH - 12 Mildenhall Road. Two storey side Extension and Alteration to existing car parking arrangement. Cllr R Lewis observed there are no railings proposes for the balcony but thought it looks better than the existing set-up. *Cllr Mullender proposed no objections: all in favour.*

c. DC/15/0298/VAR - Fiveways. Variation of condition 33 of planning permission F/2010/0527/FUL (to facilitate alterations to the internal road layout of the scheme, alterations to the car park arrangements of the scheme, the realignment of the drive-thru access to McDonalds, the reconfiguration of the proposed petrol filling station canopy and the repositioning of the proposed car (jet) wash without compliance with condition 31 to allow the fast food restaurant to be open for 24 hours. *Cllr R Lewis suggested 'no comment'.*

d. DC/15/0397/HH - 16 Worlington Road. Extensions and alterations including a front extension to create a double garage, a rear infill extension (with balcony area) and raising of roof to create habitable rooms in the roof. *Cllr Mullender proposed no objections: all in favour.*

e. DC/15/0071/HH - Hive Cottage 3 Worlington Road. Two and single storey rear extension (following partial demolition of existing extension) (householder application). *Cllr Boura proposed an objection to the weather-boarding but no objection to the pronciple of the application itself: all favour.*

**Decisions**

f. DC/15/0326/ADV - Barton Mills Service Station, Fiveways Roundabout. Advertisement Consent - (i) 10 no non-illuminated number signs (ii) 3 no non-illuminated koala signs (iii) 2 no externally illuminated blade signs (iv) 2 no externally illuminated breaking wave signs (v) 2 no non-illuminated end cap signs. *Cllr R Lewis suggested 'no comment'.* **APPROVED**

g. DC/15/0223/FUL - Land At Corner Of Bridge Farm Close And Worlington Road. 4 no. two bedroom apartments (revised scheme of DC/14/1071/FUL) (applicant: Bellway Homes)

h. DC/15/0225/FUL - Development Site Bridge Farm Close. 3 no. dwellings and associated parking (applicant: Bellway Homes)

 These applications were considered together. *Cllr Boura proposed objecting the both applications because of the loss of existing parking spaces; however, if one is to proceed, a preference should be expressed for DC/15/0225/FUL on the grounds that it is less intrusive and would have a slightly lower impact on parking: all in favour.* Both applications**APPROVED**

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

a. Parish Council elections. Cllr R Lewis said that seven nominations had been submitted, all from existing councillors except for Cllr Mullender (an oversight) and Cllr Peachey who was retiring after more than 50 years. He asked Cllr Peachey to attend the start of the May meeting for formal thanks. He pointed out there are two vacancies and, therefore, a need to co-opt more councillors; the Clerk outlined the process for this.

b. Meeting days. Cllr Harji asked if this could be discussed at the May meeting. Cllr F Lewis pointed out that village hall availability would have to influence this discussion. The Clerk said he would check availability.

c. Dog Fouling. Cllr Boura said there is a problem in Burrell Crescent and Church Lane Close but said there is nowhere in the latter street for a bin and that Burrell Crescent is private land so it would up to the residents to arrange to have a bin installed.

d. Litter picking and Tidy Up Day. Cllr F Lewis asked Cllr R Lewis to include thanks to litter pickers on the back of the Barton Miller but said there would be no Tidy up Day because of the risk assessment requirements which were too onerous.

e. Village Hall black bin. Cllr F Lewis reported that this had vanished. Cllr R Lewis pointed out that this is not a Parish Council matter.

f. Daffodils. Cllr F Lewis advised that Mary Parkin had suggested the daffodils on the village green need fertilising which would cost around £10. Cllr R Lewis said the Clerk could authorise this. Cllr Peachey said the Parish Council should buy some more and plant them out in the autumn; Cllr Huggan said he had given £100 for bulbs for the village (care of Glynn East).

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 9. **Date of next meeting:** 8th May 2015.