

Barton Mills Parish Council

Clerk to the Council:

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Clerk: James Bercovici
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Chairman: Mrs P Boura
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Minutes of the Meeting of Barton Mills Parish Council

Held in the Village Hall on Friday 12th June 2015 at 7.00 pm.

Attendance: Cllr Pamela Boura (Chairman)
Cllr Garry Flack
Cllr Keith Fuller
Cllr Frances Lewis
Cllr Robert Lewis
County Cllr James Waters
James Bercovici (Clerk)

0. **Opportunity for members of the Public to speak (3 minute limit, not statutory part of meeting).**
Richard Hayward of Worlington Road had registered his interest in being considered for co-option and was invited to speak in support of this.
1. **Courtesies. Apologies and Signing of the Register. Declarations of Interest.**
Apologies: Cllr Amin Harji and District Cllr Brian Harvey, PCSO Tristan Askew
Declarations of interest: none
2. **Police Matters**
PCSO Askew had forwarded a report (filed with the minutes) which the Clerk read out.
3. **Co-option**
Following the uncontested election in May, only seven seats have been filled leaving two vacancies on the Parish Council. These were advertised with interested residents required to advise the Clerk of their interest by Monday 8th June. Former councillor Steve Mullender and Richard Hayward of Worlington Road put themselves forward. Cllr R Lewis proposed co-opting both Steve Mullender and Richard Hayward: all in favour. The new councillors joined the meeting.
4. **Election of other officers and representatives**
Barton Mills Allotments Association Cllr Flack agreed to take on this role.
Village Hall Management Committee Cllr Flack was not interested in continuing as he had problems attending the meetings; Cllr Fuller said he would take this on. Agreed
5. **Minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2015**
Cllr Fuller proposed agreeing the minutes: all in favour.
6. **Matters arising and pending**
 - a. Charlie Peachey. Cllr R Lewis had suggested that the Parish Council formally acknowledges the retirement of Charlie Peachey as a Parish Councillor after more than fifty years. The Clerk was asked to ascertain whether the council could buy a gift. He found nothing in the standing orders to prevent this but suggested that Charlie Peachey may prefer something that would benefit the whole community – such as a tree planted in his honour - rather than having public money spent on him. Cllr Boura thought this a good idea and suggested an oak tree to be planted near Charlie Peachey's house. Cllr Flack didn't think another tree necessary and Cllr F Lewis preferred the idea of a personal gift. Cllr Boura suggested that both a tree and a personal gift could be possible; Cllr R Lewis agreed suggesting the personal gift could come from councillors rather than public money. He proposed that the Parish Council buy an oak tree to be planted along the Mildenhall Road side of the village green with a small plaque to commemorate Charlie Peachey's service to the community: three in favour, one against, three abstentions. Cllr R Lewis suggested that the Clerk could collect donations for the personal gift at the next meeting.
 - b. Standing Orders. Following discussions over several earlier meetings, it had been agreed that 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. Cllr Boura said that she and Cllr Harji had already agreed to join this committee and said she thought one more councillor would be advisable. Cllr F Lewis offered to help. Cllr R Lewis asked for confirmation that the committee would make recommendations for the whole council to approve. This was confirmed.

- c. Football coaching in the summer holidays for school children. The Clerk has been advised that Worlington may apply for a grant similar to that obtained by Barton Mills in 2013 for football goals and coaching in which case Barton Mills children could join in with that. Alternatively, coaching may be available in Barton Mills, particularly if it is open to children from other villages. The Clerk said there were problems raising funding in time for the summer holiday. Cllr Hayward suggested the October half-term and asked if participants were required to make any contribution. Cllr Mullender thought this could lead to problems but suggested the Parish Council could budget for this and liaise with other parishes. Cllr Boura suggested getting prices for coaching. Cllr Hayward thought contributions from participants would mean greater commitment. Cllr Waters said he would check to see if there are any new grants available which may help.
- d Meeting days. Cllr Harji had previously asked if this could be discussed and the Clerk ascertained availability of the village hall. The third Wednesday of each month was preferred by councillors at the May meeting (with the first Tuesday and Wednesday also available). Cllr Boura had suggested meeting on 10th July then switching to the third Wednesday from the August meeting onwards; however, both Cllrs Flack and Mullender said they would not be able to attend meetings on Wednesdays. Cllr Boura suggested moving to the first Tuesday of each month, starting with the August meeting; this was agreed.
- e. New play equipment: Cllr Boura and the Clerk met with a representative of Proludic to discuss the installation of the new equipment and the re-siting of the balancing equipment. A quote was prepared for this latter job as it was not including in the original specification: £1,310.85 to break out, reinstall balance circuit, supply and install 9m² grass mats and turf. Cllr Boura outlined the plan and said the Parish Council had £385 outstanding from the 100 Club donation leaving under £950 to find. Cllr Flack said that, with more play equipment, more picnic benches would be needed. Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the quote from Proludic: all in favour. She also said she had found someone to re-paint the swings who would charge just £9 per hour for this and it was agreed to follow this up.
- f. Electronic communication. The Clerk has set up a new email address: chairman@bartonmills.net. Others are possible.
- g. Litter bins on playing field. Cllr F Lewis said a bin is needed near the corner of the field heading towards Mildenhall Cllr Waters said he may be able to obtain a bin. Cllr R Lewis suggested it should also have a sign to remind people to use it. Cllr Fuller said the litter could be viewed as a symptom of the success of the playing field. Cllr R Lewis proposed that the Parish Council should obtain a bin and sign, requesting assistance from Cllr Waters: agreed.
- h. Car parked on playing field. The Clerk advised that he had spoken with the owner who had removed the car.

7. Reports from the District and County Councillors

- a. Cllr Brian Harvey has given his apologies for the meeting.
- b. Cllr Waters said he was still promoting the devolution agenda. He said there would be around 100 jobs created in Barton Mills in the Pancake & Waffle Shack and McDonalds. He had nothing to report on the closure of Midenhall base and confirmed that the forthcoming meeting at the Riverside was a public meeting. He outlined some issues at district level and admitted there were necessary improvements to be made in the planning department.

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

- a. £309.60 Clerk's net salary (May 2014) – chq. 1343
 - b. £77.40 HMRC (PAYE May 2014) – chq.
 - c. £25.60 Clerk's expenses (May 2014) - chq. 1343
- Cllr R Lewis proposed agreeing the standard payments: all in favour.

Special Payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- d. £36.00 Ayentee Accountancy (internal audit) – chq. 1344
 - e. £28.00 Mark Harrod (goal hooks) – chq. 1343 (payable to the Clerk)
 - f. £709.44 Inkjets & Toners (printer inks) – chq. 1343 (payable to the Clerk)
 - g. £48.00 T A Phizacklea (gravel) – chq 1343 (payable to the Clerk)
 - h. £67.50 Barton Mills Village Hall (hall hire) – chq. 1345
- Cllr R Lewis proposed agreeing the special payments: all in favour except Cllr F Lewis who declared an interest in respect of 8h and abstained.

Receipts

- i. £70.00 Barton Mills Village Hall (car boot sale donation)

9. **Planning.**

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

General and for consideration:

Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals

Decisions

- a. 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'.*
APPROVED

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

- a. Parish Forum – Cllr Boura reported there was little content at the last meeting but that future meetings would take place on the first Wednesday of alternate months.
- b. Open Gardens Weekend – Cllr F Lewis reported that 12 gardens had opened to around 200 visitors and that the St Edmundsbury Male Voice Choir had performed to around 130 in the audience. Cllr Boura thanked the organisers.
- c. Solstice Weekend – Cllr R Lewis advised that, as in the past, Bell Lane and part of the Street would be closed off and that the event would follow the usual format. It is paid for by local sponsors and usually raises around £1500 which will be shared between EAAA, Barton Mills Football Club and a local para-Olympian.
- d. Signage for car boot sale – Cllr Flack suggested an 'Exit' banner that could be hung from trees. Cllr R Lewis said he would ask Nigel Thompson to make one and suggested the Clerk could request the 100 Club for a donation to cover the cost.
- e. Street light – Cllr Flack asked about the light on Grange Lane which had been removed some years earlier. Cllr Boura said the pole had been deemed dangerous but it may be possible to reinstate it if required. She said she would investigate this next time she was looking at street lighting.
- f. Tree pruning – Cllr Flack asked if the Clerk could obtain some quotes for necessary works.
- g. Manor View – Cllr Flack said there was a dead tree and offered to remove it. However, Cllr Boura pointed out that it belonged to the district council and was their responsibility.
- h. Footpath into Church Meadow – Cllr F Lewis said there are tree roots creating humps on the path. Cllr Waters said he would advise the relevant department at Suffolk CC about this and also about the need to cut back vegetation obscuring signs on Newmarket Road.
- i. Bus stop sign on Worlington Road – Cllr R Lewis said this had been installed at the wrong location then removed but not re-installed correctly. Cllr Waters said he would report this to Highways. He also said he would look into the bus route.
- j. Football Club – Cllr R Lewis said the club secretary had stepped down and there had been problems with the transition which meant there were temporary problems with the club's finances whilst the bank account was being transferred.

11. **Date of next meeting:** 10th July 2015