

Barton Mills Parish Council

Clerk to the Council:

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Clerk: James Bercovici
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Minutes of the Meeting of Barton Mills Parish Council

Held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 1st September 2015 at 7.30 pm.

Attendance: Cllr Pamela Boura (Chairman)
Cllr Amin Harji (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Garry Flack
Cllr Keith Fuller
Cllr Richard Hayward
Cllr Frances Lewis
Cllr Robert Lewis
Cllr Steve Mullender
District Cllr Brian Harvey
James Bercovici (Clerk)

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

Jane Andrews of 19 Mildenhall Road attended with others and outlined their concerns about the planning application at 7(b). She highlighted, amongst other things, the grading of the land in relation to her own and access issues for refuse collectors. Her full letter to FHDC is filed with the minutes.

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

Apologies: none

Declarations of interest: Cllrs R Lewis and F Lewis (7b)

2. Police Matters

Suffolk Constabulary has advised that SNT Officers will no longer be attending Parish Council meetings as a matter of course. Cllr F Lewis said a new notice of current personnel was required for the notice boards.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2015

Cllr F Lewis proposed agreeing the minutes: all in favour.

4. Matters arising and pending

a. Resignation of Cllr Kay Blanchard. A notice to ascertain whether ten electors want to petition for an election has been posted. Assuming no election is called, the Clerk was asked to advertise co-option for the October meeting.

b. 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 had suggested that he may prefer something that would benefit the whole community – such as a tree planted in recognition of his years of service - 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 and a personal gift; 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 Boura said an oak tree from Barcham Trees would cost £175 so, with a guard and, if needed, a stake, the total cost should not exceed £200. Cllr R Lewis proposed buying the tree and peripherals in the autumn as suggested: all in favour. Cllr R Lewis asked if the press should be invited to take a photograph. The intention is to invite Charlie Peachey to a short ceremony on 6th October at 7pm (before the meeting).

Cllr R Lewis had suggested that the Clerk could collect donations for the personal gift. Cllr Hayward wondered whether something associated with Barton Mills would be appropriate for a personal gift; Cllr Harji suggested a small version of the village sign. The Clerk said he would discuss this with Neil Horne.

- c. Financial Regulations. Following the review of Standing Orders, Cllr Boura said it was now necessary to review the Financial Regulations and suggested a new working group to comprise the Councillors with responsibility for finance (Cllrs Harji and R Lewis) and others. Cllr Harji agreed that Cllr Boura and the Clerk should be included in this. The Clerk said he would email the latest model regulations to the working group. It was decided to hold a working group meeting on Monday 14th September.
- d. Football coaching - there have been problems raising funding in time for the summer holiday. Cllr Hayward suggested the October half-term. Cllr Mullender 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. Cllr Harvey said the application would need to come from the Football Club, not the Parish Council. The Clerk said he had put this to the Football Club and would follow this up. Cllr Harvey said it would need to be open to children from neighbouring parishes to be eligible for maximum sponsorship.
- e. Fiveways Roundabout – Cllr Boura said she had read a number of online concerns about lane discipline and near misses on the roundabout and wondered whether the Parish Council should press for traffic lights. Cllr Mullender was opposed to this. Cllr Flack said improved signage and road markings were needed for traffic coming into Mildenhall from the A11. Cllr R Lewis said there was a problem with traffic queuing in the fast lane of the southbound A11 trying to enter the village, especially when car boot sales were being held. He wondered whether a ‘no waiting except on slip road’ sign (or similar) would help. The Clerk was asked to relay these concerns to the Highways Agency which has responded as follows:
- ‘With regards to the Fiveways roundabout, we are already aware of this issue and would like to reassure the Parish Council that we are reviewing the design of the approach to the roundabout including the options to change the signing and realign the road markings.
- ‘Presently, the technical report is in the process of being finalised. It is anticipated that this permanent solution will improve how traffic flows around the roundabout and therefore remove this potential traffic conflict.
- ‘In the interim period, we have already installed two temporary signs to encourage drivers to stay in the correct lanes in order to minimise the risk of accidents related to Mildenhall bound traffic.
- ‘You mention traffic queuing in lane 2 southbound to turn right especially when car boot sales are being held. We have unsuccessfully tried to telephone the organiser of the car boot sales in the past to remind them that these events are causing traffic management issues, and to ask what plans they have to remedy the problems. Installing no waiting signs may lead to an increasing number of vehicles making ‘U’ turns at the next junction south where there is already a known safety problem with this manoeuvre. We will now try to make contact with them in writing.
- ‘The right turn off the A11 into Barton Mills does have no ‘U’ turn signs. Further signing cannot be installed as it would not comply with traffic signs regulations. Consequently, the issue of illegal ‘U’ turns at this location is primarily an enforcement issue. Vehicles carrying out ‘U’ turns immediately after they have turned right are doing so on local roads. Any changes to signing here is a matter for the Local Highway Authority, Suffolk County Council.’
- Cllr Boura said there is an online petition with over 1000 signatures. However, Cllr F Lewis said this was promoting the installation of traffic lights and suggest the Parish Council should make clear its opposition to this. Cllr Fuller suggested it may be better to await the results of the technical report.
- f. Provision of a village notice board in the vicinity of Worlington Road – Cllr Hayward observed that there are now quite a lot of residents at that end of the village and that a noticeboard may help them feel more involved in Barton Mills. He suggested it could be sited at the proposed bus stop outside the entrance to Bridge Farm. He volunteered to look after it. The Clerk said the first thing would be to ascertain who owns the land and seek permission to site a board on it. This has been granted. Cllr Hayward has investigated boards and found a suitable one for around £500. He distributed an image of the board which could display 16 A4 sheets. Cllr Mullender wondered whether Neil Horne could produce something like this. The Clerk was asked to investigate this suggestion, to check if planning permission would be required and to apply to the 100 Club for a grant.
- g. Charges for use of field by football teams other than those based in Barton Mills. The Clerk had been advised that the football club charges other teams £10 per week for use of the field alone (and £30 per week to include use of its club hut) and that the money is retained by the football club. Cllr Mullender said

this information is false. Cllr Boura said she did not understand why the football club does not make a contribution for its use of the field; Cllr Flack thought it should do so; Cllr F Lewis said the football club used to contribute £200 per year towards the upkeep of the field but thought this stopped around ten years ago. Cllr Flack observed that other organisations such as the Allotments Association pay a regular amount to the Parish Council. Cllr R Lewis suggested the Clerk asks the club for clarification of which teams use the field, when and how much they pay for the facilities. Cllr Flack also pointed out that the 5-side goals which are used by some clubs were purchased specifically for use by Barton Mills children.

- h. Footpath to Mildenhall. The Clerk has been advised that, due to budgetary pressures, Suffolk CC will not be resurfacing the final section of the footpath as previously outlined. Councillors expressed dismay at this. Cllr R Lewis asked how much it would cost to complete the work, suggesting the Parish Council may be able to raise the funding elsewhere. Cllr Harvey asked the Clerk to forward this information to him when it is received.
- i. 30mph flashing speed limit sign – application form received. The Clerk said he would forward it to Cllr Boura for them to go through before submitting it. Cllr Hayward asked where the signs would be located. He was advised the following locations: Worlington Road, Mildenhall Road, Church Lane, Bell Lane. Cllr Boura said the public had been consulted and no objections had been received. The Clerk advised that he had contacted the police but had no response so would follow this up. Cllr Mulender asked how the sign would be powered: solar. He also asked about maintenance issues such as the replacement of bulbs, observing that the Parish Council would have to be committed to this if it were to proceed. Cllr Boura asked the Clerk to make enquiries about maintenance issues with Freckenham and Worlington. Cllr Harvey said Worlington use LED bulbs.
- j. Car boot sale meeting. Cllr F Lewis highlighted the need for a meeting. The Clerk said he would contact the organisations suggesting Thursday 22nd October at 7.30pm in the Church Room.
- k. Planters on the field. Cllr Fuller had said these were in need of attention. Cllr Boura had suggested asking if anyone would like to adopt them. Cllr F Lewis had suggested an appeal in the Barton Miller and asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to pay for plants and bulbs. Cllr R Lewis had said Glynn East had funding for this sort of thing; however, Glynn East advised that this is not the case. Thanks are due to Mabel Smith who says that she has cared for one of the planters for 16 years but would now like to retire. The clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks. Glenda and John Berrett have offered to look after the two planters adjacent to Mildenhall Road. As they are heavily shaded, they suggest planting with evergreens and would like to know what budget is available for this. Lyndsay and Derek Judd have also offered to adopt one of the planters. Cllr Flack said he would look after the other two. It was agreed that up to £50 per planter could be made available for plants.
- l. Defibrillator. Cllr Boura pointed out an article outlining the use of a redundant phone box to house a defibrillator and suggested the Parish Council could look into this. The Clerk advised that the cost of a defibrillator is between £1400 and £2200. Cllr Boura suggested the 100 Club could be approached. Cllr R Lewis agreed this could be invaluable for the village and said he would ask Barry Klatt for permission to keep the phone box where it is.
- m. Cllr Boura pointed out that on 9th September, Queen Elizabeth II will become the longest serving British monarch and asked if the Parish Council wanted to mark this in any way. Cllr Flack pointed out that in 2016 she will be ninety which would be a further opportunity to celebrate. Cllr Harji asked if the government is planning an additional bank holiday. Cllr F Lewis said she had not been able to find any indication of an additional bank holiday. She said the Scarecrow committee was trying to find out if people want to continue with Scarecrows and had booked a meeting for November. She asked what people wanted to do to celebrate. Cllr Flack said he would like a street party. Cllr Mullender said the Parish Council should do something and would need to decide a budget, book a marquee, band etc. Cllr R Lewis suggested booking the village hall as well. Cllr F Lewis suggested bringing the meeting forward to 21st October.
- n. Trees at Playing Field: Quotes have been received from DM Tree and Landscape Contractors for £1175.00 + VAT and from SP Landscapes for £1200.00 + VAT. Cllr Boura obtained a third quote for £2,600. She proposed accepting the quote from DM as the contractor seemed very knowledgeable and the quote prompt and reasonable: all in favour. She further advised that he could sever the ivy on trees in the nature belt as well and this was agreed.
- o. Litter bin. Cllr Boura advised that the Clerk had negotiated a free bin which had been installed by Peter Cumber for £15. She said it is already being well used.

5. Report from the District Councillor

Cllr Harvey advised that Town and Country Planning applications for barn conversions were not being referred

to Parish Councils but suggested that FHDC be asked to advise of any such applications as a matter of courtesy even if there is no statutory obligation to do so.

Cllr Harvey advised that Neighbourhood Watch representatives receive crime information; Cllr Harji said he could forward emails to the Clerk. Cllr Boura suggested advertising for a new Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator in the Barton Miller.

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

- a. £619.20 Clerk's net salary (July/August 2014) – chq. 1355
- b. £154.80 HMRC (PAYE July/August 2014) – chq.
- c. £38.36 Clerk's expenses (July/August 2014) - chq. 1355

Cllr R Lewis proposed agreeing the standard payments: all in favour.

Special Payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- d. £67.50 Barton Mills Village Hall (hall hire: April to June) – chq. 1356
- e. £250.00 Peter Cumber (repairs etc on village green) – chq. 1357
- f. £112.38 Pamela Boura (materials for work undertaken by Peter Cumber) – chq. 1358

Cllr Boura declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting for this item. Cllr R Lewis proposed agreeing the special payments: all in favour.

Receipts

- g. £2923.00 FHDC (precept)

7. Planning.

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

General and for consideration:

- a. DC/15/1250/ADV Land used for car boot sale, Newmarket Road – application for advertisement consent: 1 no directional banner sign. Cllr R Lewis was concerned that approval of this would open the floodgates to anyone wanting to erect a sign which he considered really to be an advertising sign in any case. *He proposed objecting to the application: all in favour.*
- b. DC/15/1201/FUL Land rear of 21 Mildenhall Road – 4 no dwellings and 4 no double garages. Note: this item was considered at the start of the meeting so members of the public could hear the council's deliberations. Cllrs R Lewis and F Lewis declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting for this item. Cllr Boura said the proposed development fell outside the development line of the village which ends at Hassall's Corner. Cllr Fuller asked if it affects protected zones but was told it does not. Cllr Mullender observed that the council had previously objected to any development outside the plan but had considered the Worlington Road developments on their merits. Cllr Boura said that, as FHDC now has a five year allocation, the usual rules apply. *Cllr Harji proposed objecting to the proposal in principle: all in favour.* Cllr Boura suggested additional comments, if the proposal is to be allowed, that bin storage and refuse lorry access should be improved, and the ridge line should be lowered to reduce the impact on neighbouring residences. Agreed. She observed that the lane between 21 and 21A had clearly been designed with access in mind; however, Cllr Fuller asked if a fire engine could access the site and it was suggested it would have some difficulty in turning.

Other

- c. Pancake and Waffle House. Cllr Boura expressed concern about a new vehicle entrance/exit on to Old Mill Lane which did not have planning permission. She also had observed bins on the highway. Cllr Fuller confirmed this. The Clerk has raised this with FHDC planning which has referred the matter to the enforcement team.
- d. Single Issue Review of Core Strategic Policy and Site Allocation Local Plan. Cllr Boura said an extension would be required to a date after 6th October (the next meeting) or a special meeting would have to be called to discuss this. Cllr R Lewis agreed, saying this was the only opportunity for the village to consider possible changes for 20 years.

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

- a. Hastoe site – Cllr Boura asked the Clerk to find out when the hedgerow will be attended.
- b. Dead tree on Manor View – Cllr Flack asked the Clerk to chase this up.

9. Date of next meeting: 6th October 2015

