

Barton Mills Parish Council

Clerk to the Council:

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Minutes of the Meeting of Barton Mills Parish Council

Held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 6th October 2015 at 7.30 pm.

Attendance: Cllr Pamela Boura (Chairman)
Cllr Keith Fuller
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).

Teresa Plested asked if help was wanted with looking after the planters on the field as her father had done so in the past. Cllr R Lewis suggested the current volunteers should be asked if they were happy to yield. Mrs Plested said she was also interested in the Single Issue Review although Cllr R Lewis advised that the discussion on the current agenda would concern areas within the parish but not in the village itself; these would be considered in February 2016.

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

Apologies: Cllrs Amin Harji and Richard Hayward, County Cllr James Waters
Declarations of interest: item 7c - Cllrs F Lewis and R Lewis

2. Police Matters

Cllr Harji had forwarded an update to the Clerk on 14th September; the Clerk had asked to be included on the update list; none received so far. No Barton Mills crimes were reported at the last update.

Cllr F Lewis asked for a new laminated contacts sign for the noticeboard.

Cllr R Lewis reported an incident in the village a week earlier when two men had been knocking on doors saying they were collecting for the armed forces and trying to sell items. They had disappeared when the police arrived. Cllr R Lewis said that many people had been pre-warned on social media.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2015

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

4. Matters arising and pending

a. Co-option. Following the resignation of Kay Blanchard, a notice to ascertain whether ten electors wanted to petition for an election was posted but no election was required. The Parish Council subsequently advertised the position for co-option at the October meeting. Only one candidate, Annette Dawson, had written to the Clerk expressing interest in the position. Cllr F Lewis proposed co-opting Annette Dawson: all in favour.

b. Financial Regulations. A working group comprising Cllrs Boura, Harji and R Lewis together with the Clerk met to review the regulations and the group's recommendations were distributed to councillors with the agendas. Cllr R Lewis proposed accepting the regulations as revised and adjusted by the working group: all in favour except Cllr Mullender who abstained as he had not read through them properly. Cllr F Lewis thanked the working group. Cllr Boura reminded Cllr R Lewis that he had agreed to draft a Financial Risk Management Policy Statement. To be considered at the next meeting.

c. 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. Cllr Mullender wondered whether Neil Horne could produce something like this. A grant of £300 has been received towards this from the 100 Club. The Clerk was asked to pass on the Parish Council's thanks for this and to look into quotes for a landscape board for up to eight sheets of A4. Also, to check with FHDC whether planning permission is needed.

- d. 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. The quote has been received: to clean off vegetation and resurface footpath 225m long x 1.2m wide with max. 100mm of well compacted path hoggin: £4965 + VAT (although it may be reduced by around £600 because of the earlier extension of the boardwalk). It is not permissible to use an alternative contractor for this work. Cllr Boura suggested asking Cllr Waters to look into this as she thought it would be possible to find a local contractor who would charge much less for this work. She also wondered whether the cost could be shared between the County, District, Mildenhall and Barton Mills (and suggested the 100 Club could be approached). Cllr R Lewis thought the Parish Council should look for alternative sources of funding. Cllr Harvey suggested the Community Support Grant run by West Suffolk councils. Cllr F Lewis said she would ask SALC officers if they know of any grants that may be available.
- e. 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 Mullender 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. As an alternative, the Clerk of Worlington Parish Council has suggested that Barton Mills may be able to use its sign on a rotation basis and is putting this to the council at its November meeting; she will be able to advise the cost to Barton Mills after this. Councillors agreed this would be a good plan and the Clerk was asked to follow this up. Cllr Boura also asked the Clerk to seek police support for this.
- f. Defibrillator. Cllr Boura previously 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. Cllr R Lewis observed that the phone box is still in use. The Clerk suggested this was probably because it is cheaper for BT to maintain it as a working telephone box than to decommission it. Cllr F Lewis expressed concerns about the security of the defibrillator; Cllr Boura explained how the scheme works. Cllr Boura asked the Clerk to ascertain whether there is support for this within the community via the Barton Miller.
- g. Cllr Boura previously pointed out that on 9th September, Queen Elizabeth II became the longest serving British monarch and had asked if the Parish Council wanted to mark this in any way. Cllr Flack had pointed out that in 2016 the Queen will be 90 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.

Cllr F Lewis explained the background and said that, if the Parish Council wants to celebrate this event, there would be no Scarecrows Festival in June 2016. Cllr Boura asked if any event should take place over the whole weekend or just one day. She reminded the meeting of the earlier suggestion of a street party and suggested a band in the evening. Cllr F Lewis asked if the Clerk had booked the Village Hall and anything else; the hall has been provisionally booked but nothing else yet. Cllr Mullender thought a one day event along the lines of Cllr Boura's suggestion would work well. He asked if a marquee would be

needed to provide cover in case of poor weather. The Clerk said he would look into this. Cllr F Lewis suggested Saturday 11th June.

- h. Gypsy and Traveller Short Stay Stopping Sites. Cllr Waters has asked Parish Councils to help to identify land on which to locate three Short Stay Stopping Sites for the Gypsy and Traveller community (information forwarded to councillors in advance of the meeting). Councillors agreed there is nowhere suitable for this in the parish
- i. Remembrance Sunday arrangements. Cllr F Lewis said Glynn East usually conducts the service. She suggested refreshments in the Village Hall as on previous occasions; there was general enthusiasm for this. Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk if he would ask Charlie Peachey to arrange the wreaths; the donation to the Royal British Legion would remain at £60. Teresa Plested asked if her son, Matthew, could lay the wreath for the veterans as her father used to do this. Cllr Mullender said he found the service was becoming overly religious; Cllr F Lewis said she would speak to Glynn East about this.
- j. Tree planted for Charlie Peachey: Cllr Boura asked the Clerk to write to Neil Horne to thank him for the plaque. She also expressed thanks to her husband, Malcolm Boura, for collecting the tree and digging the hole, and to the Bercovici family for providing refreshments.
- k. Grange Lane trees – Cllr F Lewis said the branches there need attention. Cllr Boura said this would have to be left for a future contract.

5. Reports from the District Councillor

Cllr Harvey said that devolution is still very much on the agenda with business rates the current hot topic. He said Cllr Waters is involved in this. He advised that support grants will be phased out over the next two years. He stressed the need for Neighbourhood Watch coordinators. He also advised that a coordinator for football coaching is necessary but that this would mean up to £1,000 could be raised.

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

- a. £309.60 Clerk's net salary (September 2015) – chq. 1359
 - b. £80.90 HMRC (PAYE September 2015) – chq. 1360
 - c. £32.98 Clerk's expenses (September 2015) - chq. 1359
- Cllr R Lewis proposed agreeing the standard payments: all in favour.

Special Payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- d. £18.00 Frances Lewis (mileage claim) – chq. 1361
- e. £83.22 Barcham Trees – chq. 1364
- f. £50.95 Pamela Boura (expenses in connection with the tree planting) – chq. 1365

Cllr R Lewis proposed agreeing the special payments: all in favour except Cllr Boura and F Lewis who abstained.

Receipts

- f. £300 100 Club (grant towards notice board)

7. 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. 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.* Cllr R Lewis said he had seen a vinyl sign erected already; Cllr Harvey said the Planning Department is not in favour of the application and he would draw this to their attention.

Decisions;

- 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. **REFUSED**

Other

c. Single Issue Review of Core Strategic Policy and Site Allocation Local Plan. Note: this item was considered after part 8 of the agenda. Cllr R Lewis and F Lewis declared prejudicial interests. Cllr Boura said there would be a general discussion then consideration of specific sites in the parish. Cllr Mullender said one of the proposed sites backs on to this property; Cllr Boura said the council would not be quorate for that item. Cllrs R Lewis and F Lewis left the meeting.

Cllr Boura outlined the overall distribution within Forest Heath of 7,000 new homes by 2031. If 30% of these are affordable homes, this would not satisfy the demand but the Planning Department does not think a higher number possible. Cllr Fuller pointed out that the closure of Mildenhall base may add houses not currently available.

Cllr Boura advised that the specific sites under consideration are all 'deferred'. Each site was considered (except the one for which there was no quorum) and a set of questions. The responses were submitted as follows:

Question 1: Barton Mills Parish Council supports Option 1 for the total housing provision because, with environmental constraints affecting so much of Forest Heath, a higher target would be unrealistic.

Question 2/3; The Parish Council believes that the constraints listed for development in Mildenhall are an accurate reflection of the present situation. Further, that the A11 is a natural boundary to the settlement at Red Lodge and that any development to the west of this road would be inappropriate and difficult to integrate into the community.

Question 4/5: The Parish Council believes that development should be concentrated in the three market towns which are the most sustainable locations with employment and service provision nearby, thus reducing the need for travel on inadequate rural roads. Although recognising the environmental constraints in Brandon, we think it may be possible to site more development there than currently proposed by making full use of brown field sites. Newmarket has the best services and is nearer to Cambridge and is therefore the most sustainable location and as much development as possible should take place there.

The Parish Council thinks that further development should be avoided in Red Lodge until community provision has improved (eg a second school) and the community has been allowed to have time to develop as a community. High and very high growth is not appropriate here at present. The Parish Council would therefore prefer an option with higher growth than shown in Newmarket and Brandon and low growth in Red Lodge.

The Parish Council would rank the distribution scenarios listed in the order 1, 4, 2, 3.

With reference to Mildenhall:

Question M1: Mildenhall is a sensible and sustainable location for growth and the proposed closure of RAF Mildenhall, although initially having an adverse impact on the economy of the area, would give opportunities for new employment opportunities to be developed. The impact of the closure on the local housing market will need very careful analysis and this issue is inadequately considered in the current documents.

Question M2/M3: We think that public services are already located close together near the current council offices and that this site remains the best location for developing a "hub".

The Parish Council considered all the sites put forward for development around Mildenhall which fall within Barton Mills parish.

Site M/13: The Parish Council agrees that this site should be deferred because of the potential for flooding and because we think that an undeveloped area should be left along the river.

Site M/23: The Parish Council is unable to comment on this site because declarations of interest resulted in the meeting becoming inquorate.

Site M/26: The Parish Council supports deferring this site for residential use. Commercial use of part of the site would be more appropriate. Additional "Cons" are its relatively remote location from the town centre and the barrier formed by the A11.

Site M/30: The Parish Council supports deferring this site, although it is effectively adjacent to the new edge of the settlement, because it would result in increased coalescence between Barton Mills and the effective boundary of Mildenhall.

Site M/42: The Parish Council supports deferring this site because, although it will be adjacent to the new effective boundary of Mildenhall, it should be preserved as a green buffer between Mildenhall/Barton Mills and Worlington.

M/43

The Parish Council supports deferring this site because of its remote location from the town centre and the barrier formed by the A11.

The following site also lies mainly within Barton Mills parish:

Site: RL/15: This site should be deferred. The Parish Council does not believe that further major development at Red Lodge is appropriate at this time. The A11 forms a natural barrier and if development took place west of the A11, this would effectively be creating another new community. There is potential for coalescence between Barton Mills and Red Lodge.

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

- a. SALC. Cllr F Lewis had attended the meeting at Bardwell on 8th September. She said potholes could be reported online. She also reported that grants were available for computer equipment for small councils; Cllr Boura suggested applying for a grant to buy Publisher. Cllr F Lewis said she would ask SALC.
- b. Parish Forum. Cllr Boura will attend the meeting on 7th October but may be unable to attend the meeting scheduled for December.
- c. A-board. Cllr Mullender suggested an A-board to go outside the village hall on meeting days to encourage higher attendance. He said he had the frame and base and that appropriately worded vinyl stickers were all that would be necessary. Cllr R Lewis said these could be ordered in Mildenhall.

9. Date of next meeting: 3rd November 2015. Apologies received from Cllr Harvey.