

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 3rd November 2015 at 7.30 pm.

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

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

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

Apologies: District Cllr Brian Harvey (arriving late), Cllr James Waters, Cllr Steve Mullender
Declarations of interest: Cllr F Lewis (4c personal interest, 7a prejudicial interest), Cllr R Lewis (7a prejudicial interest), Cllr Flack (4c personal interest, 8d prejudicial interest)

2. Police Matters

Cllr Harji advised of a robbery at Fiveways.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2015

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

4. Matters arising and pending

a. 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 plus delivery. A grant of £300 has been received towards this from the 100 Club. The Clerk has investigated quotes for a landscape board for up to eight sheets of A4 which will be a similar price. He has made enquiries with FHDC whether planning permission is needed but is awaiting a reply. Cllr Hayward said he would be willing to look after the notice board but said it would be necessary to be selective if only eight sheets could be posted at any one time.

b. 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 had asked SALC officers if they know of any grants that may be available.

They recommended approaching Cllr Waters – the Clerk said he would chase this up (also, whether there was a possibility of using an alternative contractor). SALC also suggested applying for lottery grants. The Clerk said he would look into this.

- c. The Queen's 90th birthday. A meeting was held on 21st October following an earlier suggestion by the Parish Council that celebrations could take the form of a one-day street party with a marquee and band on the field in the evening of Saturday 11th June. The Clerk has provisionally booked the village hall and a 6m x 12m marquee (£295 from First Choice) for this date. Cllr Boura asked if the Parish Council would pay for the hall hire for the meeting, cost £9; this was agreed. She said six residents, including three councillors, had attended the meeting. Cllr F Lewis provided the background to the meeting and said various suggestions had been made including a picnic tea party on the Saturday afternoon which could include a children's entertainer, followed by a music night. She asked if the Parish Council would sponsor the event and provide some money so that it would come under the banner of the Parish Council rather than any other organisation. Cllr Harji suggested limiting the funding to £1,000. Cllr F Lewis reminded councillors of the prize draw which had raised around £600 for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations but had required a lot of organisation. Cllr Boura offered to organise this. Cllr Flack knew of a local band who would charge £300 for the evening. Cllr Dawson offered to compile a list of local bands for the next meeting and asked if she could advertise this opportunity in the Barton Miller.
- d. Planters: as requested, Cllr Boura spoke to John and Glenda Berrett about Teresa Plested's offer to care for the planter formerly cared for by her father. However, the Berretts said that they were happy to care for two and had already purchased most of the plants. They have since planted the planters with evergreens, tulips and violas. Most of this planting will be permanent but they plan to replace the violas with geraniums in the summer. Lindsay and Derek Judd have planted "their" planter with wallflowers and tulips. John Squires has resumed caring for the planter outside his house and has painted it with pansies. Cllr Boura asked the Clerk to write to Teresa Plested to thank her for her offer; Cllr R Lewis suggested she could be invited to help maintain the Peace Garden instead.
- e. 30mph flashing sign. The Clerk has contacted the Highways Department about being included in a VAS scheme as an independent member. There are a number operational in Suffolk, and it might be that they have another group into which Barton Mills could integrate rather than joining in with Worlington which is part of a group of five villages now. It was suggested that Red Lodge may be a suitable partner although the speed bumps there may render a VAS scheme unnecessary,
- f. Defibrillator. 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 had asked the Clerk to ascertain whether there is support for this within the community via the Barton Miller. Cllr R Lewis said someone had already approached him saying it is a good idea. Cllr Flack questioned its merits, suggesting doctors' opinions should be sought. Cllr F Lewis suggested the church porch as a possible location as it is always unlocked; Cllr Harvey thought a telephone connection is necessary. Cllr Boura suggested possible ways of raising funds including a barbeque and fundraising at the Bell (given its proposed location). Cllr Hayward asked how people would know about the defibrillator; they would be told of its location when they make an emergency call. Cllr Dawson enquired if there is an ongoing cost; the Clerk was unaware and Cllr Harvey thought not. Cllr Boura said BT sponsors the provision of electricity where phone boxes are used.
- g. Parish Forum: At the meeting held in October, Police Inspector Torkington said that he had personal experience of the problems at Fiveways roundabout and was putting pressure on the Highways Agency for the technical study to be progressed quickly. Cllr Waters gave a presentation on devolution. The next Forum meeting has been postponed until 20 January and will be held at Barton Mills Village Hall.
- h. Proposed pavement sign. Cllr Mullender had proposed a sign to advertise meetings. 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. Cllr Boura said the wording would have to be decided.
- i. Football coaching coordinator. The Clerk has attempted to contact the Football Club secretary on several occasions but has not received a reply. However, Cllr Harvey previously advised that any individual could take on this role. The Clerk was asked to put an advertisement in the Barton Miller but, immediately following the meeting, Cllr Fuller volunteered.
- j. Update on Hastoe hedge and dead trees in Manor View and Church Meadow. The Clerk said he would chase these items.

- k. Car boot sales 2016. A meeting was held in which the various organisations agreed, subject to the approval of the Parish Council, the following dates:

Day	Date	Hall	Field	BBQ
Easter Monday	28 March	Village Hall	Village Hall	
May Day	2 May	WI	WI	
Spring Bank Holiday	30 May	Church	Allotments	Football Club or Allotments
Late Summer Bank Holiday	29 August	Church	Football Club or Church	Football Club or Allotments

Cllr Boura advised the meeting had been successful. Councillors agreed the proposal.

- l. Remembrance Day. Cllr F Lewis said the service would start at 10.45am led by Glynn East. The Parish Council would provide refreshments. She asked for help to set up beforehand and in serving tea and coffee. Cllr Fuller offered to help; others were uncertain whether they could attend. Cllr Fuller was asked to lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

5. Report from the District Councillor

Cllr Harvey said Cllr Waters was trying to get funding towards the footpath. He commented that many of the SIR sites were in the parish but had not been presented as such. He noted that the issue over the Pancake and Waffle Shack had been settled. He said there is a legal challenge concerning ownership of part of the Fiveways Farm and that he was checking with Highways about the A11 signage.

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

- £309.60 Clerk's net salary (October 2015) – chq. 1367
 - £77.40 HMRC (PAYE October 2014) – chq.
 - £28.94 Clerk's expenses (October 2014) - chq. 1367
- Cllr Harji proposed agreeing the standard payments: all in favour.

Special Payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- £28.75 Garry Flack (re planter) – chq. 1368
- £78 Glenda Berrett (re planters) – chq. 1369
- £1410 DM Tree & Landscape Contractors Ltd – chq. 1370
- £110 Rainbow Club (donation) – chq. 1371
- £60 Royal British Legion – chq. 1366

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

Other

Financial Risk Management Policy Statement – Cllr R Lewis had prepared a statement for adoption. Cllr Fuller proposed adopting the statement: all in favour.

7. Planning.

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

General and for consideration:

- DC/15/1928/FUL Plot 4 (Sandfords Nursery) Newmarket Road – 1 No. two-storey dwelling with detached double garage. Cllrs R Lewis and F Lewis left the meeting for this item. *Cllr Boura outlined the plans and proposed no objection with the comment that the front wall should be of a similar height to that of the adjacent bungalow: all in favour.*
- Land Used for Car Boot Sale, Newmarket Road - variation of condition 4 of planning permission F/2009/0137/COU to allow car boot sales every Wednesday commencing the third week in May up until the second week in September (inclusive). Cllr Dawson commented that during sales over the summer, cars and lorries were often backing up past Fiveways on the A11 and wondered what Highways thinks of this. *Cllr Boura proposed objecting on road safety grounds: all in favour.* Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to write to both the Highways Agency and Suffolk Highways expressing concerns about traffic safety over the current use.

Cllr Dawson also raised the issue of cars parking on the bend of the road outside the Bull as it turns into

the Street and suggested a double yellow line should be added here. The Clerk said he would raise this with Suffolk Highways.

Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals:

- c. 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

Other

- d. Pancake and Waffle House. Cllr Boura advised that the vehicle access on to Mill Lane has been deemed permitted development as it is on to an unclassified road.
- e. Cllr with Responsibility for Planning. Cllr R Lewis said he had been keen to take on this function but had found that he had to declare an interest in too many applications and thought it may be better for the Parish Council if someone else takes on the role. Cllr Dawson asked what the role involves and volunteered to take it on.

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

- a. Play equipment inspections until 6 Dec whilst Cllr Boura is away. Cllrs Dawson and Harji volunteered to cover her absence between them.
- b. Training for Parish Councillors in Mildenhall on 9th December. The Clerk said he would find out about this and forward information to councillors.
- c. Flooding on the Street. Cllr Boura asked the Clerk to follow up the promised repairs with Cllr Waters.
- d. Footpath foliage along the old Newmarket Road. Cllr Fuller said this was a problem in places as walkers were being forced onto the road. The Clerk was asked to follow this up with Suffolk Highways but Cllr R Lewis suggested contacting the relevant landowners.
- e. 2016 meeting dates. All councillors were happy to continue with Tuesday meetings although Cllr Fuller pointed out that Cllr Waters had been unable to attend any meetings since the day was changed. The January meeting date will be 12th (Cllr Dawson gave her apologies), thereafter meetings will be on the first Tuesday of each month.

9. Date of next meeting: 8th December 2015 (Cllrs F Lewis and R Lewis gave their apologies).