

# 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 8<sup>th</sup> December 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 Steve Mullender  
County Cllr James Waters  
James Bercovici (Clerk)

0. **Opportunity for members of the Public to speak (3 minute limit, not statutory part of meeting).**  
Cllr Boura suggested bringing the discussion of the Queen's birthday celebrations to the start of section 4 so that Colin Brotherton could participate in the discussions.
1. **Courtesies. Apologies and Signing of the Register. Declarations of Interest.**  
Apologies: Cllrs Dawson, F Lewis and R Lewis, District Cllr Harvey  
Declarations of interest:
2. **Police Matters**  
Cllr Boura said that four police cars had been near the village hall at lunchtime; Cllr Hayward had noticed fire engines in the area. Cllr Flack said a garage on the Street had been broken into.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015**  
Cllr Flack 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 and volunteered to look after it. The Clerk has obtained permission from the landowner to site a board at this location. 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 (Cllr Hayward said it would be necessary to be selective if only eight sheets could be posted at any one time). He has ascertained from FHDC that planning permission is required but the Parish Council benefits from a 50% discount so the cost for this will be £192.50.  
  
Cllr Boura asked if councillors wanted to proceed given the additional cost: Cllr Fuller proposed making a planning application: all in favour. The Clerk was asked to make the application.
  - 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.

Cllr Waters advised there is no money available at present. Cllr Fuller asked why the project has lost funding; Cllr Waters said this is not the case. Cllr Fuller said the project is only half-completed as the path is not suitable for many users. Cllr Hayward agreed, pointing out that it is unsuitable for motorised wheelchair users for whom this would be the only viable path to the shops in Mildenhall. The Clerk reminded Cllr Waters that the Parish Council needs to know if there is a way it can use a local contractor. Cllr Waters said he would investigate this and also whether there is any money available at Forest Heath.

- c. The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. A meeting was held on 21<sup>st</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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. The Clerk advised the meeting that Cllr Dawson had not had any response to the advertisement but that a couple of bands had expressed interest.

Colin Brotherton said he had approached the Guinness Book of Records as he hoped Barton Mills could become the village with the highest proportion of people attending an event. The organisation had shown interest but not, he said, the village. His other idea was to purchase a beacon which could be lit as a focus of the evening. Cllr Harji asked how much this would cost. The Clerk said Cllr Dawson had found one online for £865 plus delivery. Cllr Flack asked where it would be positioned; Cllr Hayward said it would have to be on the edge of the field. Cllr Boura liked the idea of a permanent memorial to the occasion. Cllr Hayward expressed concern about the public liability of the manufacturer. Cllr Boura proposed a maximum budget of £500 for this and suggested that if the balance could not be raised, the project would be cancelled: all in favour. Cllr Waters said he would match this.

- d. 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. However, Worlington has confirmed that their sign can be available to Barton Mills for the second week in their rotation and advised that someone needs to be responsible from Barton Mills for placing the sign out and for return to Worlington in time for their third week.

Cllr Hayward volunteered to be a coordinator for this. Cllr Fuller said it should not fall on one person and said he would be willing to be part of a rotation. He said the locations would need to be agreed. The Clerk said he would find out more and contact Cllrs Hayward and Fuller with more information.

- e. 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.

Cllr Boura said it would be necessary to approach BT formally about this. The Clerk said a budget would need to be agreed; Cllr Boura suggested the Bell might be persuaded to spearhead a fundraising campaign or that the solstice event could possibly raise money towards this. Cllr Harji asked if Barry Klatt was willing to site the defibrillator in the phone box; Cllr Boura advised that Cllr R Lewis had discussed this with Barry Klatt and said this was not a problem. The clerk was asked to obtain more information from the Community Heart Beat Trust

- f. 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. Cllr Mullender confirmed he has the frame and base but may need the hanging section. He said he would have a proper look at this.
- g. Update on Hastoe hedge and dead trees in Manor View and Church Meadow. Sam Russell of Hastoe has advised that he is awaiting budget approval from the Regional Manager to get this tidied up after getting quotes in; the Clerk has identified that the dead trees are on county-owned land and is awaiting a response from Guy Smith. Cllr Boura advised that the Church Meadow tree is the fourth/last tree on the left.
- h. BMX jumps. The Clerk has advised councillors that the additional premium for insuring the jumps is £305.11 for the remaining portion of this year alone. Cllr Mullender offered to advertise them on eBay. The Clerk said he would find out how they were installed.

#### 5. Reports from the County Councillor

Cllr Waters advised that improvements to signage and road markings at Fiveways would be looked at over the Christmas period. He said he had supported a defibrillator in Freckenham and would do so in Barton Mills. Cllr Hayward said there were trees across the footpath to Worlington; Cllr Boura said these could be reported on the Suffolk website. Cllr Fuller asked about Fiveways Farm; Cllr Waters said things move slowly with Highways and the Forestry Commission.

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

- a. £309.60 Clerk's net salary (November 2015) – chq.
- b. £77.40 HMRC (PAYE November 2014) – chq.
- c. £22.04 Clerk's expenses (November 2014) - chq.

Cllr Mullender proposed agreeing the standard payments: all in favour.

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

- d. £26.35 F Lewis (Remembrance Day refreshments) – chq.
- e. £37.50 (Remembrance Day wine) – chq.
- f. £45 Barton Mills Village Hall (hall hire, July-September) – chq.
- g. £825 Old Parsonage Garden Services (grass cutting, July-October) – chq.

Cllr Fuller proposed agreeing the special payments: all in favour.

#### Other

Cllr Boura suggested the budget group should consider funding for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday including the beacon, a defibrillator, tree works, grass protection for the corner of the field, picnic tables (from the Allotments Association), street lighting and a provision for the footpath works.

#### 7. Planning.

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

#### General and for consideration:

- a. DC/15/2200/VAR 26c Worlington Road – Proposed 9 no. dwellings and 1 no. B1 office unit without compliance with Condition 25 of DC/14/2320/FUL to allow variation of dwelling types as detailed on revised plans. *Cllr Fuller proposed no objection: all in favour.*

#### Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals:

- b. 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.*

- c. 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.

Highways England has recommended that planning permission should not be granted until anecdotal evidence from the Parish Council has been corroborated and, possibly, mitigated by the applicant.

- d. 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.

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

- a. Bus stop sign on Worlington Road: Cllr Hayward pointed out there is no sign on the approach to Mildenhall; Cllr Boura asked if one is necessary. Cllr Waters said he would look into this.

- 9. Date of next meeting:** 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 in the church room (Cllr Dawson previously gave apologies).