

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 2nd February 2016 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
James Bercovici (Clerk)

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

Neil and Hannah Clarke of Old Rectory Cottage attended and spoke about their plans (agenda item 7b) explaining that they had sought advice from FHDC before submitting their bid for purchasing the property. They were determined to maintain the cottage appearance and said the proposed extension would not be visible from the street; also the ridge height would not be higher than the current cottage. The item was brought forward to immediately after the formalities.

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

Apologies: Cllrs Mullender, Waters and Harvey

Declarations of interest: Cllrs R Lewis and F Lewis (items 7a and 7b); Cllr F Lewis (7iii); Cllr Boura (7vi)

2. Police Matters

The Clerk has been advised that police reports should recommence in time for the April meeting. Cllr Harji reported a solar security light had been removed from Mildenhall Road.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2016

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 Fuller had proposed making a planning application: all in favour. The Clerk advised he needed to go into FHDC for a pre-application consultation.
- b. Footpath to Mildenhall. Update on funding. The Clerk advised that he had tried several sources including Rural Initiative Grants Scheme (available only in St Edmundsbury), the West Suffolk Community Chest (awaiting response), the Rotary Club (need to be a member), Lions Club (awaiting response) and Cllr Hayward said he had been trying to contact the manager of Sainsbury. Cllr Boura reiterated her suggestion of contacting Mildenhall PC. Cllr R Lewis suggested applying for a s106 grant.
- c. The Queen's 90th birthday. Update: Cllr Dawson said she had received two offers of bands to play for half an hour each. However, she advised that there is a football match between England and Russia scheduled for the evening of 11th June. Cllr Boura suggested moving the event to the Friday evening; Cllr Dawson suggested either combining it with the solstice event the following weekend or holding it on the afternoon of Sunday 12th June. This was agreed. Cllr F Lewis asked if anything had been considered for children's entertainment; Cllr Dawson said it had not so far. The Clerk was asked to confirm the booking for the marquee would include the Sunday afternoon; Cllr F Lewis said she would amend the village hall booking.

- d. Defibrillator. Update: the Clerk contacted Gazeley Parish Council about their experience of fundraising for this and about other practicalities. The only maintenance required is a weekly check to see that the green light is on indicating that all is well and the replacement of the batteries as they wear out, which is rare. They recommend applying for locality grants (both district and council) as well as local fundraising. Cllr R Lewis said he would discuss fundraising at the Bell after the meeting. Cllr Boura said she would put something in the Barton Miller but thinks it should be possible to raise the funding, especially since Cllr Waters had said he would contribute. It was agreed to allocate £500 to launch the fund. Cllr R Lewis thought someone at the Parish Forum had advised that they had heard through SALC that it might be possible to obtain one free.
- e. 30mph flashing sign. Cllr Hayward has been in contact with regard to the Worlington scheme. The Clerk is looking into a new scheme for Barton Mills. Cllr Hayward said he had spoken with the contact at Worlington but the organiser was handing over to someone else so everything is on hold. The preference of the meeting was to pursue the S.I.D. option as previously discussed.
- f. Football coaching. Cllr Fuller has received confirmation of £810 funding from Cllr Harvey and has made arrangements with Sporting87 for two sessions during the half-term holiday (there will be four more during the Easter holiday). The Clerk has advertised this and requested the Clerks of Worlington and Freckenham do the same. Cllr Fuller said the funding is in place and coaches have been arranged but he was unsure how to advertise this. Councillors volunteered several ways to promote the event.
- g. The Cream Tea organised by the Coffee Caravan has now been booked for Tuesday 17 May from 2-4 pm. With preparation and clearing away time, it will be necessary to pay for 3 1/2 hours of Village Hall hire (the hall has been booked). The Coffee Caravan are already liaising with AgeUK and similar organisations and have all arrangements, including publicity, in hand.
- h. Creation of a "Bee World" on the edge of the playing field. Following agreement at the January meeting, Cllr Boura has made an application to FOE to be part of the scheme. Dave Green is offering to clear 50 m2 free of charge provided he can leave the material scraped off on the edge of the field. Cllr Boura suggested the area should be 50m by 1m but Cllr Hayward thought 25m by 2m would be easier to maintain; others agreed. He asked what would happen to the material scraped off, suggesting it could be banked up. This was rejected. Cllr Boura said Dave Green would be advising when the ramps would be removed and said he had advised that £400 was the maximum estimate for this work.
- i. Spring Clean. Publicity is in hand but a volunteer is needed to organise this. When no-one volunteered to organise this event, Cllr Boura said she would take it on. Cllr Boura asked the Clerk to apply to FHDC for materials.
- j. Insurance. Having received a quote of £1,884.16, around three times the previous year's premium (twice, once the BMX jumps are removed), the Clerk has received a quote for identical cover from Came & Co for £995.54, reduced to £945.76 for a three-year undertaking. The Clerk has gone back to the current insurers but has received no comment from them. Cllr F Lewis advised that field users were previously required to sign a form to confirm their own liability insurance. Cllr R Lewis proposed accepting the three year option with immediate effect: all in favour. Chq. 1385.
- k. Fiveways Farm. At the January meeting, Cllr R Lewis asked if there is any update as there appears to be more vehicles, horses and signs. He said there has been no visible progress. Cllr Harvey said he would follow this up. The Estates Office have advised that the Forestry Commission has been granted a Possession Order in respect of the land it owns at Fiveways. It is currently in discussion with the other affected landowners on the best ways to secure possession within a reasonable timescale. Cllr R Lewis asked when the order had been granted and who the other landowners are: the Clerk said he would find out.
- l. Car Boot Sales. The football club has confirmed it will be taking up all three of the fundraising opportunities it has been offered.
- m. Clerk. The position has been advertised for 6 hours per week (average) and the closing date for applications is 15th February. There has already been interest in the position from existing clerks in surrounding parishes. Cllr Boura said the appointment process needs to be delegated and it was agreed that she, Cllr Harji and the Clerk oversee this.
- n. Housing needs. It has been suggested that Barton Mills could embark on a new project of affordable housing. The Clerk has contacted Forest Heath DC for advice and is awaiting the relevant officer's contact. Cllr F Lewis asked if the Parish Council thinks this a good idea and reminded councillors that the process takes several years. Cllr Dawson thought it a good idea but said she thought there is less funding

available for social housing because rents have decreased (so there is less for new developments). The work on the hedge at the Hastoe site has been carried out.

- o. Street lighting - problem lights. Cllr Boura advised there is one light in Bell Lane in need of repair and one other that cannot be repaired (she thought Pearce & Kemp should take responsibility for this). She said there is one light opposite the end of Church Lane that has been out since September. She asked if the Grange Lane light needed reinstating; Cllr Flack said there is no light by the footpath. Cllr Hayward said the light at the Station Road junction had been knocked over; the Clerk said he would contact the police about this.
- p. Land adjacent to 58 Church Lane: A resident has raised concerns about this "amenity area". Cllr Boura reported that the present occupants seemed to have adopted the land for their own use although the land belongs to FHDC. The Clerk was asked to report this.

5. Reports from the District and County Councillors

Not present

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

- a. £309.60 Clerk's net salary (January 2016) – chq. 1382
- b. £77.40 HMRC (PAYE January 2016) – chq.
- c. £22.44 Clerk's expenses (January 2016) - chq. 1382

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

Special Payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- d. £15 St Mary's Church (use of church room, January meeting) – chq. 1383
- e. £3210.70 Suffolk CC (street light maintenance and energy, year to 31/03/2016) – chq. 1384

Cllr Harji proposed agreeing the standard payments: all in favour except Cllr F Lewis (abstained re. 6e).

Other - Donations

- i. Rainbow Playgroup: Cllr Hayward proposed £120: all in favour – chq. 1386
- ii. Citizens Advice Bureau: Cllr Hayward proposed £130: all in favour – chq. 1387
- iii. Barton Miller: Cllr Flack proposed £100 goods in kind: all in favour
- iv. Suffolk Accident and Rescue: it was agreed to defer this until the next meeting to find out more about the organisation.
- v. East Anglian Air Ambulance: Cllr Dawson proposed £200: all in favour – chq. 1388
- vi. Credit Union: Cllr R Lewis proposed £75: all in favour (except Cllr Boura who had left the meeting for this item) – chq. 1389

7. Planning.

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

General and for consideration:

- a. DC/16/0007/FUL 26c Worlington Road – 4 no. dwellings. Cllr Dawson outlined the application advising that the detail corresponded with the previous application. Cllr Boura said the neighbour objected, claiming the properties will overlook their land. Cllr Hayward was not happy about this aspect of the proposal. Cllr Fuller proposed no objection: all in favour.
- b. DC/16/0060/HH Old Rectory Cottage, 33 The Street – a one and half storey rear extension (demolition of existing annexe extension), single storey side extension (to replace existing conservatory), new pitched dormers to front elevation and a detached carport to the front of the property. Cllr Dawson said the proposal was an improvement on the current building and had no objection to the application. Cllr Boura said she was unhappy about the car port at the front of the building. Cllr Dawson proposed no objection: all in favour except Cllr Boura who abstained.

Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals:

- c. 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.*
- d. 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.

- e. 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

- f. 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.* **APPROVED with conditions**

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

- a. Cllr Dawson asked who is responsible for the provision of burial land in the parish. Cllr F Lewis outlined the church's position.
- b. Cllr R Lewis advised there is now a digital Barton Miller which will be emailed to the Clerk at the start of each month for addition to the website.
- c. Cllr Boura said she would like to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on a different day to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. She proposed the theme could be the consultation concerning the development boundary and suggested that the meeting could be held on Wednesday 20th April when she assumed the village hall would be available. Cllr R Lewis didn't think a change of date would affect attendance; Cllr Boura agreed but thought it would free up time for other discussions such as social housing, the proposed defibrillator etc. Cllr F Lewis asked if there is a legal format to the meeting and whether organisations could be invited to attend and outline their work. Cllr Boura thought the latter inappropriate although Cllr Dawson did suggest that any organisation wanting financial assistance from the Parish Council should attend to state its case. Cllr Boura said she would book the village hall.
- d. Cllr F Lewis said she had heard that residents would soon have to pay extra for brown bins to be emptied. Cllr Hayward said he had heard it would be £41 per year.
- e. Cllr Hayward asked if the plan to procure a beacon for the Queen's birthday had been dropped. There was some general discussion, following which Cllr Hayward proposed abandoning the idea: all in favour.
- f. Cllr Boura asked if the suggestion of building a picnic area was still popular and suggested applying for a FHDC grant for this as the Parish Forum had been told that there was a fund available for the Queen's birthday projects which "built relationships and brought communities together". The Clerk was asked to investigate.

- 9. Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 1st March 2016 in the Village Hall. Cllr Hayward gave his apologies.