

# Barton Mills Parish Council

James Bercovici  
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Barton Mills  
Bury St Edmunds  
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IP28 6AA

Clerk: James Bercovici  
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Chairman: Mrs P Boura  
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## Minutes of the Meeting of Barton Mills Parish Council

Held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 at 7.30 pm.

**Circulation:** Cllr Pamela Boura (Chairman)  
Cllr Amin Harji (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr Annette Dawson  
Cllr Keith Fuller  
Cllr Frances Lewis  
Cllr Robert Lewis  
Cllr Steve Mullender  
Cllr Gary Flack  
Cllr Richard Hayward  
District Cllr Brian Harvey  
James Bercovici (Clerk)  
Abigail Davies (Clerk)

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

No members of the Public were present at the meeting.

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

Apologies: Cllr Hayward and Cllr Flack. District Cllr Harvey arrived part way through the meeting at 8.30 during discussion of item 4g.

Declarations of interest: None.

**2. Police Matters**

None reported.

**3. Minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016**

Cllr Dawson proposed agreeing the minutes: all in favour.

**4. Matters arising and pending**

a. Clerk. Abigail Davies has been appointed as the new Parish Clerk from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016. James Bercovici will also remain in the position as Clerk during March 2016 during this handover period. Abigail Davies gave a brief introduction of herself to the Councillors she had not met during the selection process for the role. She thanked James Bercovici for his help to date and the Councillors thanked him for all his hard work over the past 12 years.

b. **Provision of a village notice board in the vicinity of Worlington Road** –The Clerk (Abigail Davies) advised she had visited FHDC and met with a planning duty officer who had provided her with copies of the 'Application for Consent to Display an Advertisement' form. Action: A Davies to complete the form for Cllr Boura to review and then be submitted to FHDC.

A Davies also reported the Parish Council needed to establish exactly who the land owner of the proposed site for the Notice Board is and obtain permission, be it the land owner or management company or both, J Bercovici confirmed permission had been obtained. Action: J Bercovici to advise A Davies who permission had been obtained from and any associated documentation.

Lead time for the planning application is 7-8 weeks. The cost of the application will be £192.50.

- c. **Footpath to Mildenhall.** Update on funding. The Clerk (J Bercovici) 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 the manager of Sainsbury. Sainsbury reported they had no monies in this year's budget to assist in funding. It was discussed if Sainsbury could be approached again regarding a possible funding from next year's budget. The clerk has also contacted Mildenhall PC. Cllr R Lewis suggested applying for a s106 grant. Action: J Bercovici to provide A Davies with a comprehensive list of organisations who have been approached for funding and their responses by 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

The general condition of the path was discussed as areas of the footpath are quite waterlogged at present. Cllr Boura expressed the view that the footpath was wet during the winter months and during periods of significant rainfall but dry in the summer months. Cllrs R Lewis and Cllr Mullender confirmed the responsibility for the drainage of the water meadows is shared between The Wildlife Trust and The Environment Agency. Possible causes of flooding are; leaks in the river bank, the outflow from the valve in the field, the outflow to the Gas Pool and potential blockages in the final section of pipe being only 4 inches wide.

- d. **The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Update:** This event will take place on the afternoon of 12<sup>th</sup> June 2016, exact timings yet to be confirmed. It was proposed and agreed a 'Working Group' should be formed to meet regularly and organise this event, reporting to the Parish Council. It is hoped this 'Working Group' will take the form of both PC members and members of the Parish. The first meeting of this 'Working Group' will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7pm at the Church Room. (Cllr Boura to confirm booking of the Church Room.) Action: A Davies to produce a poster to display across the village to inform the residents of the Parish of the planned meeting/event and request for volunteers to form the Working Group and/or help in general with the event. Anyone willing could they please attend the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Cllr Boura to approve the poster and locations for its display. Cllr R Lewis kindly offered to laminate the poster. Ideally the posters need to be on display from 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

Volunteers to date to form the Working Group are; Cllr F Lewis, Cllr Harji, Cllr Hayward and The Clerk A Davies. Cllr Boura and Cllr Dawson will also attend the first meeting but are not able to be present on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

The current budget for the event is £1,000. £500 from BMPC and up to £500 grant from FHDC. Action: J Bercovici to produce and provide District Cllr Harvey asap with a budget to secure the funding.

It was proposed by Cllr Boura for a marquee to be hired for the event at cost of £295: all in favour.

Cllr Dawson said she had received an offer from Emma Beardsmore and her band to play free of charge. The provision of any PA equipment will need to be established. The proposed picnic area was also discussed and it was suggested that this would be best situated adjacent to the existing picnic bench near the play area. Cllr Boura said that she would find out if Peter Cumber would be able to install the new picnic benches.

- e. **30mph flashing sign.** Cllr Hayward has been in contact with regard to the Worlington scheme 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. The Clerk (J Bercovici) reported the Worlington flashing sign has been damaged and reported Cllr Hayward would be looking further into the possibility of pairing with Worlington for a new flashing sign.
- f. **Defibrillator.** Update: The Clerk (J Bercovici) confirmed that the free supply of defibrillators is exhausted and no longer available. Cllr R Lewis confirmed one quarter of the proceeds from The Solstice event will be donated to this project and Cllr Boura said she would hold a coffee morning in May.

- g. **Football coaching.** At half term, 10 children attended on Monday and 16 on Friday and the coaches felt that the sessions had been a success. Parents expressed gratitude that activities had been arranged for half-term week.  
There is funding for 4 further sessions. It was proposed and agreed these sessions should be booked as 2 sessions during the second week of the Easter school holidays and 2 sessions during the May half-term school holiday. Action: Cllr Fuller to confirm the availability of the dates for the next proposed sessions. District Cllr Harvey stated any positive feedback regarding the event would be gratefully received. The Clerk (A Davies) suggested obtaining the contact email addresses of the parents of children who attended to request they send feedback after the future planned sessions.
- h. **Creation of a "Bee World" on the edge of the playing field.** Nothing further has yet been heard from FOE but David Green has scraped the vegetation off 50m2 along the edge of the field. Cllr Boura will follow this up.
- i. **Spring Clean.** Arrangements are in hand for 5 March and all helpers will be very welcome. David Bliss has offered to clean all the information boards on a regular basis (every 3 months) and has done this in the last few days. Cllr Boura has liaised with Sue Syvret from Mildenhall PC. The areas which are hard to clear up due to their locality and difficulty to access were discussed. After the Spring Clean a 'Thank you' will be published in the Barton Miller to all those who helped.
- j. **Fiveways Farm.** The Clerk (J Bercovici) has been advised that the Possession Order was granted in 2015 but was subject to several appeals, which were eventually defeated. He has been told that this is a very complex case and as it is still in a legal process. However, he has received confirmation that the land is owned by FHDC and Highways England. Cllr R Lewis highlighted fencing and a memorial to the occupier's deceased wife had been erected without permission over the previous weekend and this was a safety hazard as a distraction to motorists. He also stated there had been criticism of the PC on social media regarding this issue. District Cllr Harvey stated he would make enquires into exactly who owned which areas of the land being occupied. Action: It was agreed for the Clerk (A Davies) to draft a letter to the Chief Executive of FHDC regarding exactly what action had and was going to be taken regarding this issue and any eviction proceedings and request a formal response from the Chief Executive for presentation at the next BMPC meeting.
- k. **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. Action: The Clerk (J Bercovici) to pursue this with FHDC.
- l. **Street lighting** - problem lights. Cllr Boura advised:
- The knocked over light at the junction of Worlington Road and Station Road is owned by Suffolk County Council and a replacement has been ordered.
  - Light 64 in The Street – SCC have a new contractor who have reported they do not have the equipment to repair this light.  
Action: Cllr Boura will ensure that any further replacement folding lights meet the SCC specification and the clerk (James Bercovici) will look into the possibility of having a separate contract with Pearce and Kemp for the maintenance of the 4 existing lights with this problem.
  - Street light outside the Vicarage is a G39, Cllr F Lewis to liaise with the church regarding it being moved.
  - Street light on Station Road requires the ivy to be removed. Cllr Boura to obtain a quote.
  - Street Light in Bell Lane – the control box needs replacing, again Cllr Boura to obtain a quote.
  - Replacing the light that was previously removed from Grange Lane, again Cllr Boura will obtain a quote.

- m. **Land adjacent to 56 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 (J Bercovici) has reported this.
- n. **Play equipment.** The cycle ramps have been removed and the platform on the climbing frame has been replaced.
- o. **Annual Parish Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016.** Proposed topics include the proposed new settlement boundary, 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations, the defibrillator and social housing. It was agreed to invite a speaker from the planning department.
- p. **Solstice.** Cllr R Lewis has applied, as promoter of the event, for road closure of Bell Lane from 6am on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June to 5am on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June and for a small section of the Street at the end of Bell Lane on 18<sup>th</sup> June from 1pm to midnight. Formal notification of authorities will take place

#### 5. Reports from the District and County Councillors

District Cllr Harvey gave apologies on behalf of Cllr Waters who was attending a Devolution meeting in London.

Cllr Harvey reaffirmed the request for a locality budget towards the 90th Birthday Celebrations to be submitted to him asap to secure up to £500 funding.

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

- a. £309.60 Clerk's net salary (February 2016) – chq. 1390
  - b. £77.40 HMRC (PAYE February 2016) – chq.
  - c. £22.72 Clerk's expenses (February 2016) - chq. 1390
- Cllr Harji proposed agreeing all payments

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

- d. £400 Dave Green (field work) – chq. 1391
  - e. £221 Sporting 87 Educational Trust (football coaching) – chq. 1392
  - f. £124.70 Eurooffice (Barton Miller paper, payable to the Clerk) – chq. 1390
  - g. £354 First Choice Marquee Hire – chq. 1393
- Cllr Harji proposed agreeing all payments; All in favour except Cllr F Lewis (abstained).

#### Other

- h. Grant to Suffolk Accident and Rescue. Cllr Dawson proposed a grant of £110; all in favour.
- i. Bank Account. Change of Signatories it was agreed for all Parish Councillors to be added as signatories and Abigail Davies to be added. The outgoing Clerk and any signatories on the mandate who no longer are councillors should be removed and the bank mandate updated as detailed above.

#### 7. Planning.

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

#### General and for consideration:

- a. DC/16/0242/FUL Belle Vue Newmarket Road Barton Mills Suffolk IP28 6BJ Planning Application - (i) Conversion of existing outbuilding to annex (ii) Single storey extensions to existing barn conversion as approved under DC/15/1402/PMBPA. Cllr Dawson commented that no public objections had been made on the website and this was an extension to an existing building. Cllr Dawson proposed no objection: all in favour.

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

- 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.*
- 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.
- e. 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. **APPROVED**

**Other**

Proposals for Settlement Boundaries. It is not proposed to include the Worlington Rd area within the settlement boundary of either Barton Mills or Mildenhall. Although the Old Station site has been recognised as a possible suitable site for housing, this is not proposed to be taken forward to prevent coalescence between Barton Mills and Mildenhall. Only four minor changes are proposed to the settlement boundary of Barton Mills, to include land which has already been developed. An area to the north of existing development in Red Lodge is proposed to be allocated for the further development of this community. A small part of this falls within Barton Mills parish but no development is proposed to the north west of the A11.

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

A SALC FHDC area meeting is to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr F Lewis is attending and will liaise with A Davies to attend also.

The next Parish forum meeting is on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March in Exning. Cllr Boura and A Davies will attend.

**9. Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016 in the Church Room at 7.30pm.