

Annual Report of Barton Mills Parish Council April 2016

My first year as Chairman began after the elections in May last year which were uncontested as far as Barton Mills Parish Council was concerned with just seven people standing for the nine seats. Steve Mullender and Richard Hayward from Worlington Road were co-opted to fill the vacant places. Later Annette Dawson was also able to re-join the council when Kay Blanchard resigned. Our thanks are due to Kay for the contribution she made during her time in office.

Charlie Peachey decided not to stand for re-election after spending about 50 years as a Barton Mills Councillor and, in September, we marked his long service by planting an oak tree on the playing field.

Another addition to the playing field last summer was a new climbing frame aimed at the 3-7 age group. This was largely funded by a grant from Forest Heath District Council with additional contributions from the 100 Club and the Burrell Trust. This support was greatly appreciated by the parish councillors and, of course, by the many children who come to our field to play.

The 7 a-side goals, which have now been on our field for several years, remain popular with teenagers and the parish council was keen to repeat the children's football training sessions which were also held several years ago. Funding was arranged with the support of our District and County councillors through their locality budgets and sessions were held at February half term and in the Easter holiday, with further sessions to come.

Another project on the playing field has been to plant a "Bee World" of wildflowers on the edge of the field as part of a national project with seeds funded through Friends of the Earth. The work was carried out earlier this month by a small band of volunteers. Another working party tackled our litter black spots as part of the national "Spring Clean for the Queen" campaign. Our thanks to all those who have helped with these projects.

To celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, there will be a cream tea in the Village Hall in May organised by the Coffee Caravan project and we are planning a Sunday afternoon of activities on the field in June. A new picnic area, adjacent to the play area, will be our legacy project to mark this unique occasion.

Other projects in the pipeline include a noticeboard to serve the Worlington Road area. We are investigating a new phase of affordable housing and we are also looking for funding to upgrade the surface on the footpath to Mildenhall. The A11 and street lighting are perennial issues.

The parish council is a strong team and for 12 years it has been ably assisted by the work of James Bercovici as our clerk. He has now retired from this position and we have greatly appreciated the contribution that he has made. We also welcome our new clerk, Abi Davies, who will ably carry this on.

Thank you to all the parish councillors, to our district and county councillors for their support, to our families and to all who contribute in any way to making Barton Mills the active and successful community that it is.

Pamela Boura

Chairman

20 April 2016

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