

# Barton Mills Parish Council

## Clerk to the Council:

James Bercovici  
Barton Coach House  
The Street  
Barton Mills  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
IP28 6AA

Clerk: James Bercovici  
Home (01638) 510803

Chairman: Mrs M. Davis  
Home (01638) 515526

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## Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Barton Mills Parish Council

Held in the Village Hall on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 7.00 pm.

**Attendance:** Cllr Davis (Chairman)  
Cllr Robert Lewis (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr Pamela Boura  
Cllr Amin Harji  
Cllr Katharine Flynn  
Cllr Frances Lewis  
Cllr Steve Mullender  
Cllr Charlie Peachey  
Cllr Trevor Smith  
District Cllr Tim Huggan  
County Cllr Lisa Chambers  
PCSO Dawn Rowan  
James Bercovici (Clerk)

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

John Squire said he had heard the 5-aside goal posts were going and hoped that would not be the case. Cllr Robert Lewis explained that there was a query as to whether they complied with health and safety requirements but that the football club would prefer to keep them. The Clerk explained that if they have to be disposed of they would be replaced. Cllr Marie Davis took the opportunity to thank John Squire for his work in putting together the new play area.

Paul Kerridge wanted to speak about the proposed allotments. Cllr Marie Davis said that owing to time constraints she had decided to defer this to the Annual Parish Meeting.

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

Apologies: County Cllr Lisa Chambers, District Cllr Tim Huggan, PCSO Dawn Rowan

Declarations: Cllr Katharine Flynn, Cllr Steve Mullender, Cllr Frances Lewis, Cllr Robert Lewis in respect of the Newmarket Road planning applications; Cllr Robert Lewis, Cllr Pamela Boura in respect of allotments,

### 2. Police Matters

No report.

### 3. Election of Chairman for the coming year

The Clerk chaired the meeting for this item. Cllr Robert Lewis proposed Cllr Marie Davis to remain as Chairman. There were no other nominations: all in favour.

### 4. Election of other officers and representatives

**Vice Chairman** Cllr R. Lewis was proposed by Cllr Pamela Boura: all in favour.

**SALC** Cllr F. Lewis was proposed by Cllr Katharine Flynn: all in favour.

**Lark Valley** Cllr F. Lewis was proposed by Cllr Steve Mullender: all in favour.

**Neighbourhood Watch** Cllr Mullender was proposed by Cllr Katharine Flynn: all in favour.

**Village Hall Management Committee** Cllr Mullender was proposed by Cllr Robert Lewis: all in favour.

**Responsible Financial Officer** the Clerk, James Bercovici was proposed by Cllr Pamela Boura: all in favour.

**Councillors with responsibility for finance** Cllr Boura and Cllr Amin Harji were proposed by Cllr Robert Lewis: all in favour.

**Councillor with responsibility for planning** Cllr F. Lewis was proposed by Cllr Robert Lewis: all in favour.

**5. Minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009**

Cllr Pamela Boura proposed accepting the minutes: all in favour.

**6. Matters arising and pending**

- a. Allotments. The Clerk has requested a membership application form for local authorities for the NSALG as agreed in the April meeting. He has received a report from the BMAA detailing infrastructure needs and estimated costs (distributed with agendas) and a further quote obtained by Cllr Pamela Boura for fencing (attached to the BMAA report).

The Clerk has also had discussions with one of the neighbours of the proposed site, Paul Kerridge who is concerned about privacy as long as the access is alongside Walnut Tree Farm. The Clerk met with the Chairman and Secretary of BMAA and put a suggestion to Suffolk County Council that the access is through the garages until building works take place then alongside the farm only for the duration of the building works.

This item was deferred to the Annual Parish Meeting.

- b. Street Lights – the Worlington Road lights with the G39 problem have now been fixed. However, residents continue to express concern about future problems. Cllr Pamela Boura offered to look at the list of problem lights and has made recommendations which lights to prioritise totalling around £11,300. The Clerk said he would contact Suffolk County Council to find out more about the appearance of any new columns. He has been advised that the lantern is fitted with a 42w PLT (compact fluorescent) lamp which is not only more energy efficient than the normal urban high pressure sodium type but the light emitted is white as opposed to the standard yellow, which aids night time vision. Columns are tubular steel and currently supplied with a galvanised finish.

Cllr Amin Harji asked if it is possible to see the lights anywhere. Cllr Marie Davis was pleased to note that most lights are now working. Cllr Frances Lewis asked what the Parish Council needs to do now; Cllr Charlie Peachey said it needs to replace the lights with the G39 problem. Cllr Robert Lewis asked if planning permission would be required as much of the village is a conservation area; Cllr Pamela Boura said it would also be necessary to check with Highways. Cllr Robert Lewis said more quotes were needed.

- c. Play Equipment – the new play equipment has been installed and the official opening event took place on 25<sup>th</sup> April when Cllr Marie Davis gave a short speech thanking everyone who had been involved before District Cllr Tim Huggan cut a ribbon. The Clerk has received numerous messages of thanks for the new equipment which has generally been well received.

There had been some discussion about erecting a fence around the equipment. One quote has been received from Dave Wickens who has quoted for a 3 feet high fence with two gates at £1995.97. Cllr Pamela Boura had taken it on herself to obtain quotes and, having discussed the matter with two contractors, found that both recommended bow top metal fencing made to a special specification for play areas with no head or finger traps. Metal fencing is further recommended as being more durable and requiring less maintenance. Finishing can be either galvanised or, more expensive, powder coated in a choice of colours. Quotes are for an “L” shaped fence with two self-closing access gates and a pair of maintenance gates (to be kept locked). Bow top metal fences have been quoted at £5086 (Broadgate Fencing) plus £800 for powder coating or £5957 (Fowler Fencing) plus £898 for powder coating. A wooden picket fence to playground specification was quoted by Broadgate at £3793.

NB. The current total spend on the new play equipment is £43,405.

Cllr Pamela Boura has previously agreed to undergo training to enable her to inspect the equipment appropriately. This needs to be arranged.

Discussion on this matter was deferred to the Annual Parish Meeting.

- d. Tidy Up Day. Cllr Frances Lewis reported that this was not well attended.

**7. Report from the County Councillor**

County Cllr Lisa Chambers had submitted a report which was read out by the Clerk.

8. **Finance - Standard Payments for approval (inc. VAT)**

- a. £300.00 Clerk's salary (April 2009) – chq. 1016
  - b. £49.20 Clerk's expenses (April 2009 including play equipment refreshments) – chq. 1016
- Cllr Pamela Boura proposed accepting the standard payments: all in favour.

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

- c. £481.39 PWLB (loan account) – DD
- d. £52.50 BMVH (hall hire) – chq. 1017
- e. £45,959.75 Proludic (play equipment) – chq. 1018
- f. £21.91 Frances Lewis (refreshments for play equipment opening) – chq. 1019
- g. £782.00 Gary Brown (grass cutting/crown lifting) – chq. 1020
- h. £25.00 Suffolk ACRE (subscription) – chq. 1021
- i. £278.40 SALC (subscription) – chq. 1022
- j. £63.35 NSALG (membership) – chq. 1023

Cllr Robert Lewis proposed accepting the special payments: all in favour (except Cllr Frances Lewis who abstained with an interest in item f)

**Accounts and Annual Report**

The Clerk outlined the accounts with the current balance sheet and showed how actual expenditure had kept within budget. Cllr Pamela Boura proposed accepting the statement: all in favour.

Cllr Charlie Peachey proposed asking Anthony Preece to conduct the internal audit: all in favour.

9. **Planning.**

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

**General and for consideration:**

Note: Cllr Frances Lewis and Cllr Robert Lewis had declared a prejudicial interest in respect of items a, b and c so left the meeting for these items.

- a. F/2009/0137/COU Land adjacent to A11 - change of use of land on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays for a Car Boot Sale. Cllr Charlie Peachey thought there would be a problem with cars backing up on the A11; Cllr Amin Harji said people do park on the verge; Cllr Steve Mullender recalled the experience of bar boot sales in 2006 when he had witnessed traffic problems and, also, stall holders who were professional market traders. Cllr Trevor Smith had witnessed some near accidents. *Cllr Charlie Peachey proposed objecting to the application because of likely traffic problems and the type of traders: all in favour except Cllr Pamela Boura who abstained.*

Note: Cllr Steve Mullender and Cllr Katharine Flynn had declared interests in respect of items b and c and left the meeting for these items which were considered together.

- b. F/2009/0193/FUL Land East of 10 Newmarket Road - erection of 3 two-storey dwellings with 2 detached garages and alterations to existing vehicular access. (Departure from the Development Plan).
- c. F/2009/0195/FUL Land West of 10 Newmarket Road - erection of a dwelling with self contained annex, including alterations to existing vehicular access. (Departure from the Development Plan).  
Cllr Pamela Boura thought councillors should first consider the development line issue; Cllr Charlie Peachey said he always objected to applications outside the line so was against the application until the line is moved. Cllr Amin Harji supported this as did Cllr Trevor Smith. *Cllr Charlie Peachey proposed objecting to the application on the grounds that it is outside the development line: Cllr Amin Harji in favour; Cllr Pamela Boura against; Cllr Trevor Smith abstained.*

Councillors returned to the meeting.

- d. F/2009/0196/LBC The Manor Newmarket Road - internal alterations: division of first floor bathroom to form bathroom and en-suite and insertion of monodraught sunpipe to provide natural sunlight. Cllr Frances Lewis proposed no objection: all in favour.

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

- e. F/2008/0475/FUL Barton Mills Service Station – redevelopment of site to include new retail building, forecourt canopy, underground fuel tanks, fuel pumps, parking and external lighting. Previously: *no objections*. APPEAL LODGED. Cllr Pamela Boura proposed no objections: all in favour.
- f. F/2009/0121/LBC 76 The Street – repair of leaning chimney stack to side of property and removal of partition wall to create an open plan kitchen/dining area. Cllr Robert Lewis declared an interest. *Cllr*

*Pamela Boura proposed no objections: all in favour.*

**Forest Heath/Planning Inspectorate Decisions and Applications Withdrawn**

- g. F/2008/0171/FUL Plot 2, 21 Mildenhall Road APPEAL LODGED. At the last consideration of this planning application, the Parish Council had objections to the application on the grounds that it doesn't suit the street scene with the watermeadow opposite; it is too far forward and will be too big with the gym above. The Parish Council added the comment that it could be positioned elsewhere on the plot. *Cllr Boura proposed objecting on the same grounds as before: all in favour. APPEAL DISMISSED*

**8. Correspondence**

**Held by the Clerk – Standard items**

- a. Forest Heath DC agendas/minutes (available at forest-heath.gov.uk)
- b. Various SALC/NALC correspondences

**Special items**

- c. Letters of thanks for donations from EAAA, SARS and CAB

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

- 10. Date of next meeting:** Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2009.