

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 Friday 11th September 2009 at 7.00 pm.

Attendance: Cllr Davis (Chairman)
Cllr Robert Lewis (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Pamela Boura
Cllr Katharine Flynn
Cllr Amin Harji
Cllr Frances Lewis
Cllr Charlie Peachey
District Cllr Tim Huggan
James Bercovici (Clerk)

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

Brian Vale commented on the noise of traffic from the A11.

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

Apologies: Cllr Steve Mullender, PCSO Dawn Rowan, County Cllr Stephen Frost

Declarations: Cllr Frances Lewis re. 4b and 4h; Cllr Pamela Boura re. 4f; Cllr Marie Davis re. 7a

2. Police Matters

PCSO Dawn Rowan had sent in a report detailing two incidents since the July meeting.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2009

Note: no meeting held in August. Cllr Pamela Boura proposed accepting the minutes: all in favour.

4. Matters arising and pending

a. A11 – Peter Sturgeon detailed plans drawn up on behalf of the Highways Agency based on his technical objections to the current plans for the A11 and, in particular, for Fiveways. It was suggested there should be an open day for the public to see the plans prior to the public enquiry in November.

b. Use of playing field – Cllr Frances Lewis sought permission for the Scarecrow Festival to use the field during the weekend of 5th/6th June 2010. Cllr Pamela Boura proposed requesting a donation of £250 for this: all in favour. Except Cllr Charlie Peachey (against) and Cllr Frances Lewis (abstained). Cllr Robert Lewis proposed agreeing to let the field be used by the Scarecrow Festival during the weekend: all in favour. Except Cllr Frances Lewis (abstained).

Car boot sales 2010 – Cllr Frances Lewis wondered whether other organisations may be interested. The Clerk advised that the BMAA had expressed interest. Cllr Frances Lewis suggested there should be a meeting of representatives of the interested organisations but suggested the Clerk should advertise the availability of the field for car boot sales in the Barton Miller.

Cllr Frances Lewis also requested the Football Club be asked to clear the field of debris after matches. Cllr Robert Lewis offered to pass this request on.

c. Dog fouling – the Clerk has been in contact with the relevant officer at Forest Heath DC who has forwarded some posters he can supply and says he can also supply dog fouling signs which can go on lampposts etc. There are further options available if problem locations can be identified.

d. SALC Report from the meeting on 8th September. Cllr Frances Lewis had provided a report which was circulated at the start of the meeting and outlined the main points to councillors.

- e. The Maltings – concerns about work that has been undertaken since the change of ownership. Cllr Frances Lewis advised that around the end of May, shrubs and small trees by the river were removed. She contacted Forest Heath DC and was assured that nothing more would be done but that what had been done so far was not illegal. She had recently been alerted of the demolition of some buildings and been told by Forest Heath that plans for development were under consideration but, again, nothing had been done illegally and that they were keeping an eye on it. The Clerk was asked to write to Forest Heath expressing the Parish Council's concerns that this work had taken place without conservation area consent and to ask why Forest Heath has taken no action when the vegetation removal and demolition have been carried out without permission.
- f. Allotments. The Clerk has received the draft lease from Suffolk County Council. Cllr Robert Lewis stated that he had previously declared an interest but his business relationship with Paul and Thelma Kerridge had concluded so he felt it not inappropriate to comment although he would abstain from any vote. He said that the proposed access (alongside Walnut Tree Farm) could not be described as temporary as there is no specified end date. The Clerk observed that, whilst in negotiations it had been intended that this access would be temporary, the draft lease did not suggest it to be. Cllr Robert Lewis asked if the Clerk could write to Suffolk County Council to request they approach Flagship to request a cut-off point for their development and suggested Flagship could grant access now but reserve the right to revoke during any development. The Clerk had proposed this before (Paul Kerridge had rejected it at the time) and explained that Suffolk County Council were reluctant to make such a request; Cllr Pamela Boura thought such a request would delay the allotments as planning permission would be required. It was also observed that Flagship does not currently own the land so such a request would be placed with the wrong organisation.

Cllr Pamela Boura outlined the main points of the draft lease: termination on 6th April 2019; £100 annual rent to be reviewed every three years; granted on a temporary basis as there is an intention to develop the land at some stage; access can be changed with one month's notice; alterations/additions must be temporary except as detailed in the draft lease; licences for allotments may be granted only for 364 days; no animals may be kept on site; public liability insurance cover must be at least £5 million. She suggested a working group to examine the lease and prepare a licence and volunteered her involvement as did Cllr Charlie Peachey and Cllr Marie Davis. It was suggested that Mike Clarke and Helen Andrews of the Allotments Association should be invited to be included.

The meeting was adjourned to enable Paul Kerridge to comment. He said the draft lease had not arrived with his solicitor (the Clerk had received it by email only that morning) so he felt it would be premature for the Parish Council to approve it now. He thought the access permanent which he considered would need planning permission; Cllr Steve Mullender pointed out it is an existing permanent access so no permission would be needed. He said there was no need for the lease to refer to a temporary access therefore and reminded the meeting that the access could be changed with one month's notice. Cllr Robert Lewis suggested asking for written confirmation that if the access does become permanent, then no planning permission is required. This has been received.

The Clerk advised he is waiting for Suffolk County Council's reply to his query about the lease. Cllr Pamela Boura asked if the draft tenancy agreement could be circulated for discussion at the next meeting; she said the main decision would be the rent charge which was nominally set at £100. The Clerk explained that any more than that would require stamp duty to be paid. It was observed that the BMAA could not formally consider the licence until the lease had been signed.

- g. Street Lights – at the June meeting, 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. Waiting for replies. Cllr Pamela Boura has re-identified around £6,000 of work to start with. She offered to obtain quotes for the lights. Cllr Frances Lewis enquired whether these recommendations would give maximum benefit for the money. There was discussion and modification of the list. Cllr Robert Lewis asked whether quotes could be sought for more attractive lights than had been suggested. Cllr Pamela Boura outlined two quotes for lights and Cllr Robert Lewis proposed that the Parish Council update the five lights outlined: all in favour. He then proposed the more expensive fittings for three lights along the Street and two other standard lights, the contractor to arrange things with EDF and that Cllr Pamela Boura obtains final quotes for the next meeting: all in favour. Except Cllr Pamela Boura (abstained) and Cllr Charlie Peachey (against).
- h. Play Equipment – Cllr Robert Lewis had proposed a fence from the corner of the football hut to run past the seats just past the last play equipment. The fence was to include a hydraulic gate at the football hut end and to be made of metal. The proposal was dependent on the Burrell Trust agreeing

to finance such a fence. All in favour.

Cllr Pamela Boura had agreed to obtain further quotes for fencing which came in at £3,470 plus VAT for the one she recommended. Cllr Katharine Flynn and Cllr Frances Lewis had met with the Proludic sales representative to discuss options further.

Cllr Marie Davis was still concerned about the proposal wondering whether it went far enough and whether it was safe or a hazard. She felt the decision had been made in haste and that all councillors needed to be fully aware of health and safety issues. Cllr Amin Harji agreed.

Cllr Robert Lewis insisted that the decision made accommodates all concerns. Cllr Frances Lewis said the decision could be modified. She said she didn't think a barrier between the equipment and the field necessary but had concerns that a straight fence could be dangerous, considering that a long U-shaped fence may be better. She added that the Proludic representative had advised that fences are not usually installed in modern play areas. Cllr Robert Lewis proposed erecting the fence according to the decision made in July: all in favour.

Cllr Pamela Boura enquired when the old toddler swings would be painted and whether the 5 aside goals had been ordered (the Clerk advised he was waiting for a grant application to come through). She also said that one of the springers had not been installed correctly but suggested Proludic could fix this when they installed new equipment. She said there had been a small fire under one of the bike ramps which had been slightly damaged; the Clerk said he had not reported this to the police.

- i. Affordable Housing. Cllr Frances Lewis proposes that the Parish Council goes ahead with a scheme involving Hastoe. Cllr Steve Mullender said he and Cllr Frances Lewis had visited some sites and spoken with residents who had had no complaints. Cllr Robert Lewis declared an interest as he was working for another housing association in the parish. Cllr Frances Lewis and Cllr Steve Mullender declared in light of this. Cllr Pamela Boura proposed Hastoe to partner Barton Mills in this project: all in favour. The Clerk said he would contact Louise Wilby and set this in motion. Cllr Steve Mullender said a suitable site needs to be identified; Cllr Robert Lewis suggested councillors could give their ideas to the Clerk who would be able to prepare a map on this basis. He asked if the Clerk could circulate copies of the village map.

5. Reports from the District Councillor

District Cllr Tim Huggan noted there was a projected £2.8 million budget shortfall. He said the Overview & Scrutiny Committee was investigating the planning processes. He noted the LDF had been rushed through before the deadline prior to the public enquiry stage. He expressed concern about the proposals. He was also concerned about Suffolk Health Care's application to be a Social Enterprise which would enable it to re-invest its profits. He thought there should be a public consultation.

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

- a. £600.00 Clerk's salary (July and August 2009) – chq.
- b. £24.98 Clerk's expenses (July and August 2009) – chq.

Cllr Charlie Peachey proposed accepting the standard payments: all in favour.

Special Payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- c. £1,501.09 Suffolk CC (Street lighting) – chq.
- d. £616.87 (Zurich insurance – was £701 last year) – chq.
- e. £73.50 Barton Mills BH (rent – April-June) – chq.

Cllr Pamela Boura proposed accepting the special payments: all in favour.

Receipts

- f. £2250 Forest Heath DC (precept)
- g. £200 Barton Mills Football Club (for general use of field)
- h. £100 Barton Mills VH (car boot sale donation)
- i. £100 St Mary's Church (car boot sale donation)

7. Planning.

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

General and for consideration:

- a. F/2009/0420/LBC The Olde Bull Inn – erection of extension to existing kitchen and store room including internal alterations, new slate roof across the front and felt to match up to existing kitchen roof. Cllr Marie Davis declared an interest so Cllr Robert Lewis took the chair. *He proposed no objections: all in favour.*

Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals.

- b. F/2009/0363/FUL Milford Service Station – installation of above ground 3no. 1-tonne LPG storage vessels housed within 2m high metal palisade fence (Departure from the Development Plan)
- c. 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.

Forest Heath/Planning Inspectorate Decisions and Applications Withdrawn

- d. F/2009/0327/FUL 21a Mildenhall Road: erection of double garage and associated new driveway and landscaping works. *Cllr Frances Lewis proposed objecting on the grounds that the planned development is too close to Mildenhall Road and forward of other buildings along that stretch of the road. All in favour except Cllr Steve Mullender. REFUSED*
- e. F/2009/0314/FUL The Old Railway Station, Station Road: erection of detached garden equipment store shed. *Cllr Frances Lewis proposed no objections: all in favour. APPROVD with conditions*
- f. F/2009/0224/FUL 9 Manor View: construction of single storey garage side extension with canopy across front of property. Cllr Amin Harji and Cllr Robert Lewis left the meeting for this item. Cllr Frances Lewis proposed no objections: all in favour. **APPROVD with conditions**

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. Suffolk ACRE – invitation to AGM (24th September at Coddenham - £13.50 per person)
- d. Tiffany Docking (78 The Street) – re, play area
- e. Suffolk CC – footpath closure from 5th October while footbridge works take place. The Clerk was asked to highlight this in the Barton Miller.
- f. Forest Heath's Festival of Culture – 26th September at Newmarket Memorial Hall (free event)
- g. EADT – request that the Parish Council allows them to publish approved minutes (probably online). The Clerk was asked to find out more about this.
- h. Forest Heath – next Parish and Town Forum at Red Lodge on 13th October. Cllr Pamela Boura said she will attend this.
- i. Forest Heath DC – Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report
- j. Proludic – Operations and Maintenance manual. Cllr Pamela Boura took these.

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

- a. Bus service – Cllr Charlie Peachey complained that the bus sometimes doesn't come through the village but stops only at the Bull.
- b. Peace Garden – Cllr Charlie Peachey said someone was needed to take over maintenance of the garden and suggested that Gary Brown tidies it up now but agreed a volunteer could be sought.
- c. Wiggin Close footpath – Cllr Pamela Boura said the lights had been damaged by vandals; it was agreed to replace them.
- d. Remembrance Day on 8th November – Cllr Charlie Peachey had already organised the wreath. Cllr Frances Lewis asked if the Parish Council would entertain in the village hall as in previous years.

10. Date of next meeting: 9th October 2009