

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 10th September 2010 at 7.00 pm.

Attendance: Cllr Robert Lewis (Vice Chairman)

Cllr Pamela Boura
Cllr Annette Dawson
Cllr Amin Harji
Cllr Steve Mullender
Cllr Trevor Smith
Cllr Charlie Peachey
District Cllr Tim Huggan
PCSO Dawn Rowan
Clerk: James Bercovici

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

Steve Hills requested use of the car park on Wednesday evenings during term time for the Youth For Christ "X Change", a project using a lorry with youth space, offering activities, powered by a generator. He insisted there was no intention to persuade children to attend the church. The lorry would arrive at 6.30pm and be open to children from 7pm to 9pm, departing by 9.30pm. Cllr Mullender asked how it would be publicised; Steve Hills said it would be advertised in the Barton Miller, by leaflet drop, word of mouth and by its presence. Cllr R Lewis asked for reassurance that there would be no attempt to convert any children which Steve Hills gave.

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

Apologies: Cllr F Lewis, Cllr M Davis

The Clerk had left the register behind so it was agreed to sign this at the next meeting.

2. Police Matters

PCSO Rowan advised that, during daylight hours on 23 July 2010, unknown offenders had forced entry to a residential property on Church Lane and stolen from within money and jewellery. She wanted to make the community aware there have recently been some incidents of criminal damage to allotments in Mildenhall and Bury St Edmunds. Otherwise, she said that the Mobile Police Station will be at the entrance to Church Meadow on 11th September from 6.45pm until 7.15pm. She asked if the Parish Council is happy with the content of the Police reports, offering to include reports for the whole parish, encompassing the A11 and Fiveways as well as the village.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2010

Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the minutes: all in favour.

4. Matters arising and pending

- a. A11 – Matthew Hancock MP is hosting a public meeting at the Village Hall on 17th September at 7pm to discuss the current status of the project. Cllr R Lewis thought as many councillors as possible should attend.
- b. Allotments. The BMAA was unsuccessful in its bid for a lottery grant. A response from the Environment Officer indicates that use of the pump between 9am and 12 noon is considered reasonable.

Cllr R Lewis said this is a fantastic scheme which had been difficult to establish and was very popular in the community. He was aware of some awkward issues behind the scenes which the council had been brought into. He thought the Clerk had handled these diplomatically. He thought the parish council should advise on proper procedures regarding the obtaining and approval of quotes and that

the invoice must reflect the work agreed and done. He said the council had received a locality fund grant on behalf of the association to take advantage of the fact it can recover the VAT. However, the invoice received from Mark Chambers (MC Excavations) for work done on the allotments bore little relation to his quote or the work actually done leaving the association out of pocket as the parish council could not approve the invoice since proper procedure had not ultimately been followed. The question for the parish council, therefore, was what to do with the locality grant. Cllr R Lewis saw three alternatives: a donation to the BMAA (losing the VAT advantage), requesting the BMAA to resubmit documents for works done (which he said was questionable) or offering to work with the BMAA on a new project, following proper procedure. He also expressed concern about who is making decisions in the BMAA, unsure whether it is the full committee. He reiterated that the association needs to follow procedures and asked the Clerk to ensure these concerns were conveyed to the secretary of the BMAA. Cllr Mullender asked that Helen Andrews be asked to ensure all members of the BMAA receive this information.

Cllr Dawson thought too much time was spent discussing the allotments which benefit only around twenty families in the community and thought the first of Cllr R Lewis' suggestions should be adopted. She said she didn't know why the parish council needed to be concerned with the allotments at all. Cllr R Lewis pointed out that the council is landlord to the BMAA.

Cllr Dawson proposed donating £1000 to the BMAA for the association to administer itself: all in favour (chq. 1094).

Cllr Boura asked if the BMAA has paid its rent for the year 2010/11.

- c. Church Lane Close proposed development. Previously, the Clerk had received new plans for developing the garages at the end of Church Lane Close. The question of access to the allotments and to the rear of 24 Church Lane Close was raised; the Clerk had emailed the letter and plan from Flagship for discussion at the meeting. No further developments
- d. 5-aside goals. The grants for football posts have been suspended although it is anticipated they will resume again soon. The Clerk will monitor this and apply again as soon as possible and keep the council informed. Cllr Boura suggested the 100 Club and Burrell Trust be approached for grants. Cllr Peachey thought this outside the remit of the Burrell Trust; the Clerk was asked to obtain a copy of the trust deeds to ascertain where the boundaries lie. Cllr R Lewis also suggested applying to County Cllr Frost's locality budget. The Clerk suggested he could contact Forest Heath DC to ascertain whether there is any s106 money left.

Cllr Mullender said there had never been any problems with the current 5-aside goals and thought some new goals were less durable. He said he would prefer to have the posts repaired and painted. Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to contact Forest Heath DC for advice.

- e. Street lights – Previously, Cllr Boura said the Parish Council should consider which lights to upgrade next; Cllr R Lewis had asked her if she would make recommendations. Cllr Boura had identified five candidates and outlined them to the meeting. Cllr R Lewis asked her to obtain quotes for all five lights for consideration by the council.
- f. Cultural Services Strategy. Cllr Boura said there is £2million available but said the consultation ended on 3rd September. District Cllr Huggan said the district council is looking for ways to enhance leisure activities in the district but was disappointed that the consultation took place over the summer.
- g. Street naming – Forest Heath requests that Parish Councils submit at least ten preferred street names for future developments within the area by 30th September for approval by the Community Services Committee. Cllr Mullender said he couldn't make any suggestions without knowing the location etc of a new street. Cllr Boura agreed the name should reflect the features of the locality. Cllr Mullender said the parish council should be consulted at the appropriate time.

5. Non-agenda items

- a. SALC meeting – report distributed and taken as read.
- b. Village Database – Jackie Parnell suggested the village should compile a database of people who would be willing to help out at village events. volunteers could contact her on 713965, (preferably between 7 and 8 p.m.), or by email to jackie@cataholics.co.uk, to let her know what kind of help

they would be prepared to offer. Cllr Peachey thought this a good idea. Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to contact Jackie Parnell to let her know the parish council supports the idea.

- c. Government proposal to introduce a cap on parish and town precepts. The six week consultation deadline expires 10th September; the Clerk wrote to express concern about the length of this consultation period especially given that it covered the summer holidays. Cllr Boura was concerned that if the precept increases above an agreed percentage a referendum would be triggered automatically, costing the parish £1000. Cllr R Lewis said the precept was always well considered and thought the parish council needed to remain able to increase the precept for special (or emergency) items. He proposed objecting to any cap on these grounds: all in favour. District Cllr Huggan added that he thought it bizarre to cap. Cllr Boura enquired about the precept level following new housing developments: with more houses it is possible to increase the precept without increasing the amount payable by each household.
- d. Car boot sales 2011 – Cllr F Lewis had suggested interested groups should contact the Clerk, as in previous years, then meet to agree dates and charges.
- e. Youth bus. Cllr Boura proposed agreeing to allow a six month trial to see how it goes: all in favour.

6. Reports from the District Councillor

District Cllr Huggan told the meeting that he did not support Forest Heath DC's LDF strategy. He was pleased to see there would be a public meeting concerning the A11 as the government had been sitting on the report since April. He had confidence the scheme would go ahead.

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

- a. £630.00 Clerk's salary (July and August 2010) – chq.
- b. £24.10 Clerk's expenses (July and August 2010) – chq.

Special Payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- c. £125 Old Parsonage Garden Services (grass cutting, July 2010) – chq.
- d. £67.50 Barton Mills Village Hall (hall hire, April-June 2010) – chq.
- e. £1,482.45 Suffolk CC (street lighting, April-September 2010) – chq.
- f. £631.25 - £701.39 Suffolk ACRE Services (insurance, year commencing 01/10/10) – chq.
(the premium for 2010-11 is £701.39 but for a three year undertaking it is reduced to £666.32 and, for a five year undertaking, £631.25). Cllr Boura proposed committing to the five year undertaking: all in favour.

Cllr Boura proposed agreeing all payments: all in favour.

Receipts

- g. £100 St Mary's Church (donation re car boot sale)

8. Planning.

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

General and for consideration:

- a. F/2010/0527/FUL Fiveways Garage – Erection of petrol filling station including McDonalds with associated parking, removal and planting of trees as necessary and demolition of existing building (amendments to development approved under application F/2007/0562/FUL, involving changes to petrol filling station including McDonalds and associated parking. Hotel, car showrooms and position and arrangement of accesses to and from the public highway to remain as approved) (Major Development). *Cllr Boura proposed objecting to the application on the grounds that the pedestrian and cycle access is inadequate, especially in respect of McDonalds, and that insufficient thought had been given to vehicle movements: all in favour.*
- b. F/2010/0581/COU Car park adjacent to St Mary's Church The Street Barton Mills - Retrospective application - continued siting of a temporary building for religious and community use in association with parish church (Development Affecting the Setting of a Listed Building). *Cllr Boura proposed no objections: all in favour.*

Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals.

Forest Heath/Planning Inspectorate Decisions and Applications Withdrawn

- c. F/2010/0394/FUL Plots 4A & 4B Bell Lane – erection of 2 detached one and a half storey dwelling with integral garages, parking, access and associated site works including landscaping of remaining land.

*Cllr F Lewis proposed objecting to the application on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site, specifically that the spacing between the two houses, whilst complying with the legal minimum of one metre, is out of character with the rest of the street. All in favour. **WITHDRAWN***

9. Correspondence

Held by the Clerk – Standard items

- a. Forest Heath DC agendas/minutes (available at forest-heath.gov.uk). Next Parish and Town Forum on 2nd November at Barton Mills. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report.
- b. Various SALC/NALC correspondences
- c. Suffolk ACRE Annual Review

Special items

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

- a. Cllr Boura asked if the Clerk had reported the damaged safety surfacing to Proludic: he had. She also said that Jackie Stirges had cleaned the swings and suggested that anti-bird measures should be investigated.
- b. Peace Garden. Cllr Boura said the weeds around the car park and Peace Garden needed to be attended to.
- c. Memorial stone. Cllr Boura said the bricks had been frost damaged. Cllr Smith said he would present some options to the next meeting.
- d. Village sign post. Cllr Boura said this needed to be painted and suggested asking Alan Butcher to do this when he does the swings.
- e. Over-60s organisation. Cllr Boura intends to start a new group and asked if the parish council would pay for an inaugural meeting if parish plan money is not still available. Agreed.
- f. Mildenhall Road trees. Cllr R Lewis said he would inform the Clerk which property was concerned so the Clerk could write to the owners.
- g. Precept. Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to write to Forest Heath DC to enquire about the impact of the dairy site on the precept.
- h. Car parking. Cllr R Lewis suggested investigating an extension to the car park.
- i. Footpath trees. Cllr Peachey asked the Clerk to contact Suffolk CC about these.

11. Date of next meeting: 8th October 2010