

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: Mr R Lewis
Home (01638) 713363

Minutes of the Meeting of Barton Mills Parish Council

Held in the Village Hall on Friday 8th July 2011 at 7.00 pm.

Attendance: Cllr Robert Lewis (Chairman)
Cllr Amin Harji (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Pamela Boura
Cllr Frances Lewis
Cllr Steve Mullender
Cllr Charlie Peachey
James Bercovici (Clerk)

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

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

Apologies: Cllr Tim Harris, PCSO Dawn Rowan

2. Police Matters

Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to circulate any report subsequently received and to file it with the minutes.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2011

Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the minutes: all in favour.

4. Matters arising and pending

a. Co-option of up to two councillors. This item was brought forward to the start of the meeting. Cllr R Lewis outlined the procedure and said that, whilst it was understood that Marie Davis did want to be considered for co-option, she had not formally stated this so, at this time, only Garry Flack had come forward (the Clerk advised that another parishioner had expressed interest but was unable to attend Friday evening meetings). Cllr Peachey proposed co-opting Garry Flack: all in favour. Cllr R Lewis outlined certain procedures, especially declarations of interest and said that, if in doubt, the Clerk should be consulted. He also advised that there are training courses available.

b. Affordable housing. Four councillors and the Clerk met with Isobel Wright of Hastoe who has sent revised drawings for the proposed development. Cllr R Lewis outlined the background to the project and made positive comments about the recent amendments proposed by Hastoe. Cllr Mullender said he could not recall what Isobel Wright had said about letting and ownership. Cllr Boura thought four were to be let and two under shared-ownership. Cllr Harji asked how rents would be calculated; Cllr R Lewis said the housing association would set the rents and tenants would pay pro-rata according to their share of ownership. Cllr F Lewis said Barton Mills residents would get first refusal and that the Parish Council would have input in deciding which applications to accept. Cllr Boura proposed support for the amended plans and requesting that Hastoe continues with the process: all in favour.

c. Street naming. Norma Chapman raised a question at the APM concerning the possible renaming of the cul-de-sac past Middlefield Manor. FHDC advises that a request can only be considered if all the owners submit a formal request in writing to the Council indicating the existing house name, address and postcode and the proposed new name. Cllr Boura suggested the Parish Council could draft a letter for residents to sign and suggested the name "Middlefield Drive".

d. Village green: Garry Flack asked at the APM if it could be fertilised. Cllr Boura said this would need attention on a regular basis (at least twice per year). Cllr R Lewis suggested the Clerk could ask the ground maintenance firm (and others) for a quote, also to fill the dips in the field with topsoil and seed.

e. Play equipment – Cllr Peachey reported complaints about pigeons sitting on the top of the swings. The Clerk was asked to look into pigeon spikes and is awaiting confirmation of which are best for the purpose. Cllr Boura thought the safety inspectors should be consulted over the type of spikes used. Cllr R Lewis proposed authorising up to £100 for Cllr Peachey and the Clerk to sort this out. Cllr Peachey advised the meeting this had been sorted out.

f. Web-site. The Chairman and Clerk met with Karl Benton to iron out a few aspects of the website including the business directory. Their suggestion is to restrict listings to businesses run from the parish or by people who live in the parish. They also suggest charging only those businesses that want pages hosted by bartonmills.net rather than for links to external, pre-existing websites.

The Clerk outlined the proposed business directory to include details of businesses operating in the parish or run by people who live in the parish, with a suggested charge of £25 for pages hosted for commercial organisations wanting an internet presence. Cllr R Lewis asked for a proposal for the suggested criteria for inclusion and for the payment proposal. Cllr Boura declared a prejudicial interest and withdrew from the meeting. Cllr Mullender proposed adopting the recommended criteria and charges: all in favour (except Cllr R Lewis who abstained).

g. Play area safety surface. Cllr Boura expressed concern about a section of the safety surface near to the climbing frame. The Clerk said he would photograph the area and send it to Proludic. Cllr Boura also raised the subject of the swing painting. Cllr F Lewis said Alan Butcher was not able to do this. Cllr Peachey suggested asking Digger for a quote.

h. Village notices, temporarily housed in the football club building. Cllr F Lewis suggested a small shed could be purchased to house them but Cllr Boura pointed out this would be on village hall land so not a parish council matter; she also recalled that the village hall had been damaged when a previous shed had been set fire to and suggested a plastic container as more suitable. Cllr Peachey asked why they couldn't be stored in the hall itself. Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to get a quote from H Signs for replacements and to ask the village hall if space could be made available. Cllr Boura suggested asking the 100 Club for a contribution towards new signs. H Signs has quoted £100 for 5 parking signs.

Cllr R Lewis said that Cllr F Lewis had suggested other signs could be useful as well so the cost would be more than £100. He said the Football Club chairman had agreed they could be stored in the brick shed if a shelf was put in at head height (maximum £50). Cllr F Lewis expressed concern that the quote did not include stands but Cllr R Lewis said legs would be included. Cllr F Lewis thought more would be needed; for example, for disabled parking. She was unhappy about storing them on a shelf in the brick shed. Cllr Mullender said the Village Hall Committee was considering erecting a new shed in the garden behind the kitchen for storage and could accommodate the signs there. Cllr Boura thought it would be too late to have the signs made for this season and suggested approaching the 100 Club for a grant. Cllr Mullender proposed spending up to £150 for signs, the additional ones to be designed in consultation with Cllr F Lewis and up to £50 for a shelf: all in favour. Cllr Boura proposed applying to the 100 Club for a grant: all in favour.

i. Diamond Jubilee. Cllr Peachey suggested the hall and a marquee be booked for the first weekend in June 2012. A marquee has provisionally been booked for the whole weekend, including the bank holidays. The celebration will be around the late May bank holiday following the first weekend in June (the actual date for the Jubilee Bank Holiday is Tuesday 5th June). Cllr Flack asked who will be organising the celebration; Cllr Peachey thought residents would want to be involved in the organisation. Cllr Harji suggested including an advertisement in the Barton Miller soliciting help with the organisation. Cllr Mullender thought grants may be available (Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to make enquiries).

j. Peace Garden maintenance. Cllr R Lewis suggests the grounds maintenance contractor should be asked to keep the garden tidied on a more regular basis. The Clerk has asked for a quote. Cllr R Lewis thought the garden needed attention on a monthly basis between April and September (and in advance of the Remembrance Day service). He suggested it should be sorted now and Cllr Boura proposed spending up to £100 for this: all in favour. Cllr F Lewis observed that the bricks had crumbled in the frosts. Cllr R Lewis suggested asking Digger to quote for putting this right. Cllr Peachey questioned the value of spending money on this when the intention is to move the car park; Cllr Mullender agreed but Cllr F Lewis thought this could be a long-term goal. Cllr R Lewis suggested waiting for a quote. It was agreed to begin the process of considering a new layout for the car park in September. Cllr Harji wondered whether planning permission would be needed.

Cllr F Lewis reminded councillors that she had requested that shingle be moved in the car park and to build up the dip near the field entrance. Cllr R Lewis said he had asked Mark Chambers who said he

would do this without charge.

- k. Street lights. Cllr Boura had inspected the maps and counted 40 lights on the main streets running through the village leaving 18 to consider for the switch off. Cllr F Lewis thought many people were against this and preferred to leave them on. Cllr Flack thought Burrell Crescent (a private road) lights were on a sensor. Cllr R Lewis thought lights should stay on and asked if any councillors were keen to consider timers. Cllr F Lewis asked if there had been any response to the notices in the Barton Miller and the website; the Clerk said not. Cllr Peachey thought there would be maintenance problems with the timers. Cllr R Lewis concluded that the consensus seemed to be that whilst all councillors would like to save energy, there were problems with this proposal. Cllr Harji pointed out that it could be revisited in 12 months, by which time it would be possible to draw on the experiences of other councils.
- l. River bank. Cllr Flack said this had been sorted out; Cllr R Lewis said the path is now dry. He said the Environment Agency officer came into his office and informed him that Mr Sheldrick had cleared the blocked drains and that the drains blocked under the house by the river had also been unblocked. Cllr Peachey said the land is owned by Forest Heath. Cllr F Lewis said the footpath is still overgrown with water on either side. Cllr R Lewis asked the Clerk to chase up the raising of the footpath and to write to the Environment Agency to thank them for responding and to ask if the resolution is temporary or permanent. Cllr Boura also asked the Clerk to write to thank Kathy Perrett for bringing the matter to the attention of the Parish Council.

5. Reports from the District and County Councillors

Not present.

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

- a. £260 J Bercovici (clerk's net salary, June 2011) – chq. 1131
 - b. £65 HMRC (PAYE, June 2011 - £195 payable for April-June) – chq. 1132
 - c. £32.18 J Bercovici (clerk's expenses June 2011) – chq. 1131
- Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the standard payments: all in favour.

Special payments for approval (inc. VAT)

- d. £30 Ayentee Consulting (internal audit – payable to AJ Preece) – chq. 1133
- e. £125.00 Old Parsonage Garden Services (grass cutting 09/06 and 21/06) – chq. 1134
- f. £44.28 John Stirges (pigeon spikes) – chq. 1135

Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the special payments: all in favour.

Finance - other

- g. Review of the Financial Regulations and Standing Orders. Councillors agreed to look at these on the website.
- h. Football Club goalposts. The Football Club has requested that the Parish Council purchases the new goalposts and the club reimburses the council (in order to take advantage of the council's VAT position). Cllrs R Lewis and Mullender declared personal interests. Cllr Peachey proposed agreeing to this strategy. Cllr Mullender expressed concern about the legality of this but the Clerk thought it would be acceptable for the Football Club to make a donation to the Parish Council and for the Parish Council to buy football posts for use by the Football Club.

8. Planning.

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

General and for consideration:

Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals.

- a. F/11 Barton Mills Chalk Quarry – consultation on planning application to vary conditions. *Cllr F Lewis proposed no objections: all in favour.*
- b. F/2010/0730/FUL The Old Maltings, The Street – change of use to create 4no two bedroom dwellings including demolition of flat roof extensions and erection of rear two storey extension (Departure from the Development Plan) (Development affecting the setting of a Listed Building). *Cllr F Lewis proposed no objections: Cllrs Boura and Davis agreed. Amended plans submitted. Cllrs F Lewis and Boura agreed these were similar to previous plans with just some detail changed. Colin Brotherton had written to Forest Heath DC in support. Cllr Boura proposed no objections: all in favour (excepting the four abstentions).*
- c. F/2010/0838/ADN Fiveways – erection of free standing totem. *Cllr Davis proposed no objection: all in favour. Amended plans. Cllr Boura proposed no objections: all in favour.*

Forest Heath/Planning Inspectorate Decisions and Applications Withdrawn

- d. F/2011/0231/HOU 24 Mildenhall Road – creation of a new vehicular access. *Cllr F Lewis outlined the proposal and proposed no objections: all in favour. **APPROVED with conditions***
- e. F/2011/0248/HOU Mill Cottage, Old Mill Lane – erection of conservatory. *Cllr F Lewis explained this would be on the A11 side of the house and proposed no objections: all in favour. **APPROVED with conditions***

9. Correspondence

Held by the Clerk – Standard items

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

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

- a. Parish Forum – Cllr Boura advised the meeting on 19th July would be at Freckenham Village Hall. She also said she had accepted an invitation to attend a Suffolk Housing event on 21st July.
- b. Meeting dates – Cllr R Lewis asked councillors if they wanted to consider alternative days for meetings. Only the first Tuesday and first or third Wednesday were available in the village hall. Cllr R Lewis suggested looking at this later in the year when deciding next year's meeting dates.
- c. Playing field – Cllr Boura said that tree guards had been removed from trees, one was missing and crown lifting was needed. Cllr Flack agreed to attend to this.

11. Date of next meeting: 12th August 2011 – Cllr R Lewis said this would be a planning only meeting so, if no applications were received, there would be no meeting in August.