

Barton Mills Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Jadi Coe clerk@bartonmills.net 07724 737841

Chairman: Mr N. Horne 07590 672963

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Barton Mills

held in the village hall on Tuesday 5th December 2023 at 7:30pm

In attendance: Vice Chairman Cllr M Colsey, Cllr K Fuller, Cllr R Oke, Cllr R Pollard, Cllr S Mullender, Cllr E Jarvis, Cllr T Newman and two members of the public.

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Cllr M Colsey asked Cllr E Jarvis to take the minutes for the meeting in the absence of the Clerk

Public Forum

One member of the public wished to clarify that there would be feedback from the Closed Meeting held at Tuddenham re A11 gap closures.

23/11/01 Accept and receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr N Horne, Cllr R Lewis and the clerk Jadi Coe

23/11/02 Declarations of members interests

Cllr R Oke declared an interest in the Agenda Point 8.5, Land for Sale on Mildenhall Road

23/11/03 Minutes

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting dated 7th November proposed by Cllr K Fuller, seconded by Cllr R Pollard, all in favour.

23/11/04 Police Reports

It was confirmed that the clerk has resubscribed to Police Connect and is now receiving local police reports although there has been none received that are relevant.

23/11/05 County and District Councillors report

County Councillor Lance Stanbury sent his apologies.

District Cllr David Taylor did not attend the meeting.

23/11/06 Planning and Environment

General & For Consideration:

DC/23/1833/FUL Removal of section of collapsed wall and erection of a 1.8m brick pier and close fence to enclose an existing substation adjacent to 86 The Street, Barton Mills.

Councillors agreed to support this application

Tree Applications (for information only):

DC/23/1872/TCA – fell tree at Eastfield House, Tuddenham Road, Barton Mills.

Applications awaiting West Suffolk decision and pending appeals:

DC/23/1586/HH – single storey side extension following demolition of two external walls at The Grange, Grange Lane, Barton Mills, IP28 6BG – *pending at 05.12.23*

DC/23/1587/LB – listed buildings consent - single storey side extension following demolition of two external walls at The Grange, Grange Lane, Barton Mills, IP28 6BG – *pending at 05.12.23*

DC/23/0358/FUL Proposal Planning application - one dwelling at The Old Maltings, The Street, Barton Mills, Suffolk, IP28 6AA – *pending at 05.12.23*

DC/21/2285/FUL – 15 dwellings with associated landscaping, highways and engineering works at land used for car boot sale, Newmarket Road, Barton Mills – *pending at 05.12.23*

DC/23/0172/VAR - variation of condition 2 of DC/22/0021/HH to allow use of amended plans for a. two storey front extension; b. two storey side and rear extension; c. conversion and extension of existing garage to habitable space; d. single storey side extension to existing garage (following demolition of existing flat roofed garage); e. roof alterations to existing link extension; f. two bay cartlodge with room above at The Croft, Mildenhall Road, Barton Mills, Suffolk, IP28 6BD – *PENDING APPEAL*

Decided/approved (for information only)

None

Neighbourhood Plan update

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No update.

23/12/07 Clerk's Report, Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting and Correspondence

- An email was received from District Cllr Jim Thorndyke:
I wanted to update you all with regard the planning appeal for the former Plough at Icklingham which relates to the Breckland Special Protected Area (SPA) which covers your area.
This was a planning application for nine homes which was refused planning permission in December 2022 due to the potential impact on Stone Curlews, a species of bird protected under planning law within the Breckland Special Protection Area (SPA). In refusing the application, the council took into account the advice of Natural England and other statutory consultees.
The applicant, Elveden Farms Ltd, launched an appeal in June and with it included significantly revised measures designed to offset any impact on the Breckland SPA.
Had those measures been included in the original application, it is likely that the application would have been determined differently.
Based on this, the council found no evidence that harm would occur to protected species should the development go ahead. It formally withdrew its objection in August and the planning inspector has now found in favour of the development going ahead.
The main issues identified by the inspector were:
 - whether the proposal is likely to have a significant effect on the SPA alone or in combination with other plans or projects; and
 - if a likely significant effect cannot be ruled out, whether the proposed development would have an adverse effect on the integrity of the SPA.*This decision does not change the current planning policy position. The Inspector does not dispute the Special Protection Area and its associated buffer policy and further confirms that there is no strategic solution in place to address or mitigate in combination effects. Therefore, development in the SPA and its associated buffer remains restricted at present.*
The Inspector also used Natural England's stone curlew planning tool in determining the displacement of nests as a result of development confirming that the method or tool is robust. In doing so, the Inspector referred to the previous appeal on the site where the planning tool calculated a displacement of 0.42 nests and highlighted the method used for this appeal which calculated a displacement of 0.04 nests as being the correct approach, concluding that mitigation was therefore not necessary.
The decision has raised some key areas where evidence and clarification is required but again this does change the existing process or considerations that need to be taken into account when reviewing planning applications. Officers will continue to discuss these important matters with Natural England as our statutory consultees
The clerk asked what these measures were and received the below response:
The revised measures put forward at appeal, for the first time, was an offer to provide of a plot of land made suitable (and of a sufficient size) for a pair of nesting stone curlew. The applicants changed their proposals by committing to provide the plot of land in the same location on a yearly basis in perpetuity. Previously the intention had been to move the plot around the estate year on year depending upon farming requirements. This change to the proposals provided much greater certainty that the mitigation measures would achieve successful outcomes.
This information has been forwarded to Havebury Homes.
Councillors received this information with interest.
- The clerk has written to a land owner on Newmarket Road asking to cut back vegetation which is encroaching the footpaths and has also reported this to SCC.
- There have been reports of an increase in rats by the bridges at Mildenhall, the clerk has been in contact with Mildenhall Town Council and West Suffolk Council to sort this.
- West Suffolk Council have finally cut the footpath on Church Lane after being promised this would be cut for 5months.

23/12/08 Parish Matters

1. Street Lighting including Decarbonisation expression of interest form

The clerk has drafted the decarbonisation initiative Fund – expression of interest. Which details 38 units are still to be upgraded to LED and details of units 68 and 98 which were upgraded after April 2022.

The PC needs to decide if:

- a) WSC will procure condition surveys and upgrade works on behalf of the parish or town council using that parish or town council's existing maintenance contract with Suffolk County Council (if applicable) or
- b) parish or town council will commission its own condition survey and subsequent conversion works

Decision about this was postponed to January meeting.

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2. Play park including quotes

Item deferred until next meeting.

3. SID

A quote in the sum of £30 to install the new SIS was received and accepted from Matt Wilson.

Matt was seen to be working on installing the SID today.

4. Highways issues

-It was reported that some drivers have been using Old Mill Lane to get back on to the A11 by driving over the path and that this has been reported to SCC.

-An email was received from a member of the public regarding issue of cars reversing at speed out of Old Mill Lane (presumably after visiting Five Guys). The Parish Council will put a notice on social media and in the Barton Miller asking people to be considerate of neighbours in driving with potentially negative outcomes around that already awkward bend.

-Councillors reported on the meeting that was held at Tuddenham:

Cllrs reported that the meeting was well attended by representatives from 7 other Parish Councils. It appears that SCC are supporting the idea of the gap closures. There was no opportunity to hear their thoughts on the effect of displaced traffic onto SCC roads, as the internet dropped out just when the representative was speaking.

The Clerk for Tuddenham managed to get agreement from The Highways representative that he would send out the statistics again concerning frequency/severity of accidents, and direction of cars involved. He will also send clerks a prewarning if at all possible, regarding info on any consultation so that PCs can marshal their thoughts and get contributions from parishioners before the response time even starts, as it is limited to 21 days.

Action: Please would the Clerk ask the Tuddenham Clerk to share her minutes of the shared meeting with us.

5. Update on land for sale, Mildenhall Road

The Estate Agent selling the land has confirmed that the land has now been sold.

It was agreed to inform residents about this and report that the general view of residents was that the land should not be purchased by the Parish Council.

6. Asset list

This is part complete.

The PC insurance renewal is due 4th February. A questionnaire has been provided to ensure cover is adequate and this should be completed as soon as possible. The current cover is:

Street furniture: £26,217

Gates and fences: £10,565

Playground: £97,353

Sports equipment: £5,296

7. Tree on Grange Lane

RH Landscapes - £2,255 net

£740.00 plus VAT – to reduce crowns of 1 x field maple and 1 x sycamore by between 25 and 30%. Trees located on Grange Lane near to and just past the play area. (note this work requires the use of a Mobile Elevate Working Platform, should we get both trees done and have time to do another whilst on site we would do this free of charge)

£740.00 plus VAT – to reduce crowns of 2 x sycamore by between 25 and 30%. Trees located on Grange Lane near to and just past the play area. (note this work requires the use of a Mobile Elevate Working Platform. Should we get both trees done and have time to do another whilst on site we would do this free of charge)

£275.00 plus VAT – to crown lift field maple below powerlines and reduce branches back as required to clear the line on grange lane, remove the small ash elder etc. below the power lines and poison. Please note a UKPN power shut down will be required. This can take up to 8 weeks but is free of charge and if you accept the works we will arrange this on your behalf.

£500 plus VAT – to carry out a days selective branch removal on Mildenhall Road, reduce branches back from over the carriageway and crown lift trees on the recreation ground

DM Landscapes - £3,025 net

Behind the Playing Field - Reduce and reshape by approx 30% 2 x Norway Maple, 1 x Field Maple and 1 x Sycamore for £1625 + vat.

By Substation - Liaise with UKPN on your behalf. Cut Elder to height of fence and dismantle/fell 3 x dead stems to near ground level.

Cut back Field Maple from power cables. Does not include reducing the height or reshaping the whole tree for £675 + vat.

Church Road, Barton Mills - Lift 6 x assorted trees overhanging the road to 5-6m from the ground. Lift 6 x assorted trees (for the lawnmowers) for £725 + vat

SP Landscapes – £2,650 net

2 x Ash and Field – Crown reduce to give approx. 1.5 – 2m clearance to electric cables

Elderberry – Fell as close to ground level as practically possible and treat to prevent re-growth

3 x Privet – Fell as close to ground level as practically possible

Privet – Crown reduce to give approx. 0.5m clearance to electric cable

1 x Sycamore – Reduce in height by approx. 4-5m to leave at approx. 12m above ground level and reduce crown spread by approx. 2m

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1 x Field maple – Reduce in height by approx. 2.5m to leave at approx. 12m above ground level

1 x Norway maple – Crown reduce by approx. 1.5m

1 x Norway maple – Crown reduce by approx. 2-2.5m Mildenhall Road Side

20 – 25 approx. x Mixed species – Crown lift to 3m above ground level where needed

12 x Mixed species – Crown lift to 5.2m above ground level over road side only

All arisings from tree works to be removed, leaving a clean and tidy site

CLlr N Horner had suggested accepting RH Landscapes quote everyone was in agreement with this suggestion.

8.PC owned land adjacent to A11

Council members discussed the triangle of land. In 20 years we have not done anything with it. All were agreed that we should look again at offering this back to Highways for use as a slip road to improve safety getting off the A11 at that junction.

23/12/09 Finance & Policies

1.Parish Council Bank Balances

It was confirmed at the end of November £1,887 was held in the current account and £32,903 in the deposit account.

2.Approve and authorise payment of invoices

It was resolved to pay the following invoices, all-in agreement:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Gross</u>
30-Nov	J Coe	Salary	281.68	0.00	281.68
30-Nov	J Coe	Clerk expenses	24.50	0.00	24.50
01-Dec	West Suffolk Council	Emptying dog bins	27.73	0.00	27.73
28-Nov	Charlie Peachy	Wreath	60.00	0.00	60.00
14-Nov	The Big Red Wine Co	Wine	76.05	15.21	91.26
30-Nov	RH Landscapes	Grass cutting	100.00	20.00	120.00
18-Nov	MC Excavation	Storm drain	250.00	0.00	250.00
30-Nov	S Limmer	Gardening	30.00	0.00	30.00
30-Nov	R Lewis	Barton Miller	26.16	0.00	26.16
			876.12	35.21	911.33

Clerks overtime of 3.5hours at £14.67 was also agreed for payment.

3.Amendments to the current 23/24 budget and draft 24/25 budget

To be brought forward to the January meeting.

23/12/10 Parish Councillors reports (for information only)

Check streetlights on Mildenhall road, report back to clerk if there are some out/intermittent.

23/12/11 Barton Miller

No January edition

23/12/12 Items for future agendas

- A11 and Highways update.
- Land at Golf-links junction, can we sort out ideas about this?
- Playpark matting quotes
- Funding the survey on condition, and the conversion of streetlights to LED

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 2nd January 2024

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

J.Coe

J. Coe Clerk