

# **Barton Mills Parish Council**

Clerk: Mrs Naomi Alecock [clerk@bartonmills.net](mailto:clerk@bartonmills.net)

Chairman: Mr N. Horne 07590 672963

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

held in the village hall on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7:00pm

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. N Horne, the Chairman of Barton Mills Parish Council.

Also in attendance were the Clerk Naomi Alecock, Cllr. Taylor and 13 electors of the parish.

### **1. Welcome**

Cllr Horne welcomed those present and explained the purpose of the meeting.

### **2. To approve the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

The minutes were presented and it was agreed that they were a true record of the meeting and were therefore **ADOPTED**.

### **3. Chairman's Annual Report**

The precept is approximately £28,000 and is used for repairs, replacement and running costs of street lights, bin collections and replacements, grass cutting, landscaping, tree pruning and maintenance, play area repairs, speed cameras, insurance, Clerk and administration fees. The Parish Council spend the money wisely.

The Parish Council have recently spent £17,000 on essential play area repairs. The village green is the centre of the community and with constant use (and occasional abuse) of the play equipment requires substantial investment in essential maintenance. They have been assisted in funding with a generous donation from the Burrell Trust.

In the next few days, a Residents Survey will be delivered through every door; this is the first stage of the Neighbourhood Plan. Details explaining the plan are on the front page of the survey and will take 5 minutes to complete which will provide essential information. The Parish Council and a group of dedicated individuals are working on developing a document that will benefit the village. The Chair thanked the members of the working group for the work completed so far. A drop in event will be held at the village hall on Saturday 1st June 10am - 3pm where they will be information explaining the plan and an opportunity for any questions or assistance in completing the survey if necessary. Involvement from all residents is needed to make it a good plan; it will be a plan for the village, by the village.

We can celebrate a successful first season for our reformed Barton Mills Football Club; promotion to Division 3 of the Bury and District Sunday League and runners up in the Suffolk FA County Cup. They have become involved with the community helping staff at the car boot sales and are holding their own Charity Day on the green Saturday 13th July 11am - 7pm with food, music and activities.

With regards to our "Exception" site, our noble idea was to repeat the success of our development on Church Lane a few years ago. It is hoped to build 15 homes for people with a village connection, both young and old. After an overwhelmingly positive response to the demand for affordable homes we have been hampered by a number of unforeseen factors. The application is still pending as we await the results of bird nesting surveys for the "mythical" Stone Curlews. We hope that these will be complete by July and we wait to see the outcome. We are still hopeful if not optimistic that we can deliver for the many, not the few.

We are lucky to have a full council representation with all members active in the community who

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make an effort to be visible and involved in the community. It is a policy of the Parish Council to be transparent in all we do and we are available at reasonable notice to address any issues raised by you.

Cllr Horne thanked everyone on the Parish Council for all they do for him personally and the village as a whole.

## **4. District Councillors Report**

Cllr. Taylor thanked the parishioners for a successful first year.

The decarbonisation grant for the streetlight upgrade has now been received and the neighbourhood plan is continuing.

## **5. County Councillors Report**

Cllr. Stanbury sent an annual report to the Parish Council but there is nothing specific to report for Barton Mills.

## **6. Financial Overview for year ending 31 March 2024**

The accounts were only received back from the Internal Auditor today so are not ready to be presented, these will be deferred to the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council meeting in June.

## **7. Any other issues that parishioners' wish to raise**

Keith Fuller was thanked on behalf of the Village Hall committee for being a valuable member in the maintenance of the village hall.

Neil Horne was also thanked for attending the coffee mornings, they have become popular and made the Parish Council more visible to those in the community.

## **8. Close**

The meeting closed at 7.17pm.