

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Barton Mills Parish held in the village hall on Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 7:00pm

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. M Colsey, the Vice Chairman of Barton Mills Parish Council.

Also in attendance were the Clerk Naomi Alecock, and 16 electors of the parish.

1. Welcome

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

2. To approve the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 7th May 2024

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

We have continued to provide the best service possible to our parishioners this year with the majority of the budget being spent on street lighting, grass cutting, bin collections etc. We have installed a new permanent speed camera on the Worlington Road of which Mildenhall High Town Council shared the costs. We have funded street light replacements and repairs as well as upgrades to the play area. We would like to fund future projects including landscaping tired looking areas and providing more seated areas that will enhance the look of the village. We will continue to spend your money wisely and welcome suggestions from our parishioners.

We have a new village gardener, Nigel Parkinson, who is doing a fine job on 2 hours a month.

The Neighbourhood Plan is progressing with the draft plan currently being drawn up; it will then need to go through various consultation processes before it is presented for a village referendum. The agreed plan will then shape any future developments. I would like to thank the members of the steering group for the work they have done so far as well as their commitment to our community.

We are another year into the proposed development of the exception site. Our plan remains to build 15 homes of single, double and 3 bed dwellings which will be available to young and old with a village connection. The Parish Council has pursued this project with strong community support as it will be parishioners and their families who will benefit. We have had to be patient, awaiting results of various surveys in a bid to prove its viability. We have a local construction company set to build the site and they are making every effort to satisfy the changing and often unreasonable demands of the planning authority. Members of the PC, along with builders have met with heads of planning and expressed our frustration. We have renewed optimism for success. This optimism has been strengthened by the support of our District Councillor, David Taylor; he has shown commitment that was previously lacking. I would also like to thank Mr Warin for donating the land and being prepared to comply with the many changes requested from the planners.

BMFC have once again gained promotion and reached another cup final. The club held a successful charity day last year and is doing so again this July. They are also supportive of the bank holiday car boot sale and the club has become firmly established in our community. We wish them continued success. Mildenhall Town FC have continued the partnership with BMFC, promoting youth football on the village green and maintaining the clubhouse.

We have seen several changes in the membership of the Parish Council in recent months. Whilst wishing to thank Neil, Robert and Tanya for the work they have done, I am also pleased to welcome our new

Barton Mills Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs Naomi Alecock clerk@bartonmills-pc.gov.uk

members who will bring expertise and enthusiasm. We will continue to work for the many in our village as well as the few.

4. District Councillors Report

Cllr. Taylor sent his apologies. No report was received.

5. County Councillors Report

Cllr. Stanbury sent his apologies. No report was received.

6. Financial Overview for year ending 31 March 2025

The unaudited receipts and payments summary was presented by the Clerk showing an income of £47,987.98 and expenditure of £50,391.01. A balance of £28,878.35 was carried over from 2024/25.

7. Any other issues that parishioners' wish to raise

Concern was raised over the trees on the right hand side of Church Meadow; some branches have fallen and the base of one tree outside no. 20 is covering the pavement and road.

The 'Public Footpath' signage near Grange Farm on Newmarket Road is not visible due to overgrown hedgerow. There are also 'No Entry' signs to prevent people using the footpath.

8. Close

The meeting closed at 7.19pm.