

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Barton Mills Parish** held in the village hall on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7:00pm

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

Also in attendance were the Clerk Naomi Alecock, 17 electors of the parish, District Cllr. Taylor and Collin Nunn – East Anglian Air Ambulance.

### **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 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

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 made a decision very early in the year that the play area on the village green was a valuable resource and in need of greater protection. This came about following the then, monthly inspection report that one piece of equipment was no longer safe and that other needed maintenance and would require replacement in the near future. The costs of replacing equipment are highly expensive and with all the equipment being installed at the same time, we had serious thoughts that the number of pieces of equipment was unsustainable. However, we agreed to plan the replacements over a number of years, or at least, as much as possible and maintain the equipment we have to the best of our ability and budget. This has meant an increase in our spending and our reserves have gone down but this is a spend now to save later policy as well as keeping the play area for generations to come. The maintenance plan was approved, and our local gardener has agreed to undertake the work.

Traffic issues remain a high priority despite limited powers to control the problem. We continue to promote a by-pass around the five-ways island. Despite a change in government since the last round of highway proposals, this unfortunately has not moved up the priority list.

We are now monitoring the data much better. Both SID's (Speed Indicator Device) are now removed for data downloading and we share the data with other councils in the area. We are working with the other councils to work more collectively and be a more effective pressure group on the decision makers.

Following concerns made by parishioners during the summer regarding the volume of traffic turning off the A11 and blocking up the old Newmarket Rd or turning down Bell Lane and onto the street, we have set in motion a plan to move the battery SID to the street. The amount of times this needs to be done has yet to be agreed as this is mainly to monitor volume.

The Neighbourhood Plan is close to being submitted. My latest update is that the Parish Council needs to note the amendments, approve the schedule and approve submission.

We have been working with the Environment Agency regarding the flooding of the boardwalk path from Hassles Corner to the bridge and the Jubilee playing fields. The agency now has enough information to put in place short and or long-term actions to prevent further flooding.

We have changed the hours that our gardener works to reflect the seasonal workload and this is reflected in his pay. Naomi has been a wonderful addition to the council. She has gained new qualifications as a Clerk and undertaken more work on our behalf. This has also been reflected in her pay scale.

# **Barton Mills Parish Council**

Clerk: Mrs Naomi Alecock [clerk@bartonmills-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bartonmills-pc.gov.uk)

We will continue to look at ways to improve the visual aspects of the village. We are looking at new signage at the entry points into the village as well as a village sign for the houses on the old dairy site off the Worlington Road to improve closer links as well as providing clarity.

We welcome ideas from fellow parishioners.

## **4. District Councillors Report**

Cllr. Taylor will circulate his report.

## **5. County Councillors Report**

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

## **6. Reports from charities that have received a donation**

Written reports from Citizens Advice West Suffolk, Rainbow Club SARS and Headway were circulated detailing the works undertaken using donations received in 2025/26.

Collin Nunn, a CPR training volunteer, from the East Anglian Air Ambulance spoke about the key activities carried out by the charity including saving lives, 24/7 care, after care, research, CPR training. They have 2 helicopters with a pilot, doctor and paramedic on each covering Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire. It costs the charity £20m to run each year and solely relies on donations with no government funding. They provide free 1 hour training sessions to the public and schools on CPR. He thanked the Parish Council for their donation and continued support.

*Collin Nunn left the meeting.*

## **7. Financial Overview for year ending 31 March 2026**

The receipts and payments summary was presented by the Clerk showing an income of £45,499.93 and expenditure of £46,985.54. A balance of £27,392.74 was carried over from 2025/26. The accounts have been audited by the Internal Auditor and will be sent to the External Auditor once approved by the Parish Council.

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

Thanks were given to the Parish Council for looking after the Barton Mills playing field, it is now used by a variety of groups. They were also thanked for their efforts in trying to control the traffic; Barton Mills is a nice place to live.

## **9. Close**

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.