

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Barton Mills
held in the village hall on Tuesday 3rd February 2026 at 7:30pm

Present:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Cllr. Colsey (Chair) | Cllr. Oke |
| Cllr. Curtis | Cllr. Pearlman |
| Cllr. Fuller | Cllr. Walston |
| Cllr. Lewis | |

Also in attendance were the Clerk Naomi Alecock, District Cllr. Taylor and 4 members of the public.

1. Welcome

Cllr. Colsey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Acceptance of apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Jarvis. Cllr. Mullender was absent.

3. Declaration of members interests and dispensations

Item 14.3 – Cllr. Lewis

4. To receive approval of minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th January 2026 from those members present at the meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from the meeting of Tuesday 6th January 2026 no amendments. Proposed by Cllr. Fuller, seconded by Cllr. Oke. All in favour.

5. Public Participation

A member of the public raised concerns over the flooded boardwalk on the river path from Barton Mills to Mildenhall and asked for an update. The Clerk advised that Cllrs. Lewis, Oke and possibly Fuller will be meeting with SCC to discuss the issues on Thursday.

6. District Councillor Report

West Suffolk Council are in the process of developing a Culture and Heritage Policy.

Cllr. Taylor advised that Serco have housed asylum seekers in 3 houses in Mildenhall; any concerns should be raised with him.

A vape shop has opened in Mildenhall; they were previously trading in Newmarket which was subject to a 3-month closure by WSC. Cllr. Lewis declared an interest in this; the Chair allowed him to provide some information on this.

WSC have a balanced budget with an increase of 12p per week for a tax band D.

A change of use for Mildenhall bus station will be going to the Development Control Committee tomorrow.

District Cllr. Taylor left the meeting.

Barton Mills Parish Council

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

7. County Councillor Report

County Cllr. Stanbury sent his apologies; he has circulated his report.

The Clerk advised that it is likely that the SCC elections will be postponed again and Parliament has to pass a law in order for this to happen.

8. Planning Consultations

8.1 Proposed base station upgrade at Fiveways Garage, Fiveways, Mildenhall

It was **RESOLVED** to make **NO OBJECTION**. Proposed by Cllr. Lewis, seconded by Cllr. Oke. All in favour.

9. To receive an update on the exception site

Cllr. Lewis explained that the revised drawing is now with West Suffolk Council for consideration.

10. Planning Applications decisions, statuses and appeals

The paper was received and **NOTED**.

11. To consider the Community Governance Review consultation from West Suffolk Council

It was **RESOLVED** to **CONFIRM** that the Parish Council feel that the current arrangements are adequate; it was agreed that there should be a dedicated parish council to a dedicated village. Proposed by Cllr. Curtis, seconded by Cllr. Oke. All in favour.

12. To consider the West Suffolk Affordable Housing Supplementary Document 2026

Cllr. Lewis explained that the document proposes increasing affordable housing from 30% to 40% which is counter productive and makes new developments unviable. It was **RESOLVED** to **COMMENT** to keep affordable housing at 30% to enable growth. Proposed by Cllr. Lewis, seconded by Cllr. Pearlman. All in favour.

13. Parish Matters

13.1 To consider a request for the River Run 2026

A request was considered for the River Run 2026 event to be ran on Sunday 12th July. It is a 2k/5k run consisting of 80 runners who will travel from the Jubilee Fields into Barton Mills via the footbridge and boardwalk, along Mildenhall Road, The Street, Old Mill Lane and back along the river. It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** this proposal. Proposed by Cllr. Fuller, seconded by Cllr. Oke. All in favour.

13.2 To discuss village signs at Lamb Cottage and the Dog and Partridge

A quotation to repair the sign at Lamb Cottage and for a new sign on Worlington Road was considered. It was **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT** this quote for £700 and to obtain a quote for installation of the sign on Worlington Road for the next meeting. Proposed by Cllr. Walston, seconded by Cllr. Oke. All in favour.

13.3 To receive a verbal update with regards to streetlights and discuss the streetlight maintenance contract

Barton Mills Parish Council

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

There was nothing to report on streetlights.

Following discussions last year to enquire whether SCC would take on the 4 streetlights currently managed by K & M Lighting; the Clerk has received confirmation that this can be done from 1st April; however, they cannot confirm pricing until the end of March as this is set by Government. The K & M Lighting contract ends on 28th February and there would be a gap in service unless SCC could take the lights on early.

A quote has been received from K & M Lighting for this year for £103.12 + VAT, an increase from £98.20 + VAT last year.

It was **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT** the quote from K & M Lighting and to request the contract run until 31st March 2027 to enable us to look at options next year. Proposed by Cllr. Fuller, seconded by Cllr. Pearlman. All in favour.

13.4 To receive a verbal update with regards to the play park and inspections

Cllr. Walston gave an update on the playground works. Phase 1 works are now complete; some safety plugs are missing from the tractor so once these are fitted the fencing will be removed. There is some safety matting left over which is going to be used for the base of the spring bikes and will be completed free of charge when the contractor is in the area. Phase 3 is now being costed.

Maintenance and cleaning of the play equipment was discussed. It was **AGREED** to **REQUEST** that the Gardener clean the play equipment once a year and paint the benches to prolong the life of these.

The Clerk advised that West Suffolk Council carry out the inspections of the play equipment. They have changed their contract and from April will be carrying out bi-monthly inspections instead of monthly.

13.5 To discuss traffic control, including an update on SID's

Cllr. Curtis is monitoring the SID's and will present a report to the next meeting. He has contacted Anglian Water to request permission to add an additional post near the water meter to enable the SID to be moved between 3 locations; he is awaiting a reply. The cost of an additional post will be £875.00.

5 people have expressed an interest in Speedwatch; at least 10 volunteers are needed to implement it.

It was noted that the white lines on Mildenhall Road are worn again. The Clerk will contact County Cllr. Stanbury.

Cllr. Colsey informed that the rota for battery SID has been done for the next 2 months.

14. Financial Matters

14.1 To consider a charitable donation

The Clerk explained that the Good Neighbours Scheme had rejected the donation of £150.00 approved at the last meeting.

She has received a request from Barton Mills Garden Club for funding towards their annual horticultural show. Cllr. Curtis declared an interest.

Barton Mills Parish Council

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

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** a charitable donation of £150.00 to the Barton Mills Garden Club. Proposed by Cllr. Pearlman, seconded by Cllr. Fuller. 6 in favour, 1 abstention.

14.2 To receive the current bank account balances

It was confirmed that there is currently £3,249.67 held in the current account and £35,154.39 in the deposit account.

14.3 To approve and authorise payment of invoices

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the following invoices:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Payee</u> | <u>Details</u> | <u>Net</u> | <u>VAT</u> | <u>Gross</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 26-Oct | Parish Online | Mapping Software - Annual Charge | 90.00 | 18.00 | 108.00 |
| 31-Dec | Barton Mills Village Hall | Hall hire | 94.50 | 0.00 | 94.50 |
| 13-Jan | JRB Enterprise Ltd | Dog poo bags | 80.12 | 16.02 | 96.14 |
| 14-Jan | Community Action Suffolk | Website Accessibility Audit | 90.00 | 18.00 | 108.00 |
| 31-Jan | R Lewis | Barton Miller | 26.16 | 0.00 | 26.16 |
| 31-Jan | Clerk | Expenses | 33.56 | 0.00 | 33.56 |
| 31-Jan | N Parkinson | Gardening Services - January | 30.00 | 0.00 | 30.00 |
| 01-Feb | West Suffolk Council | Weekly bin collection - February | 15.14 | 0.00 | 15.14 |
| 01-Feb | Zurich | Insurance 2026/27 | 1421.50 | 0.00 | 1421.50 |
| 30-Jan | R & S Play Installation Ltd | Playground equipment | 4975.27 | 1243.82 | 6219.09 |
| | | | 6,856.25 | 1,295.84 | 8,152.09 |

Proposed by Cllr. Fuller, seconded by Cllr. Curtis. 6 in favour, 1 abstention.

15. Clerks report

The Clerk is now maintaining the defib and has registered it on The Circuit so that it is visible to the Ambulance Service. It was checked this evening and replacement pads are needed which she will order.

The tree survey will be carried out on 19th February.

The website audit is now complete and some actions are required which the Clerk is now looking at and working through.

The Clerk has received an update on the Neighbourhood Plan. The steering group have been presented with comments and suggestions and made their own amendments. Once the modifications have been made the final plan will be presented to the Parish Council for approval before submission to West Suffolk Council.

The noticeboard at Bridge Farm appears to be broken. The Clerk will have another look and report back at the next meeting if a repair or replacement is needed.

We have now received 21 people interested in housing on the exception site.

The Clerk asked to confirm the engraving on the tree bench agreed at the last meeting as the date appeared incorrect. It was **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the below text:

EIRR Platinum Jubilee 2022

With the EIRR in the style of:



It was also **AGREED** to ask the contractor from the playground to quote to install the bench.

16. Parish Councillors reports

Cllr. Colsey reported that the Football Club has not been using the field for parking during games causing problems in the village hall car park and on the road. The Clerk has contacted them requesting that this be addressed and a meeting is planned between the teams in which it will be raised.

Cllr. Lewis recalled the Environment Agency presentation around works at Mildenhall Cricket Club to lower the river level. He requested an update which the Clerk will follow up. He has been approached by a resident requesting a streetlight on the crossover on bend by the playing field. A resident has also complained about the vegetation from Church Meadow to the Churchyard being trimmed.

Cllr. Curtis reported a broken dog poo bag dispenser in Church Lane Close. The Clerk will investigate this further.

Cllr. Fuller reported that the dog poo bag dispenser in Old Mill Lane is empty. The Police noticeboard by The Bell is out of date. The Clerk will look at this.

17. To discuss and agree the content for the next Barton Miller

It was **AGREED** to include the following items in the next Barton Miller:

- 3rd SID site
- Village signs – Lamb Cottage and Worlington Road
- New play equipment (including photo)

18. Correspondence

A letter has been received from SARS thanking the Council for their donation of £150.00 and their continues support.

19. Exchange of information

There was no exchange of information.

20. Date and time of the next meeting – Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 7.30pm in Barton Mills Village Hall, Mildenhall Road, Barton Mills, IP28 6BB

The meeting closed at 9.07pm.

Barton Mills Parish Council

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

N. Alecock
N. Alecock, Clerk