

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Barton Mills
held in the village hall on Tuesday 6th January 2026 at 7:30pm

Present:

Cllr. Oke (Vice Chair)
Cllr. Curtis
Cllr. Fuller

Cllr. Jarvis
Cllr. Walston

Also in attendance were the Clerk Naomi Alecock and County Cllr. Stanbury.

1. Welcome

Cllr. Oke welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Acceptance of apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Colsey, Lewis and Mullender. Cllr. Pearlman was absent.

3. Declaration of members interests and dispensations

There were no declarations of interest.

4. To receive approval of minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd December 2025 from those members present at the meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from the meeting of Tuesday 2nd December 2025 with 1 amendment to item 6 with the insertion of the word 'various'. Proposed by Cllr. Oke, seconded by Cllr. Curtis. All in favour.

5. Public Participation

No members of public were in attendance.

6. District Councillor Report

Apologies were received from Cllr. Taylor. He has £350-£400 funding available from his locality fund if we need any further funding; an application will need to be put in urgently as the deadline is approaching.

7. County Councillor Report

The consultation on the Local Government Reorganisation ends on 11th January. SCC are proposing a One Suffolk which will see a saving of £78m over the first 5 years and £40m after that.

The May County Council elections may be postponed for another year. The deadline for a decision is 15th January and Cllr. Stanbury will be attending an extraordinary meeting at SCC on 12th January.

SCC are setting their budget; there will be an increase of 4.99% in council tax.

There is a delay in the Mayor being elected; it is likely that the Local Government Reorganisation will be implemented and the Mayor will then be elected.

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County Cllr. Stanbury left the meeting at 7.42pm.

8. Planning Consultations

There were no planning consultations.

9. Planning Applications decisions, statuses and appeals

The paper was received and **NOTED**.

A request was made for an update from Cocksedge on the exception site application for the next meeting.

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

It was **AGREED** to **DEFER** this item until the next meeting.

11. Parish Matters

11.1 To discuss quotes for a bench for the Jubilee

Quotes and styles of a bench for the Jubilee were discussed at the meeting held in June 2025. More detail has now been gathered following the discussion that took place. Cllr. Jarvis proposed a teak circular tree seat at a cost of £1,190.00. An inscription for the Jubilee would be an additional cost of £60.00 and a plaque to thank the Brothertons for their work with the Scarecrow Festivals would be an additional cost of £40.00. The 100 Club have donated £500.00 towards this and we will approach Cllr. Taylor to apply for the £400.00 he has in his locality fund. It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** this proposal. Proposed by Cllr. Walston, seconded by Cllr. Curtis.

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

The village signs were discussed. It was **RESOLVED** to repair the sign at Lamb Cottage as it is falling into disrepair. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries into a previous offer of a 3rd sign and to obtain quotes for installing any additional posts needed.

11.3 To receive a verbal update with regards to streetlights

There was nothing to report.

11.4 To receive a verbal update with regards to the play park

Cllr. Walston gave an update on the programme of works. The tractor is due for delivery 19th January and the contractor is booked to start work w/c 19th January subject to weather and delivery.

The Clerk gave an update on funding. County Cllr. Stanbury has given £2,000 from his locality fund which was received on 2nd January. Funding was refused from District Cllr. Taylor as we do not meet the criteria. £500 has been received from resident P Kerridge. We are awaiting a decision from the 100 Club and Burrell Trust who both have meetings early this year.

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

Cllr. Colsey has completed the rota until April.

Cllr. Curtis attended a meeting with Worlington regarding speeding. It was **AGREED** to add some posters requesting volunteers for Speedwatch in our noticeboards as we still do not have enough

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volunteers to run. Cllr. Curtis will contact Anglian Water to investigate installing a SID post near the pump station to enable the SID to be moved to a new location.

12. Financial Matters

12.1 To consider quotes for insurance renewal

The Clerk has received 2 quotes from Hiscox and Aviva for the insurance renewal, both for £1,673.01. The Clerk explained that she has had difficulty obtaining some quotes as some are issued 30 days before the end date of the current cover which is 3rd February. It was **AGREED** to **DELEGATE** to the Clerk to look at other quotes and if a cheaper quote can be found for the same cover as current that they can accept this. Proposed by Cllr. Jarvis, seconded by Cllr. Oke. All in favour.

12.2 To consider a quote for a full audit of the website to ensure accessibility

A quote from One Suffolk for £108.00 to carry out a full audit of every web page, repair any issues and provide a report of findings and prevention was considered to ensure that we are compliant with website accessibility. It was **AGREED** to **ACCEPT** this quote. Proposed by Cllr. Walston, seconded by Cllr. Curtis. All in favour.

12.3 To receive the payments to date

The cashbook showing payments to date were presented and received by the Council.

12.4 To receive the receipts to date

The cashbook showing receipts to date were presented and received by the Council.

12.5 To agree the annual charitable donations

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the following charitable donations for 2025/26:

Good Neighbourhood Scheme - £150.00
Rainbow Club - £150.00
Suffolk Accident & Rescue Service - £150.00
Headway Suffolk - £150.00
Air Ambulance Suffolk - £250.00
Citizens Advice Bureau - £150.00
Barton Mills Football Club - £100.00

Proposed by Cllr. Jarvis, seconded by Cllr. Fuller. All in favour.

12.6 To receive the current bank account balances

It was confirmed that there is currently £5,147.15 held in the current account and £34,737.41 in the deposit account.

12.7 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>
30-Nov	R. H. Landscapes & Maintenance Services Ltd	Grass cutting - November	210.00	42.00	252.00
31-Dec	R Lewis	Barton Miller	26.16	0.00	26.16
31-Dec	Clerk	Expenses	58.00	0.00	58.00

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31-Dec	N Parkinson	Gardening Services - December	30.00	0.00	30.00
1-Jan	West Suffolk Council	Weekly bin collection - January	15.14	0.00	15.14
			339.30	42.00	381.30

Proposed by Cllr. Fuller, seconded by Cllr. Oke. All in favour.

13. Governance Matters

13.1 To review and adopt the Freedom of Information Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the Freedom of Information Policy with no changes. Proposed by Cllr. Oke, seconded by Cllr. Fuller. All in favour.

13.2 To review and adopt the Reserves Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the Reserves Policy with no changes. Proposed by Cllr. Oke, seconded by Cllr. Fuller. All in favour.

13.3 To review and adopt the updated Financial Regulations

It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the updated Financial Regulations with no changes. Proposed by Cllr. Oke, seconded by Cllr. Fuller. All in favour.

13.4 To review and adopt the updated Standing Orders

It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the updated Standing Orders with no changes. Proposed by Cllr. Oke, seconded by Cllr. Walston. All in favour.

13.5 To review and adopt the Accessibility Statement

It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the Accessibility Statement with no changes. Proposed by Cllr. Walston, seconded by Cllr. Oke. All in favour.

14. Clerks report

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Mr Sheldrick and the Environment Agency with regards to the footpath flooding raised at the last meeting. The Environment Agency have informed her that the LLFA Suffolk County Council oversee the non-main river watercourses and have suggested contacting them for the pipework as well as the managers of Norah Hanbury Meadows for the flow.

We have now received 17 people interested in housing on the exception site; 4 of which are from the original list.

15. Parish Councillors reports

Cllr. Fuller has a village hall meeting next week – the Council requested that he requests wifi for the village hall.

Cllr. Oke reported that the potholes are getting bigger in Church Lane into Newmarket Road. She will report on the SCC reporting tool.

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

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

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- Speedwatch Volunteers request
- Exception site interest
- SCC reporting tool
- Programme of maintenance - playground repairs

17. Correspondence

Notification has been received from SALC regarding the invoicing for payroll. Payroll is usually invoiced every 6 months in arrears, however from September 2026 this will be invoiced 6 months in arrears and 6 months in advance. From April 2027 it will be invoiced annually in advance.

18. Exchange of information

There was no exchange of information.

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

The meeting closed at 8.49pm.

N. Alecock
N. Alecock, Clerk