

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

Present:

Cllr. Colsey (Chair)	Cllr. Mullender
Cllr. Curtis	Cllr. Oke
Cllr. Fuller	Cllr. Pearlman
Cllr. Jarvis	Cllr. Walston
Cllr. Lewis	

Also in attendance were the Clerk Naomi Alecock, 2 members of the public and Steve Nugent - Cocksedge.

1. Welcome

Cllr. Colsey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Acceptance of apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

3. Declaration of members interests and dispensations

Item 11.2 – Cllr. Lewis

4. To receive approval of minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd February 2026 from those members present at the meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from the meeting of Tuesday 3rd February 2026 with 1 amendment to item 13.5 detailing the supplier for the additional SID post quote. Proposed by Cllr. Walston, seconded by Cllr. Colsey. All in favour.

5. Public Participation

A member of the public reported that the footpath along Newmarket Road between Bell Lane and the Bull Inn is overgrown again.

6. District Councillor Report

District Cllr. Taylor sent his apologies.

7. County Councillor Report

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

8. Planning Consultations

8.1 To receive a verbal update on the exception site

Steve Nugent from Cocksedge provided an update on the status of the planning application for the exception site.

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West Suffolk Council are understood to be favourable of the most recent layout which is similar to that of 4 years ago but the houses face outwards onto Newmarket Road with the central parking area adjoining the back gardens of the properties. Reports are being updated to reflect the amended plans and it is hoped that the formal consultation period will start at the end of the month.

Consultee objections have been satisfied by reducing the speed from 60mph to 30mph, adding a pedestrian crossing, changing the layout and detailing replacement trees with equal or more than are there currently.

If no other new issues are raised, it is hoped that the application will be determined by the end of the Summer. An agreement will be made with Havebury with development starting by the end of the year or beginning of 2027 with a 12-month build. Due to the length of time it has taken to determine the application it may be required to go to Development Control Committee for consideration.

Cllr. Lewis advised that the Parish had carried out a limited marketing survey which has confirmed the housing need with interest outweighing the number of houses proposed; he requested a report after the consultation period ends. Steve Nugent agreed to provide the Parish Council with a bullet point summary for each meeting.

The Chair allowed the members of public the opportunity to address Steve Nugent with any questions. One resident said the removal of trees was not acceptable to the planners. Steve Nugent advised that this was incorrect as they have not seen the revised landscaping drawing to go with the revised layout drawing. The new drawing will result in more trees being replaced or added to meet the requirements of the planners. The resident also raised that the speed was unsatisfactory; Steve Nugent advised that the application was to reduce the speed limit to 30mph, but the final decision would be made by Highways. The resident then added that there was no pedestrian crossing. Steve Nugent presented the drawing which clearly showed the pedestrian crossing and stated that the type of crossing would be determined by Highways.

9. Planning Applications decisions, statuses and appeals

The paper was received and **NOTED**.

10. Parish Matters

10.1 To consider the West Suffolk Public Protection Order Review 2026

Steve Nugent left the meeting at 7.56pm.

It was **RESOLVED** to **SUPPORT** the review of the PSPO (Dogs) 2020 and the implementation of a PSPO by the Forestry Commission with no further comments. Proposed by Cllr. Jarvis, seconded by Cllr. Oke. All in favour.

10.2 To consider the Barningham Neighbourhood Plan

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOT COMMENT**. Proposed by Cllr. Jarvis, seconded by Cllr. Oke. All in favour.

10.3 To consider the Planning Reforms Consultation

The consultation was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** to **COMMENT** that Barton Mills Parish Council are in favour of simplifying the planning process as long as officers are not given extra power to enable them to block applications. Proposed by Cllr. Lewis, seconded by Cllr. Jarvis. All in favour.

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10.4 To approve the car boot arrangements

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the dates for the car boot sales as 6th April, 4th May, 25th May, 31st August 2026. Proposed by Cllr. Pearlman, seconded by Cllr. Oke. All in favour.

10.5 To receive a verbal update with regards to streetlights

There was nothing to report on streetlights.

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

Cllr. Walston gave an update; we now have a clean inspection report from West Suffolk Council. It was agreed to put him in touch with the gardener to go through the maintenance required on the playground and playing field and this will determine the hours required to carry this out.

10.7 To discuss traffic control, receive an update on SID's and to consider a quote for an additional SID post

Cllr. Curtis presented a quote of £216.39 for an additional SID post with fixings at the water pumping station. Permission has been given by the landlord and they are willing to assist Cllr. Curtis to install this on the existing wooden post at no charge. It was **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT** this quote. Proposed by Cllr. Lewis, seconded by Cllr. Pearlman. All in favour.

Cllr. Curtis presented data on the SID summary. The solar SID on Worlington Road stopped collecting data at the end of January so he will look into this. Data shows that on average 28,000 vehicles use the Worlington Road weekly. 8.2% of vehicles are in excess of 35mph with the highest speed being recorded as 60-64mph. Mildenhall Road has on average 8500 vehicles a week with the highest speed being recorded as 46mph. Church Lane has on average 3000 vehicles a week with the highest speed being recorded as 51mph.

No further interest has been received for Speedwatch and we only have 7 volunteers which is not enough to proceed with the scheme. It was agreed to put this on hold until warmer weather.

11. Financial Matters

11.1 To receive the current bank account balances

It was confirmed that there is currently £743.22 held in the current account and £27,669.65 in the deposit account.

11.2 To approve and authorise payment of invoices

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

Retrospective approval of invoices

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Gross</u>
11-Feb	Jati Ltd	Tree bench	1041.66	208.33	1249.99
18-Feb	MDC Exports Limited	Dog poo bag dispenser	18.75	3.75	22.50
7-Nov	Mark Chambers		75.00	0.00	75.00

To be approved

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Gross</u>
28-Feb	R Lewis	Barton Miller	26.16	0.00	26.16
28-Feb	Clerk	Expenses	38.43	0.00	38.43
28-Feb	N Parkinson	Gardening Services - February	30.00	0.00	30.00

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28-Feb	West Suffolk Council	Weekly bin collection - March	15.14	0.00	15.14
9-Feb	Community Heartbeat	Defib pads	169.95	33.99	203.94
2-Mar	Community Action Suffolk	Domain name			27.00
			1,396.34	246.07	1,688.16

Proposed by Cllr. Fuller, seconded by Cllr. Curtis. 8 in favour, 1 abstention.

12. Governance Matters

12.1 To review the asset register

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the asset register with the following amendments:

- Add new composite bench on playing field and remove old bench
- Change goal posts to 1 x 6ft and 2 x 4ft (some were damaged and unusable)
- Add tractor purchase cost and replacement cost as £3,000
- Amend circular green plastic bin – relocated from field to Hassels Corner
- Removal of dog bin on Hassels Corner
- Update replacement cost of solar SID to £4,150 as recent quote
- Land next to A11 – ask insurer about public liability on unused piece of land – brought for £20,000

Cllr. Jarvis will speak to the Allotment Association regarding the fencing at the allotment to clarify ownership.

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

13. Clerks report

The Clerk advised that the broken dog poo bag dispenser on Church Lane Close has been replaced.

The defib has been taken out of service as it is not working. It is still under warranty and will need to be looked at by the manufacturer.

SCC elections are taking place 7th May 2026.

The tree bench is on order and is on a 10-week lead time for delivery.

The white lines on Mildenhall Road have been redone.

Cllrs. Lewis and Oke met with SCC regarding the flooded river path to Mildenhall. SCC have proposed raising the boardwalk and have contacted the relevant team to consider this. Cllrs. Lewis and Oke have a meeting tomorrow with Martyn Sheldrick to look at the issues that he has identified. The Clerk has contacted the Environment Agency for an update on the lowering of the river bank at Mildenhall Cricket Club.

An incident on the playing field during a football match on Saturday 21st February has been reported to the Parish Council. The incident involved a team that did not have prior approval to use the field and Mildenhall Football Club have been reminded of the terms in their lease.

14. Parish Councillors reports

Cllr. Oke advised that the Nextdoor account is still active. Cllr. Colsey will contact former Cllr. Newman for the log in details.

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Cllr. Lewis requested that the poppy wreathes be removed from the Peace Garden as they are now looking untidy. The Clerk asked the Council how long they would like the wreathes to remain on the Peace Garden for future events; this was confirmed as 4 months; going forward the Gardener will be asked to remove these 4 months after they are laid.

Cllr. Jarvis will provide an update from the allotments at the next meeting.

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

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

- Update on flooding on river path to Mildenhall
- SID
- Playground

16. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

17. Exchange of information

There was no exchange of information.

18. Date and time of the next meeting – Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 7.30pm in Barton Mills Village Hall, Mildenhall Road, Barton Mills, IP28 6BB

The meeting closed at 9.04pm.

N. Alecock
N. Alecock, Clerk