# Barton Mills Parish Council

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

# Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Barton Mills

held in the village hall on Tuesday 6th October 2026 at 7:30pm

Present:

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

Also in attendance were the Clerk Naomi Alecock, District Cllr Taylor, County Cllr Busuttil and 5 members of the public

## 1.Welcome

Cllr. Colsey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## 2. Acceptance of apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

## 3. Declaration of members interests and dispensations

Item 11.4 – Cllr. Lewis

## 4. To receive approval of minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 1st September 2026 from those members present at the meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from the meeting of Tuesday 1st September 2026. Proposed by Cllr. Fuller, seconded by Cllr. Walston. All in favour.

## 5. Public Participation

A question was raised as to why councillors were having meetings with no public in attendance. They were told that these meetings were in relation to the exception site and no decisions are made at these. The Clerk explained that as elected members they need to meet with other statutory bodies to work together on projects in order for decisions to be made at meetings.

A question was also raised as to why the Parish Council have invited a supporter of the exception site development and not an opposer to the WSC Development Control Committee next Wednesday. Members explained that they had been advised by District Cllr. Taylor to invite someone who is supportive of the scheme, however the meeting is an open meeting and anybody is able to attend and speak; details are on West Suffolk Council's website.

## 6. District Councillor Report

There is an under provision for travellers' sites in West Suffolk. Travellers have recently moved onto some land in Worlington, WSC has a stop order ready in case the land is developed on to enable them to stop works for 56 days to ensure policies are being followed.

6 million vapes are being disposed off weekly and becoming an epidemic.

Elections will be taking place in May 2027.

Mildenhall bus station is undergoing a £¼ million refurbishment to become a banking hub which is due to open in 4 months.

Bins have all been distributed in West Suffolk.

Higham may be getting a possible 2000 homes as part of the call for sites.

**7. County Councillor Report**

There is concern over potential congestion in Mildenhall's town centre with the 1000 house development in Western Mildenhall and the demand on water supplies. SCC are working to delay the start of the development. They are also working with Say No to Sunnica.

RAF Barnham is still a concern and at the SCC Council meeting on Thursday it is hoped that a resolution will be passed for a referendum on 6th May regarding housing asylum seekers.

*District Cllr Taylor and County Cllr Busuttil left the meeting at 7.58pm*

**8. Planning Consultations**

There were no planning consultations.

**9. Planning Applications decisions, statuses and appeals**

The paper was received and **NOTED.**

**10. Parish Matters**

**10.1 To approve the Neighbourhood Plan response to the Examiners' comments**

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the draft response to the Examiners' comments. Proposed by Cllr. Oke, seconded by Cllr. Jarvis. 7 in favour, 1 abstention.

**10.2 To discuss the arrangement of defib training from EAAA**

EAAA have confirmed that the minimum number of trainees required for their free training is 8, with a maximum of 40. We have received interest from 17. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with setting a date and organising the training for the New Year. Proposed by Cllr. Oke, seconded by Cllr. Fuller. All in favour.

**10.3 To confirm the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council purchase two poppy wreathes, provide the wine and host as usual on Remembrance Sunday - 8th November. Cllrs Oke, Pearlman and Walston are available to provide refreshments with the set up at 10am, finished by 12.30. The Football Club need to be notified so they delay kick off. Proposed by Cllr. Walston, seconded by Cllr. Oke. All in favour.

**10.4 To approve the car boot arrangements for 2027**

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the dates as the bank holiday Mondays and the bookings to be free of charge. A meeting is due to be sent up with the relevant parties and it was **AGREED** to arrange this at The Bell as the Church Rooms are not an option at the moment. Proposed by Cllr. Pearlman, seconded by Cllr. Oke. All in favour.

**10.5 To receive a verbal update with regards to streetlights**

Cllr. Fuller reported that the streetlight on Burrell Crescent, where it meets Church Lane has an intermittent bulb.

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

A complaint has been received about missing slats off the concrete bench; however, the gardener was in the middle of refurbing this and it is now complete.

The groundwork of the seesaw matting was not completed with the correct material by A1 Play and this has caused ongoing issues with the matting coming loose. A quote is needed for the groundwork to be replaced.

The wheels have fallen off the goalposts and there is an aspiration to reinstate these.

It is hoped that the fence will be repainted next year as there are ongoing issues with rust that are being reported monthly.

**10.7 To discuss traffic control and to receive an update on SID's**

The Worlington Road SID has stopped collecting data again, Cllr. Curtis will look at this.

Stats from the SID's were received from Cllr. Curtis. A resident has contacted him requesting that the SID is left in The Street for a longer period of time. It was agreed to leave the rotation as is and review. It was agreed to publish the SID data in January's/ February's Barton Miller.

**10.8 To receive and update on the 20mph scheme**

8 comments on Facebook have been received in favour of the scheme as well as 5 emails for and 2 against. 3 people have offered help so we may look at Speedwatch again.

Some comments received include the need to look at the programming of the lights at fiveways roundabout, police camera enforcement, concern over drivers sticking to 20mph when 30mph is not followed already.

It was agreed to leave for another month to allow further comments to be received.

*1 member of the public left the meeting at 8.42pm*

**11. Financial Matters**

**11.1 To note the 2026/27 pay award for the Clerk**

The Clerk explained that the NJC pay award has now been agreed and it increases the Clerks salary from £18.35 to £18.96 per hour; this was **NOTED.**

*1 member of the public left the meeting at 8.45pm*

**11.2 To receive quarter 2 financial figures**

The quarter 2 financial figures were presented and **NOTED.**

**11.3 To receive the current bank account balances**

It was confirmed that there is currently £1,623.56 held in the current account and £50,980.16 in the deposit account.

## 11.4 To approve and authorise payment of invoices

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

**Retrospective approval of invoices (subject to item 5.15 of the Financial Regulations)**

| Date | Payee | Details | Net | VAT | Gross |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 24-Sep | Clerk | Salary - September | 352.40 | 0.00 | 352.40 |

**To be approved**

| Date | Payee | Details | Net | VAT | Gross |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10-Sep | R.H. Landscapes & Maintenance | Car park hedge cut | 123.84 | 24.77 | 148.61 |
| 10-Sep | HMRC | Clerk salary | 274.73 | 0.00 | 274.73 |
| 14-Sep | Suffolk Preservation Society | Clerk - NP workshop | 10.00 | 0.00 | 10.00 |
| 15-Sep | The Community Heartbeat | Annual rental | 60.00 | 12.00 | 72.00 |
| 28-Sep | SALC | 12mths payroll | 102.00 | 20.40 | 122.40 |
| 30-Sep | SCC | 1/2 yr allotment rent | 65.00 | 0.00 | 65.00 |
| 30-Sep | R Lewis | Barton Miller | 26.16 | 0.00 | 26.16 |
| 30-Sep | Clerk | Expenses | 40.56 | 0.00 | 40.56 |
| 30-Sep | N Parkinson | Gardening services - September | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 |
| 30-Sep | N Parkinson | Bench refurb works | 490.00 | 0.00 | 490.00 |
| 01-Oct | West Suffolk Council | Combination bin empty - Oct | 17.42 | 0.00 | 17.42 |
| 01-Oct | K & M Lighting | Monthly street light maintenance | 8.59 | 1.72 | 10.31 |
| 28-Sep | JRB Enterprise | Dog poo bags | 80.12 | 16.02 | 96.14 |
| 28-Sep | Community Heartbeat | Torch | 5.00 | 9.34 | 14.34 |
| 30-Sep | Barton Mills Village Hall | Hall hire | 49.50 | 0.00 | 49.50 |
| | | | **1,805.32** | **84.25** | **1,889.57** |

Proposed by Cllr. Oke, seconded by Cllr. Walston. 6 in favour, 2 abstentions.

## 12. Clerks report

The defib has now been repaired and is registered with the Circuit. It requires a torch which is on order and will be added once received.

The Clerk confirmed that following the request for the unallocated reserves figure, that there is £22,095.65 available. She would recommend that £16,125.00 is left in the reserve leaving £5,970.65 available for projects such as the village signs. Budget setting will take place shortly so councillors were asked to think about what projects they wanted to deliver in 2027/28; ideas are to be sent to the Clerk.

## 15. Parish Councillors reports

Cllr. Curtis informed members that the Gardening Club may close at the end of the year. The Horticultural Show was successful.

Cllr. Jarvis informed members that a complaint had been received regarding rats from the allotments. There are rat traps on the allotments already but the Allotment Society will discuss vermin control with SCC.

Cllr. Fuller is attending the village hall committee meeting next week; Cllr. Oke asked for wifi to be raised. He also asked about the status of the village sign outside Lamb Cottage; we are awaiting H Signs to repair and reinstall.

## 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:

- Ideas for projects
- Defib training
- Remembrance Sunday

**17. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

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

The meeting closed at 8.57pm.

N. Alecock
**N. Alecock, Clerk**