

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Barton Mills

held in the village hall on Tuesday 2nd September 2025 at 7:30pm

Present:

Cllr. Colsey
Cllr. Curtis
Cllr. Fuller

Cllr. Mullender
Cllr. Oke
Cllr. Walston

Also in attendance were the Clerk Naomi Alecock, District Cllr. Taylor and 8 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 Cllrs. Jarvis and Lewis.

The resignation of Cllr. Marshall was noted and the Clerk advised that a notice of vacancy has been published.

3. Declaration of members interests and dispensations

None

4. To receive approval of minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1st July 2025 from those members present at the meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from the meeting of Tuesday 1st July 2025 with no amendments. Proposed by Cllr. Curtis, seconded by Cllr. Fuller. All in favour.

5. To receive approval of minutes of the extra ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 12th August 2025 from those members present at the meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from the extra ordinary meeting of Tuesday 12th August 2025 with no amendments. Proposed by Cllr. Oke, seconded by Cllr. Walston. All in favour.

6. Public Participation

Concern was raised over traffic speeding through the village with a parishioner recently suffering verbal abuse from a speeding driver. An increasing amount of traffic is diverting through the village when the A11 is busy.

The Parish Council was asked that when the draft Neighbourhood Plan was voted on why 4 Councillors voted against the Plan despite it reflecting the public's view.

2 members of the public left the meeting.

7. District Councillor Report

Cllr. Taylor reported that WSC have the least amount of debt out of the other Councils. A question was posed as to the expectation around growth in the village when the Mayor is elected. Views were also invited on a potential increase in multiple occupancies to house asylum seekers.

8. County Councillor Report

Cllr. Stanbury sent his apologies; no report has been received.

9. Planning Consultations

9.1 DC/22/1745/ADV – Application for advertisement consent – a. four externally illuminated fascia; b. one internally illuminated totem; c. seven branded awnings – Millford Service Area A11, Barton Mills

It was **RESOLVED** to make **NO COMMENT**. Proposed by Cllr. Fuller, seconded by Cllr. Mullender. All in favour.

10. Planning Applications decisions, statuses and appeals

The paper was received and **NOTED**.

11. To receive a verbal update on the Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk gave a verbal update from Cllr. Jarvis in her absence.

The drop in event had 40 attendees; however not many households were represented. There are still questions around infrastructure which are the responsibility of SCC or WSC and do not form part of the plan.

Cllr. Oke added that the first day of consultation was the day of the drop in and this will end on 17th October 2025. The documents are available on our website and the link to these on Facebook.

Hard copies of the consultation/feedback form are in the porch of the Church.

District Cllr. Taylor left the meeting.

12. Parish Matters

12.1 To discuss traffic issues in the village

It was agreed that it would be beneficial to analyse the data from the SID's and request a meeting with Suffolk Highways to discuss the issues and a way forward.

12.2 To discuss a tree survey of the trees on the playing field

It was agreed to make some enquiries and seek guidance on the requirements of a tree survey of the trees on the playing field.

12.3 To discuss the relocation of a combination bin

A proposal to relocate the green combination bin by the Grange Lane side of the fence of the playing field to Hassels Corner to replace the dog bin was considered. West Suffolk Council have

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quoted £80 + VAT to relocate and install the bin on a concrete slab and remove the dog bin. It was **AGREED** to accept this quote and to proceed with relocating the bin. Proposed by Cllr. Fuller, seconded by Cllr. Walston. All in favour.

West Suffolk Council have asked if the Parish Council would agree to the dog bin at the lock being removed too; this was considered and it was agreed that this bin is used on a regular basis and at times is overfull so not to agree to this.

1 member of the public left the meeting.

12.4 To receive a verbal update with regards to streetlights

The Clerk advised that the faulty streetlight on Station Road remains blue as the invoice is still in dispute.

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

12.5.1 To appoint responsible Parish Councillor

The Clerk advised that Cllr. Jarvis would like to step down as the responsible Parish Councillor for the play park and asked if there were any Councillors interested in taking on this role.

Cllr. Walston expressed an interest but would like the role defined and will speak to Cllr. Jarvis about what is involved before committing to the role.

12.5.2 To consider a quote to repair the basket swing

The Clerk advised that the annual inspection report for the play park had identified problems with the basket swing and she had taken advice from the contractor who had recently completed works to the play equipment.

They have advised that the basket swing is an old model and has rot running through the bolt holes of the top beam. A quote of £4150.26 + VAT has been provided to repair the swing; however, they are happy for us to order direct from the supplier which will be 10% cheaper.

They have advised not to remove the swing if the Council do not want to proceed with the quote but to leave up, change the shackles and bushes, adjust the seat and monitor the top beam which will prolong the swing by 1-2 years. A quote has been requested for this.

It was noted that the train has now been fenced off due to the increasing issues with it and there are some issues identified in the monthly inspection reports that need addressing.

The Clerk advised that she had started to look at quotes for a new curly slide and figures are within the region of £17,000 - £20,000. Given the amount of work required on current equipment she advised that it may be better to look at improving or upgrading the equipment we currently have as we have not budgeted for new equipment and were not looking at this until we received a kind offer of a contribution towards funding.

It was agreed for Cllrs. Fuller, Jarvis and Walston to review the inspection report in detail and for a long term plan with priorities be compiled for the next meeting.

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12.6 To receive a verbal update with regards to the SID

Cllr. Colsey informed the Council that he is handing over the solar SID to Cllr. Curtis. He will maintain the rota for the battery SID.

Cllr. Fuller suggested exploring other sites where posts could be installed for the SID to address the areas where there are problems.

13. Financial Matters

13.1 To note the 2025/26 pay award for the Clerk

The NJC pay award for 2025/26 for the Clerk was noted.

13.2 To receive the current bank account balances

It was confirmed that there is currently £546.74 held in the current account and £42,007.40 in the deposit account.

13.3 To receive an update on the current financial position

The Clerk presented the current financial position as of 20th August. She explained that we are over budget on the play area/field maintenance as although the precept was raised taking into account the expected works needed this was included in general reserves rather than the play area/field maintenance reserve.

The Neighbourhood Plan is also over budget as we had not budgeted for this due to the funding received and this has now been stopped by Government.

13.4 To approve and authorise payment of invoices

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

Retrospective (paid in accordance with the Financial Regulations)

1-Aug	N Parkinson	Gardening Services - July	75.00	0.00	75.00
6-Aug	R&S Playground Installations Ltd	Remaining balance - playground works	650.00	130.00	780.00
22-Aug	H Signs	Neighbourhood Plan banner	90.00	0.00	90.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Gross</u>
30-Jun	Barton Mills Church Rooms	Hall hire 24/06 and 12/08	10.00	0.00	10.00
30-Jun	Barton Mills Village Hall	Hall hire	67.50	0.00	67.50
31-Jul	R.H. Landscapes & Maintenance Services Ltd	Grass cutting and hedge cut - July	465.00	93.00	558.00
1-Aug	West Suffolk Council	Weekly bin collection - August	15.14	0.00	15.14
31-Aug	R Lewis	Barton Miller	26.16	0.00	26.16
31-Aug	Clerk	Expenses	63.12	0.00	63.12
31-Aug	N Parkinson	Gardening Services - August	75.00	0.00	75.00
1-Sep	West Suffolk Council	Weekly bin collection - September	15.14	0.00	15.14
	R. H. Landscapes & Maintenance Services Ltd	Grass cutting – August	315.00	63.00	378.00
			1,867.06	286.00	2,153.06

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

14. Clerks report

The Clerk advised that the bench installation and resurfacing of the spring bike is now complete.

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Complaints have been received regarding attendees at the football training/ games using the Village Hall car park rather than the field meaning hirers are unable to park. There have also been complaints about the litter left on the field after matches. The Clerk has contacted both BMFC and MHFC to address these issues.

The internal audit will be taking place within the next few weeks to review our finances and documents. An update will be given in due course.

15. Parish Councillors reports

There were no reports.

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

It was **AGREED** to include:

- Exception site FAQ's
- Neighbourhood Plan consultation including updated QR code
- Litter on playing field

17. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

18. Exchange of information

Cllr. Oke asked if there was an update on the repainting of the white lines on Mildenhall Road as these still have not been done.

19. Date and time of the next meeting – Tuesday 7th October 2025 at 7.30pm in Barton Mills Village Hall, Mildenhall Road, Barton Mills, IP28 6BB

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

N. Alecock

N. Alecock, Clerk