**Barton Mills Parish Council**

**Clerk to the Council:**

James Bercovici Clerk: James Bercovici

Barton Coach House Home (01638) 510803

The Street

Barton Mills

Bury St Edmunds Chairman: Mr R Lewis

Suffolk Home (01638) 713325

IP28 6AA

 **Minutes of the Meeting of Barton Mills Parish Council**

Held in the Village Hall on Friday 12th December 2014 at 7.00 pm.

**Attendance:** Cllr Robert Lewis (Chairman)
Cllr Amin Harji (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Kay Blanchard
Cllr Pamela Boura
Cllr Garry Flack
Cllr Keith Fuller

 Cllr Frances Lewis
Cllr Steve Mullender
Cllr Charlie Peachey
District Cllr Tim Huggan
James Bercovici (Clerk)

0. **Opportunity for members of the Public to speak (3 minute limit, not statutory part of meeting).**

John Berrett, the local history recorder for Barton Mills, attended the meeting and discussed the idea of putting the village scrapbooks online. Cllr R Lewis thought the Parish Council would be able to help with any set-up costs. Cllr F Lewis expressed concern about potential copyright infringement.

1. **Courtesies. Apologies** **and Signing of the Register. Declarations of Interest.**Apologies: Cllr Waters

Declarations of interest: Cllr F Lewis (4a); Cllr R Lewis said he would explain his non-declaration at the appropriate time.

1. **Police Matters**
No report received. The Clerk confirmed that he had forwarded Cllr R Lewis' concern about Fiveways Farm to the police but had not received a response. Cllr R Lewis said he was concerned about a possible illegal settlement. Cllr Blanchard said she had seen a caravan there; Cllr Mullender said it has been there most of the year. Cllr Boura said the settlement had been growing during the year. She suggested it should be raised with the Planning Department. Cllr R Lewis confirmed the site is owned by the Forestry Commission.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2014**Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the minutes: all in favour.
3. **Matters arising and pending**

a. Planning discussion with Marie Smith of FHDC. Specifically, long term planning strategy for the Village: the LDF, SHLAA, village boundaries, when the Parish Council can consider the development of the village, commenting on planning applications. (Councillors are reminded to consider any prejudicial interests they may have in respect of this broad item.) Marie Smith gave her apologies but sent some information to the chairman and the clerk. Cllr R Lewis outlined the contents to the meeting and asked councillors if they thought it would be useful for her to attend another meeting soon or to leave it until June (after the next elections). Cllr Mullender thought she should attend soon so that councillors would be able to digest everything she had to tell them. Cllr R Lewis agreed, adding that there may be only a six week consultation period. He asked the Clerk to request her to attend the February meeting.

b. Field and car parking. Mark Hayward has been instructed to undertake the work at the entrance to the car park. Cllr Waters agreed to finance this from his locality budget; the cheque has been received. Cllr Boura asked when the work would be done; the Clerk advised that he had instructed Mark Hayward and understood it would be undertaken imminently. Cllr R Lewis said he would chase this with Mark Hayward.

Cllr Boura had enquired about climbing equipment for Under 7s. Funding has been provisionally agreed (subject to actual cost) and the Clerk has arranged to meet with representatives of relevant providers.

c. Footpath boardwalk. The Clerk had contacted Claire Dickson of Suffolk CC, requesting the gap be filled. He received an email from her confirming that the contractor has been issued with an order to extend the boardwalk the additional 30 metres to join the two sections, to be carried out as soon as possible. Weather permitting, the works will be carried out over the Christmas period.

It is agreed that there is a need for the remaining section from the edge of the southern boardwalk to Barton Mills requires some surfacing works when money is available. The proposal is to resurface the route with hoggin and raise the finished surface level by 3 to 4 inches.

Cllr Peachey asked what will be done about the actual problem. Cllr R Lewis said that Claire Dickinson had spoken with Suffolk Wildlife Trust about the drainage and with the Environment Agency about the leaks. The solutions would be tricky, he said, and the problem ongoing so it would be better to find an immediate solution whilst still seeking a long-term solution.

d. Standing Orders. Cllr R Lewis outlined the need to review these. He said the Clerk had expressed concern that some standing orders would never be followed by the Parish Council or were irrelevant to Barton Mills. He wondered whether the full council should consider the standing orders over a period of time. Cllr Fuller said they would need to see them in advance of any such consideration; Cllr Mullender agreed. The Clerk said he would forward these to all councillors.

e. Church Lane Close: Cllr Waters said previously that he would look into the lack of progress of the development of the garages site. The Clerk said he would speak to Lee Webster about this.

f. Meeting dates 2015: second Fridays are -

 9th January 13th February 13th March 10th April 8th May 12th June 10th July

 14th August 11th September 9th October 13th November 11th December

 It was agreed to change the January meeting to 16th as the Chairman was unable to attend on the 9th.

g. Road closure notice: The Street, 75 metres either side of the junction with Bell Lane between 12/01/2015 and 30/01/2015 (08.00 to 18.00 hours) for carriageway, kerbing and drainage repairs

h. What next for 2015 (in advance of consideration of the precept in January)? Cllr R Lewis suggested:

     - 30 mph signs – this needs to be followed up with Cllr Waters. Cllr R Lewis said that Beck Row has a solar powered sign and three posts (£100 each) so the sign can be moved from one location to another.

     - Village signs – Cllr R Lewis thought the entrances into the village unimpressive but Cllr Harji pointed out there are several such entrances so several signs would be necessary.

     - More play equipment – this had been discussed in brief at 4b.

    - Appearance of the Village – Cllr Mullender suggested asking landowners to keep hedges trimmed and the County Council to attend to the verges. Cllr Boura thought more would be achieved by approaching landowners.

    - anything else? Cllr R Lewis wanted to see the Barton Miller digitalized so it could be added to the website but said there were some difficulties in achieving this. He said the file size was very large; Cllr Boura suggested digitalizing only the editorial pages and leaving out the adverts.
- tree works – Cllr Boura said these were needed along Mildenhall Road

* BMX obstacle course – Cllr F Lewis suggested this could be removed. Cllr R Lewis asked if it was ever used. Cllr Flack said it was used more for dogs and caused no harm.
* Public transport – Cllr Peachey asked if something could be done about the lack of public transport through Barton Mills. Cllr Huggan advised that Freckenham had campaigned for this and found a route amendment cost very little.
1. **Reports from the District Councillor**Cllr Huggan’s report is filed with the minutes.
2. **Finance - Standard Payments for approval (inc. VAT)**

a. £294.00 Clerk’s net salary (November 2014) – chq. 1321

b. £73.50 HMRC (PAYE November 2014) – chq.

c. £27.52 Clerk's expenses (November 2014) - chq. 1321

Cllr Boura proposed agreeing the standard payments: all in favour.

**Receipts**

d. £1153 Suffolk CC (re. car park entrance)

e. £385 Barton Mils 100 Club (re. car park works)

**Other**

Budget and precept meeting in advance of the January meeting. This was arranged for 12th January at 8pm.

7. **Planning.**

Note - *ITALICS: Parish Council comments passed to Forest Heath DC.*  **Bold: Forest Heath DC decision**

**General and for consideration:**

**Awaiting Forest Heath decisions and pending appeals**

a. PL\0245\14 (F/14/1862/CMW) - Barton Mills Quarry, Herringswell Road. Siting of storage container beside storage building to house generator to power chalk processing plant located within the building. *Cllr Peachey proposed no objections: all in favour.*

b. F/2014/Variation of Condition 2, 9 and 10 of Planning Permission F/2011/0278 - Barton Mills Chalk Quarry, Chalk Hill.

c. DC/13/0927/OUT - Land South Of Worlington Road: Outline application - residential development of up to 78 dwellings with creation of new vehicular access (Major Development and Departure from the Development Plan). *Cllrs F Lewis and R Lewis declared interests. Cllr Boura proposed that the Parish Council objects to the application on the grounds that it would create a suburb of Mildenhall within Barton Mills, it would link Barton Mills to Worlington, there would be considerable issues with both traffic and pedestrian access and it is outside the development line: all in favour.*Cllr Boura advised this is still pending.

8. **Any other business (with consent of the Chairman)**

a. SALC meeting. Cllr F Lewis attended and reported that the discussion mostly concerned County Council budget cuts.

b. A11 dual carriageway from Fiveways to Thetford was opened today by the Ministry of Transport. The Parish Council had not been notified.

c. Parish Forum. Cllr Boura said parish councils had expressed dissatisfaction with the Planning Department and hoped there would be a two-way dialogue on how to work together.

d. Streetlife. Cllr R Lewis and others had received a letter which he thought is a commercial enterprise which Cllr Boura confirmed.

9. **Date of next meeting:** 16th January 2015.