

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Barton Mills

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

Present:

Cllr. Colsey (Chair)
Cllr. Curtis
Cllr. Fuller
Cllr. Jarvis

Cllr. Lewis
Cllr. Mullender
Cllr. Oke
Cllr. Walston

Also in attendance were the Clerk Naomi Alecock, 5 members of the public and David Jones – Denbury Homes

1. Welcome

Cllr. Colsey welcomed everyone to the meeting; he paid tribute to Lindsay Judd and sent condolences to her family.

2. Acceptance of apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Pearlman.

Apologies were also received from County Cllr. Stanbury.

3. Declaration of members interests and dispensations

Item 8.2 – Cllr. Fuller

Items 8.2 and 9.3 – Cllr. Lewis

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

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes from the meeting of Tuesday 3rd March 2026. Proposed by Cllr. Colsey, seconded by Cllr. Curtis. All in favour.

5. Public Participation

A parishioner thanked the Parish Council for liaising with the appropriate authorities to resolve the issues with the river footpath from Barton Mills to Mildenhall.

Concerns were raised over the potential removal of the post box on Church Meadow due to a damaged lock.

6. Planning Consultations

There were no planning consultations.

7. Planning Applications decisions, statuses and appeals

The paper was received and **NOTED**.

A question was raised as to why we have not been consulted on application DC/26/0336/R77. The Clerk will contact WSC.

8. Parish Matters

8.1 To agree the date of the Annual Meeting of the Parish

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the date of the Annual Meeting of the Parish as Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 7pm before the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm. Proposed by Cllr. Fuller, seconded by Cllr. Mullender. All in favour.

8.2 To consider a call for sites for the WSC Local Plan

It was **NOTED** that WSC have put out a call for sites for the next Local Plan.

David Jones left the meeting at 7.42pm.

8.3 To receive the tree survey for the playing field

The tree survey and quote for the works identified were discussed. It was **RESOLVED** to **OBTAIN** two further quotations for consideration. Proposed by Cllr. Fuller, seconded by Cllr. Mullender. 5 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention.

8.4 To receive a verbal update with regards to streetlights

There was nothing to report on streetlights.

8.5 To receive a verbal update with regards to the play park and consider a quote for the installation of the tree bench

Cllr. Walston met with the gardener and identified the works that need carrying out to the 17 benches to bring them up to an acceptable standard. A quote of £2000.00 has now been received detailing parts and labour totalling 63hrs. This will be circulated for consideration at the next meeting.

A quote for £400.00 to install the tree bench was considered. It was **AGREED** to **APPROVE** this subject to the upgrade of the matting in the playground being done at the same time as previously agreed with the contractor. Proposed by Cllr. Walston, seconded by Cllr. Jarvis. All in favour.

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

Cllr. Curtis advised that the post will be ordered shortly for the additional SID site. He will produce a report every 3 months with the SID data.

9. Financial Matters

9.1 To appoint an Internal Controller

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** Cllr. Jarvis as the Internal Controller. Proposed by Cllr. Lewis, seconded by Cllr. Curtis. All in favour.

9.2 To receive the current bank account balances

It was confirmed that there is currently £452.56 held in the current account and £26,930.36 in the deposit account.

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9.3 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)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Gross</u>
21-Mar	M Colsey	SID padlock	15.00	0.00	15.00
30-Mar	The Cartridge People	Barton Miller paper	133.28	26.64	159.92
30-Mar	R Lewis	Car boot banners x 2	148.58	0.00	148.58

To be approved

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Gross</u>
21-Nov	Community Heartbeat	Emergency Phone Annual Rental	60.00	12.00	72.00
09-Mar	R.H. Landscapes & Maintenance Services Ltd	Tree Survey	500.00	110.00	660.00
10-Mar	SALC	6mths payroll	45.00	9.00	54.00
12-Mar	SCC	Streetlight maintenance	2220.51	444.10	2664.61
31-Mar	R Lewis	Barton Miller	26.16	0.00	26.16
31-Mar	Clerk	Expenses	44.33	0.00	44.33
31-Mar	N Parkinson	Gardening Services - March	30.00	0.00	30.00
31-Mar	West Suffolk Council	Weekly bin collection - April	17.42	0.00	17.42
01-Apr	West Suffolk Council	Weekly bin collection - 2026-27	209.04	0.00	209.04
31-Mar	SCC	1/2 yearly rent	65.00	0.00	65.00
31-Mar	Barton Mills Village Hall	Hall hire & brown bin	157.98	0.00	157.98
07-Apr	Sign Trade Supplies Ltd	SID post	57.61	11.52	69.13
07-Apr	Nigel Curtis	SID bracket	10.99	0.00	10.99
			3,740.90	613.26	4,404.16

Proposed by Cllr. Oke, seconded by Cllr. Fuller. 7 in favour, 1 abstention.

10. Governance Matters

10.1 To discuss a quote for a new website

The Clerk recently attended a SLCC conference where she discussed the functionality of our current website with a website provider who has provided a quote for a new website which was discussed. It was **AGREED** to set up a working group to review the content and accessibility; this will include Cllrs. Lewis, Walston and Oke. Proposed by Cllr. Fuller, seconded by Cllr. Mullender. All in favour.

11. Clerks report

The defib has been sent to the supplier for repair due to a fault; this is still under warranty. Once this has been repaired this will be put back in service.

The year end accounts are now with the Internal Auditor and a meeting is scheduled for Friday. £27,392.00 has been carried forward from 2025/26 in reserves and the audited accounts will be presented at the next meeting.

The village sign outside Lamb Cottage was damaged during a road traffic accident. The driver has admitted liability and the Clerk is liaising with their insurers to arrange a repair. Neil Horne has been approached to assess the damage and quote but one other quote is required in line with the insurer's requirements.

12. Parish Councillors reports

Cllr. Oke advised that there is a bench near The Bull end of the river that is damaged; the Angling Club installed this.

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There are criminals operating in the area with parcels being stolen.

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

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

- Annual Parish Meeting
- Tree survey
- Bench upgrades
- Village sign

14. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

15. To consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the press and public for the duration of the following items in view of the confidential and personal nature of the business to be transacted. If resolved, such items to be dealt after the item that confirms details of the next meeting.

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

Date and time of the next meeting – Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 7.30pm in Barton Mills Village Hall, Mildenhall Road, Barton Mills, IP28 6BB

5 members of the public left the meeting at 8.36pm.

16. To discuss the hours and hourly rate of the Gardener

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** an increase in hourly rate from £15.00 to £20.00.

17. To receive a verbal update following the Clerks appraisal

Cllr. Colsey gave an update following the Clerks appraisal.

18. To discuss the Clerks salary

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** a re-banding in salary for the Clerk from SCP 18-23 to SCP 24-28 from April 2026 with an increase in hourly rate from £17.85 to £18.35. Proposed by Cllr. Jarvis, seconded by Cllr. Walston. All in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the incremental rises to be performance based and linked to the annual appraisal. Proposed by Cllr. Curtis, seconded by Cllr. Lewis. All in favour.

The meeting closed at 8.53pm.

N. Alecock
N. Alecock, Clerk