

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH MEETING**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022**  
**AT THE VILLAGE HALL, HEXTON ROAD, BARTON-LE-CLAY AT 7.33PM**

**Present:** Councillors Mrs B Thomas (Chairman), Mrs G Gardner, Mr J Selley, Mr N Day, Mr J Roberts, Mrs A Miller, Mrs A Vale and Miss G Widdowfield

**In Attendance:** Mrs C Callen (Clerk), Mrs S Cowie (Assistant Clerk), PC619 A Parsons & 6 members of public

**Minutes:** Mrs C Callen

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Councillors Mr J Paxton, Mr S Laycock, Mr A Channon and Central Bedfordshire Ward Councillor Mr I Shingler.
2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021**  
Councillor Day **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley with **5 in favour and 3 abstentions**.
3. **MATTERS ARISING** – There were none.
4. **REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR (2021/22)**  
The Parish Council's Chairman presented her report. The report was included in the Annual Report document, page 3. A copy of the full report was previously circulated to Members and copies given to those present at the meeting. It will be published on the Council Website, following the meeting. There were no questions and no further comments made.
5. **COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORTS FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR (2021/22)**  
The reports for each Committee were delivered by the Chair/Vice-Chair of each committee. Those present were advised that the Chair-persons committee reports were included in the Annual Report: Planning, page 5; Neighbourhood Plan, page 6; Leisure, page 7; Horticultural Show, page 6; Burial Grounds, page 8; Highways & Environment, page 10; Sports Field, page 11; Policies & Resources, page 12 and Pay & Personnel on page 13. There were no questions and no further comments made.
6. **REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**  
**Barton-le-Clay Educational Trust** – Councillor Thomas presented the report for the Trust as detailed on page 16 of the Council's Annual Report. There were no questions and no further comments made.  
**Barton-le-Clay Village Hall Committee** – Councillor Roberts presented the report for the Committee as detailed on page 17 of the Council's Annual Report. There were no questions and no further comments made.  
**Schools Liaison** – Councillor Thomas advised that the report was detailed on page 18 of the Council's Annual Report. There were no questions and no further comments made.  
**Barton Tennis Club Report** – Councillor Thomas advised that the report was detailed on page 18 of the Council's Annual Report. There were no questions and no further comments made.
7. **PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2021/2022**  
Councillor Thomas presented the preliminary financial figures for the last financial year. The Financial Summary was included in the Council's Annual Report 2021/22, pages 14 and 15. There were no questions and no further comments made.
8. **OPEN FORUM**  
Representatives from Barton Hill Farm and Barton Hills National Nature Reserve were in attendance and raised the ongoing issue of nuisance motorbikes and quad bikes accessing the land at the top of Lovers Walk (the 'caves'), the bridleway, the Nature Reserve and neighbouring farmland. They have caused damage to crops, fences and wildlife. A resident from Old Road also expressed concerns regarding the nuisance bikes going up and down Old Road at all hours. PC619 Parsons from the Operation Meteor Team at Bedfordshire Police was in attendance, at the request of the Parish Council. He reiterated his previous request for the Parish Council to publicise the role of his team and encourage reporting of any bikes seen in these areas. Two people were caught recently in the area which may help to deter further problems in the short-term.  
Following discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would contact Central Beds Council and the Rights of Way Officer to establish what the current plans are to repair the damaged access to the bridleway at the end of Old Road. The local farmers will consider additional signage for the area and the possibility of re-excavating the ditch that surrounds Lovers Walk woodland.  
It was agreed that a joint approach between all parties, including the Police and Central Beds Council, would be the best way forward to tackle the problems. Members agreed to discuss follow-up actions at the next Highways & Environment Committee meeting.

A representative from Barton Hills NNR enquired on when the fallen tree stump from the Burial Ground would be removed from the entrance to the Reserve, as it was preventing emergency vehicles accessing the Reserve. They were advised that several Tree surgeons have been asked to quote for the work but have been unable to assist given the size of the stump. A quote from a contractor with suitable lifting equipment has now been received by the Parish Council and approval would be discussed at the following meeting under item 22/014.4.

**9. CLOSE OF MEETING**

As there was no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.41pm

**I certify these minutes are a true and correct record of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022.**

**Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

*B Thomas*

**COUNCILLOR B THOMAS  
Chairman**