



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2022—2023**

Published May 2023



# **PARISH COUNCIL FACTFILE**

## **Members of the Council 2022/2023**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Chair:</b>      | Mrs B Thomas  |
| <b>Vice Chair:</b> | Miss G Widdowfield                                  |
|                    | Mrs G Gardner                                       |
|                    | Mr J Selley   |
|                    | Mr J Paxton   |
|                    | Mr J Roberts  |
|                    | Mr N Day  |
|                    | Mr S Laycock  |
|                    | Mrs A Vale  |
|                    | Mrs A Fletcher                                      |
|                    | Mr A Channon ( <i>disqualified September 2022</i> ) |
|                    | Mr W Rudd ( <i>co-opted October 2022</i> )          |
|                    | Mrs J Mikkelson ( <i>co-opted January 2023</i> )    |

### **Staff**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Carolyn Callen    | Clerk to the Council                                    |
| Suzanne Cowie     | Assistant Clerk to the Council                          |
| John Fitzgerald   | Full-Time Ground/Facilities Maintenance Person          |
| Ian Nicholls      | Part-Time Groundsman                                    |
| Jim Pope          | Part-Time Groundsman ( <i>appointed December 2022</i> ) |
| Ian Swales        | Part-Time Groundsman ( <i>August—November 2022</i> )    |
| Karen Small       | Norman Road Playground Keyholder                        |
| Selina McConville | Norman Road Playground Keyholder                        |

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Bedfordshire  
MK45 4NA

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Website: [www.bartonleclay-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bartonleclay-pc.gov.uk)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1563405067289955>

**2022/2023 Precept: £194,715**

## **REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

Our aim for the Annual Report is to sum up what the Parish Council have achieved in the last year, what problems have been faced and what your money has been used for.

### **Parish Council Membership**

Over the past year we have welcomed two new councillors and at the time of writing, following the May 2023 Elections, we have 10 serving Councillors. In line with local Government legislation, the Parish Council will continue to promote co-option as a valid means to join your Parish Council. We currently have three vacancies to fill, so if you have the time and desire to join the Council, please call into the Parish Office on Windsor Parade or alternatively contact the Clerk at [theparishclerk@bartonleclay-pc.gov.uk](mailto:theparishclerk@bartonleclay-pc.gov.uk). All new Councillors are provided with induction training to help them understand their role in representing the Community they serve.

### **Public Participation and Communications**

We welcome members of the public to our monthly meetings. It is important that we encourage public participation in matters that affect you, the parishioners of Barton-le-Clay. A strong Parish Council and a more integrated community can only be accomplished if the community have a desire to participate in debate and question the role of your Parish Council.

Our monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of every month (except August) at the Village Hall and Committee meetings are held on other Mondays. The agendas for each meeting are publicised on our website, noticeboards and via Social Media.

### **What have we done in 2022/23 financial year?**

The reports contained within the body of this document will provide a good overview of what the Parish Council has achieved during the previous financial year. It is not my intention to precis these reports but simply ask you to read further and gather a better understanding of what the Parish Council does. The Action Plan which details activities and projects for the coming year is available to view on our website: <https://bartonleclay-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/Policies/BPC-Action-Plan-2022-23.pdf>

On 2nd June 2022 we joined with the rest of the UK and the commonwealth to light a beacon in celebration of HM The Queens Platinum Jubilee. We were delighted to welcome back a young talented trumpet player, Marek Kosala, who performed the National Anthem at the ceremony, and we thank the Fox family who lit the beacon in celebration of the Jubilee and in memory of Gorgeous George. It was fantastic to see so many villagers come together, for this historic event.



Unfortunately, the rain clouds gathered for the Big Jubilee Picnic Lunch on Sunday 5th June and it was all hands on deck to move the event inside to the Village Hall. Although space was limited, our community groups, The Dance Studio and the wonderful May Blossom carried on regardless to provide a fun afternoon of music, dance and partying. Thanks go to the Village Hall for making the hall available at such short notice, Jubilee Committee members, Parish Council staff and the performers who made a memorable day for our Village.

Sadly 3 months later, Her Majesty the Queen passed away. We had planned to hold the Horticultural Show that weekend but had to cancel as the period of Public Mourning began. Plans are now well underway for this year's Barton Village Show, which will incorporate the former Horticultural show, together with additional activities and will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023. We hope to see you there.

We continue to work with the local Community Policing team and Central Bedfordshire Council's Community Safety Officers to tackle anti-social behaviour and crime in Barton-le-Clay. We were pleased to have been involved in organising a pop-up event on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023, when officers from Bedfordshire Police and Central Bedfordshire Safer Communities Officers were available at the Co-op to engage with the community. Our local Street Watch volunteers continue to patrol the Village regularly, and we are grateful for their support to provide such

an important role to deter poor behaviour and ensure the safety of our residents.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Parish Council staff for their invaluable support to the Council. They show professionalism and conscientiousness as they provide 'the face' of the Parish Council on a daily basis.

Finally, I would like to place on record, thanks to my fellow Parish Councillors for all the time and effort they devote to their duties. Parish Councillors do not receive any remuneration for their services. I do believe that every Councillor is concerned for the well-being of the parish and has the best interest of the Village at heart.

Cllr Barbara Thomas  
Chairman of Barton-le-Clay Parish Council  
April 2023

## **Planning Committee Report**

As a statutory consultee, the Planning Committee, on behalf of the Parish Council, have met regularly throughout the year, to consider all planning applications submitted for the Barton-le-Clay Parish. We have commented where we agree inappropriate or insufficient plans have been provided and object when considered necessary. We are particularly concerned regarding any proposed loss of garage or parking space, which will contribute to already difficult parking facilities on many roads throughout the Village. We are also concerned by the loss of bungalows and two-bedroom properties, reducing more affordable or accessible housing for the future needs of residents.

The Planning Committee continue to highlight any potential breaches of planning conditions, which are reported to the Central Bedfordshire Council Enforcement Officers to investigate. Depending on permitted development rules and the nature of the breach, a decision will then be made.

As part of the land highlighted for development in the Central Beds Council Local Plan, Taylor Wimpey Developers are proposing to build up to 500 new homes, a primary school and a 60-bed extra care facility on the land to the East of Barton-le-Clay, on Higham Gobion Road. They have applied for outline planning permission. The Parish Council have considered the impact this will have on the Village, including what additional facilities the Village will need to mitigate the development plans, and have discussed these with the Central Bedfordshire Planners to ensure sufficient funding allocation under s106 is approved. A decision is still awaited on the final details for this development.



## **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee Report**

The Committee is made up of local volunteers and parish councillors, to work to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for the Village. This will comprise of a set of planning policies, determined and adopted by local people, to help us to shape the future of Our Village and surrounding area and put us in a much more powerful position legally, to ensure any new developments meet our needs and are not just foisted on us.



Work has been done to draw up suitable policies. A Green Infrastructure survey has been requisitioned, to be drawn up by The Greensands Trust in consultation with local residents – an initial consultation was undertaken at the Christmas Lights Switch-on event and a further consultation with residents is planned for May.

A grant has been successfully obtained to produce a supplemental Design Code to accompany the Neighbourhood Plan. The company producing this document have visited the Village to look at its current design features and get an understanding of what is considered good and bad, so that they can pull together a guide to meet the needs of the Village.

Once the draft Plan is completed, residents will have an opportunity to review it before it is finalised. Further details on the Neighbourhood Plan and process are available on our website using the following link:

<https://bartonleclay-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

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## **Horticultural Show Sub-Committee Report**

Final arrangements for the 2022 Show were complete when we heard the news that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had passed away on 8th September 2022. Sadly it was decided that the Show should be cancelled as the period of mourning began and we were unable to re-schedule due to the lack of produce available.

Plans for the 2023 Village Show are underway, and you can pick up a copy of the Show Schedule from the Parish Council Office, Library or on our website [www.bartonleclay-pc.gov.uk](http://www.bartonleclay-pc.gov.uk).

You can enter as many classes as you like, there's something for everyone!

## Leisure Committee Report

The Leisure Committee is responsible for the supply and maintenance of the Arnold Recreation Ground, Norman Road Play Area and the Allotment site.

We are pleased to report that the annual RoSPA safety inspection, carried out in June 2022, found only minor faults and those repairs were undertaken.

In addition to grass cutting and the annual hedge cutting of the recreation grounds and allotments, the willow trees in the Norman Road Play Area were pollarded to ensure that they remain in good condition. Following issues raised with branches overhanging the tennis courts and the risk of damage to the perimeter fence, essential emergency hedge and tree work was completed in March 2023.

We are pleased to have seen a reduction in incidents of anti-social behaviour and acts of vandalism in our green spaces in recent months. The village has been fortunate to gain priority from the Police to tackle this in the Recreation Ground and other hot spots within the village and the Streetwatch team regularly patrol the areas as well. Our green spaces are important so please help to keep them a pleasant place for villagers to enjoy by reporting any incidents of vandalism or anti-social behaviour to the Police - by calling 101 or online via their website.

Many of you will see our Groundsman on his routine litter picks and carrying out the many duties he does to keep our village clean and our green spaces in good condition. In addition to the work the Grounds men do, we are grateful for the support given by the Rotary Club of Barton-le-Clay whose members carry out litter picks on the Groundman's non-working days and arrange community litter pick events during the year.



The Allotment site offers 91 plots of varying sizes. The Allotments remain a popular asset and at the time of writing there are 2 vacant plots ready to let. If you would like to grow your own fruit and veg and meet like-minded people, please contact the Parish Office.





Over the past year several improvement works have been undertaken and completed. Following ongoing issues with theft of produce, equipment and vehicles, new fencing and entrance gates were installed in December 2022.

Work is still ongoing to strengthen a section of the bank, and this should be completed in the next few months.



During a cold and very wet Saturday morning in January around 12 volunteers gathered to help replant the hedgerow, boundary with Dunstall Road properties.

A second planting event took place in March and overall, just over 250 native hedge whips, grown in the UK were planted. We thank Barton Countryside Conservation for successfully gaining the grant of hedge whips from The Woodland Trust, The Co-op Community Fund, and all the vol-



unteers who braved the weather to help. The Woodland Trust have opened their next round of grant applications and we hope to continue this work over the winter 2023.

The Council now has a Policy for the installation of New Benches within Arnold Recreation Ground and the Burial Ground. We understand that remembering a loved one is important, and the scheme provides an opportunity for a memorial bench to be purchased and sited within the Recreation Ground. If you would like more details on this scheme, please contact the Parish Office.

The committees' priorities for the coming year are to agree the grounds maintenance specification for 2024, review the safety surfacing in the Norman Road Play Area, to review the Recreation Grounds entrance gates and explore the flooding issue in the Recreation Ground Play Area.

## Burial Grounds Committee Report

The Burial Grounds Committee is responsible for the supply and maintenance of the Burial Ground and War Memorial and is also responsible for maintaining the closed churchyard of St Nicholas Church.

On 13<sup>th</sup> November we saw the village come together to remember those who fought for us. The roads surrounding the war memorial were closed during the service to ensure it could go ahead safely and a PA system brought in so that it could be heard widely. The road closures would not have been possible without the help of volunteers, and we thank members of Barton-le-Clay Street Watch, Barton-le-Clay Bowls Club, The Rotary Club of Barton-le-Clay, Bedfordshire Police and members of the public who gave up their time. Thanks also go to David Cope for leading the service and to Marek Kosala who performed the Last Post so well. If you are able to help with the 2023 service, we would love to hear from you.



In the run up to Remembrance Sunday you may have noticed the Tommy statues around the village. These were kindly made and donated by a resident and are a welcomed addition. Barton Scout Leader Andrea Baulk also began her mammoth mission to make and display just under 1,500 poppies, made from plastic bottles, around the village. Thirty three of these took pride of place at the memorial, a stark reminder of the sacrifice made by those who fought for us. Andrea has set a new goal of 3000 poppies for 2023, you can drop bottle



bottoms into the Parish Office during opening hours.

Work on the Burial Ground Strategy had to be put on hold pending the results of DEFRA's consultation on Amendments to Environmental Permitting Regulations which, if passed, would have had a significant impact on our capacity to offer coffin burials to parishioners. The results of the consultation were published in March 2023, and we are pleased to hear that there will be no changes for existing burial grounds. Burial space within the current site is limited with approximately 10-12 year capacity left. The committee will now be able to take this project forward and agree a strategy to provide the village with burial facilities for the future.

Over the winter period, our contractor was busy cutting the boundary hedges, and we worked closely with our neighbouring farmer to cut an adjoining hedgerow to a maintainable size.

In February 2023 we reviewed the Burial Ground Regulations and Fees. These are reviewed annually, and the latest copy can be viewed on our website or paper copies are available from the Parish Office on request.

For some time, there have been concerns over the use of shingle within grave spaces as it can cause a hazard during grass cutting and general maintenance. Raised kerb sets have not been permitted for many years but we are seeing an increase in the number of grave surrounds, many of which have been installed without permission. The safety of our contractors, staff and visitors is paramount and for this reason it was agreed that chippings or stones will no longer be permitted however the committee will continue to consider requests for below grave surrounds on a case-by-case basis.

The committees' priorities for the coming year are a review of the War Memorial Area, topping up the gravel car parking area and a review the current grass and hedge cutting contracts.

## **Highways & Environment Committee Report**

Excessive speed through the village is one of the most common issues raised by residents and can impact road safety and the quality of life for our residents. In April 2022, the Parish Council applied to Central Beds Council, as part of their Rural Match Funding Highways Improvement project, for two schemes to address improved pedestrian crossing areas and speeding issues on Bedford Road, between Manor Road and Grange Road, and speeding on Sharpenhoe Road. They undertook traffic speed surveys for seven days in June but, disappointingly, neither scheme qualified for further measures and our applications were declined.



However, the Parish Council successfully secured a grant from Bedfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner's Roads Fund Scheme to provide a new speed indicator device for Sharpenhoe Road to help encourage drivers to obey the speed limit.

Following discussions with Central Beds Council Planners regarding s106 funding from Taylor Wimpey to mitigate the impact of the new development proposed for East of Barton-le-Clay, we were very disappointed that the Highways funding has been earmarked for the roundabout junctions on the A6 at Higham Gobion Road and Streatley but nothing proposed for the centre of the Village or covering traffic issues East/West to Sharpenhoe or Hexton. The Parish Council will continue to challenge this.



As part of the Queen's Green Canopy project to mark the Jubilee in 2022, the Parish Council secured a Tree Planting Grant from Central Beds Council. This, together with a generous donation from the former Barton Conservation Group volunteers, has enabled us to plant 5 new trees in the Arnold Recreation Ground. In addition, a new bench to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee last year has been installed to give residents the

opportunity to sit and enjoy the Recreation Ground and surrounding views.

Following receipt of the HM Government and European Regional Development Fund's Welcome Back Fund scheme Grant, the Parish Council have now installed a notice board in the centre of the Village, by the Library car park, to promote local businesses and their events.



The 'Blooming Barton' volunteer group have continued to maintain the flower planters and planting by the Village gates. They have also planted numerous bulbs around the Village which have been enjoyed by all over the Spring. Their next project is working with the Parish Council and the Rotary Club of Barton-le-Clay, to launch the Coronation Community Garden project. More details will be shared with residents in May.



The Parish Council has supported the Keep Britain Tidy 'Great British Spring Clean' Event again this year, working jointly with the Rotary Club of Barton-le-Clay. Litter picking equipment and safety clothing for use by the volunteers was provided and over 10 bags of rubbish were collected from the roadside verges on Hexton Road, Luton Road and Sharpenhoe Road.

Following road safety concerns raised by residents after a change to Ramsey Manor Lower School hours, the Parish Council have been working with Central Beds Council Road Safety team, School Travel Plan Officers and Highways, together with the Headteachers from both Ramsey Manor and Arnold Academy, to try and improve the parking issues outside the schools. The Parish Council will be donating 'kiddie buddies' signs and a banner to try and encourage parents to be more considerate when undertaking the school run in their cars.

To address anti-social parking at the top of Old Road, the Parish Council arranged for wooden bollards to be installed on the verge by Central Beds Council last autumn.

Our Groundsmen have continued to undertake minor tree, hedge works and strimming around the Village on Parish Council land or where not completed by Central Beds Council contractors. They undertake litter picking in the Parks, around the Doctors and Village Hall, on the Sports Field and other areas owned by the Parish Council. They also quickly clear any broken glass from footpaths when it is reported to us.

Repairs have been carried out to road surfaces, footpaths, hedgerows and fences around the Village in the last year by Central Beds Council. The Parish Council encourages all residents to use the Central Bedfordshire Council 'FixMyStreet' online site and app, to report any issues they see relating to highways or environment problems.



Priorities for 2023/24 are to continue to push Central Beds Council for highway improvements in the Village, to review the current grass and hedge cutting works and contracts and to complete the 3-yearly Tree Survey of the 400+ trees owned by the Parish Council.

## Sports Field Committee Report

The Sports Field offers 9 football pitches of various sizes and the Pavilion changing facilities which are currently utilised by 17 Barton Youth teams, Barton Rovers FC and Sunday League teams.



The annual maintenance programme began after the last games were played in May 2022 which involved reseeding and fertilizing the pitches. You will have seen that during the maintenance programme, the entrances to the sports field are cordoned off. This is vital to allow the seed time to germinate ready for the new football season in September. The prolonged dry and hot weather over the summer proved challenging with much of the Groundman's



working hours being taken up with watering. Despite the challenges, the pitches were successfully reseeded and fertilized in time for the new season to begin and all the hard work has paid off as they have held up very well with very few matches having to be called off.

In addition to routine grass cutting, strimming and hedge cutting, the main entrance gates have been repaired and the Pavilions roof fixed.

Following review of the Condition survey and Building Specification for a Hot Water System and Plumbing Upgrades, we were pleased to hear the news that our grant application for the plumbing upgrades needed had been successful. At the time of writing, work to the Pavilions taps, urinals and showers is complete, bringing these up to date and in full working order. This project would not have been possible without the grant from the Football Foundation who have covered 75% of the cost, the balance being paid by the Parish Council. As part of the refurbishment, the Groundsmen have been busy redecorating the facility and whilst the much-needed plumbing repairs have now been completed, we will still need to tackle the hot water system in the future.

A new addition to the facility is the new defibrillator which was installed in September 2022. This is a vital piece of equipment, available for use 24/7 and we thank the Premier League for gifting this to us. The Parish Council own and maintain two other defibrillators in the village (Village Hall and Parish Office) and this has been added to the annual maintenance contract.

This year the committee will be considering repairs to the access road, the sports field perimeter fencing and the annual reseeding programme.

## Policies & Resources Committee Report

### Structure

The Policy & Resources Committee membership is comprised of the Council Chairman, Vice-Chairman plus the individual Committee Chairmen. The Committee is primarily responsible for the administration of the Council, budget allocation and asset-management. The Committee additionally oversees all HR aspects through the Pay & Personnel Sub-Committee. The Committee meets approximately eight to ten times per year, dependent upon the level of business to be transacted.

### Parish Precept 2023/2024

The Parish Council are very aware of the current cost of living crisis impacting households. However, the rate of inflation now being seen, and the subsequent price increases being applied by many contractors and suppliers, means that it is also feeling the impact. Unfortunately, this means that the Parish Council will be incurring higher costs in 2023/24. The budgets were reviewed and cost savings made, where possible. As a result, the Parish Council Precept Budget for 2023/24 was agreed at **£221,381**, representing an increase of £13.57 per year on a Band D property.

### Small Grants

Our precept includes provision for small grants to non-profit organisations that directly benefit our community. Applications are invited in September each year, details of which can be obtained from the Parish Clerk. The Parish Council awarded grants totaling **£3,802** this year to the following good causes:

|  |         |  |         |
|--|---------|--|---------|
| Barton-le-Clay Village Hall<br><i>LED lighting in foyer</i>  | £250.00 | Noah's Ark<br><i>Rug for Children's Corner</i>                         | £100.00 |
| Barton Kids Club<br><i>Indoor wet weather play equipment</i> | £165.00 | Barton-le-Clay Pre-School<br><i>Interactive whiteboard</i>             | £200.00 |
| Keech Hospice Care<br><i>Adult in-patient unit</i>           | £400.00 | Barton Helping Hands<br><i>Public Liability Insurance</i>              | £125.00 |
| Unity Hall<br><i>Internal Defibrillator</i>                  | £300.00 | Gale Court Residents<br><i>Afternoon tea &amp; entertainment event</i> | £325.00 |

|   |                       |   |         |
|---|-----------------------|---|---------|
| Ramsey Manor Lower School PTA<br><i>BBQ for fundraising events</i>            | £100.00               | Royal British Legion<br><i>Poppy wreath for Remembrance service</i>           | £100.00 |
| Barton-le-Clay Community Choir<br><i>Music scores</i>                         | £200.00               | Barton-le-Clay Bowling Club<br><i>Replace water pump on Irrigation system</i> | £350.00 |
| Barton Scout Troop<br><i>Event shelter &amp; camping equipment</i>            | £400.00               | CPRE Bedfordshire<br><i>Planning volunteer advisors</i>                       | £400.00 |
| Harlington Upper School<br><br>Arnold Academy<br><i>Annual awards evening</i> | £125.00<br><br>£50.00 | Barton-le-Clay History Society<br><i>Archaeological tools/PPE/Insurance</i>   | £212.00 |

## Annual Accounts

The Parish Councils' financial year ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> March each year. Parish Council year-end accounts are checked annually via three levels of audit procedure. Firstly, each Parish Council is required to review the prepared year-end accounts. Secondly, the Parish Council secures the services of an independent Internal Auditor to review and report on finances, policies, procedures and accountability. The final stage requires the council to submit a statement of financial fact to a nationally appointed "External Auditor" - chosen by central government – Mazars LLP.

The Parish Council publishes a set of accounts each year, which can be viewed at both the Parish Office and online Website. The annual accounts will be available to read/download from the Parish Council website by end-June.



## **Pay and Personnel Sub-Committee Report**

Thankfully the last year has again been a stable one in terms of our small team of staff. Workloads have been high, none more so than the work required to maintain our village facilities in really good shape.

Initially we were very grateful of additional temporary support provided by Ian Swales, our previous Groundsperson. However, it soon became clear that the need for additional Grounds/facilities resource was ongoing. As a result, we were able to secure the part-time services of Jim Pope as an additional team member from 1 December 2022. He is already settling-in well and making a really valuable contribution.

As ever we remain indebted to all our staff for their flexibility and commitment. A classic example concerned the late HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Having worked tirelessly to prepare the celebratory event to be held outdoors on Arnold Recreation Ground, dire weather forecast for the weekend caused a last minute switch to the Village Hall. So much to do, so little time! However, thanks to our staff and our friends at the Village Hall, the event was a great success!

We have continued to develop our staff through training opportunities, including the identification of strengths and development needs through the annual performance review/appraisal process. We remain determined to be a "Good Employer" and to that end we have continued to introduce new best practice employment policies and to update existing ones.

As is so often the case, agreement of the national pay award due in April 2022 was much delayed, but it was then swiftly implemented along with individual contractual/performance –related adjustments.

Our team of staff remain the everyday face of the Parish Council, whether in the Office, at the Sports Field, at the Burial Ground, or at the Play Area gate. They are though much more than just the "face" - they are the engine, without which nothing would get done. Thank you everyone.

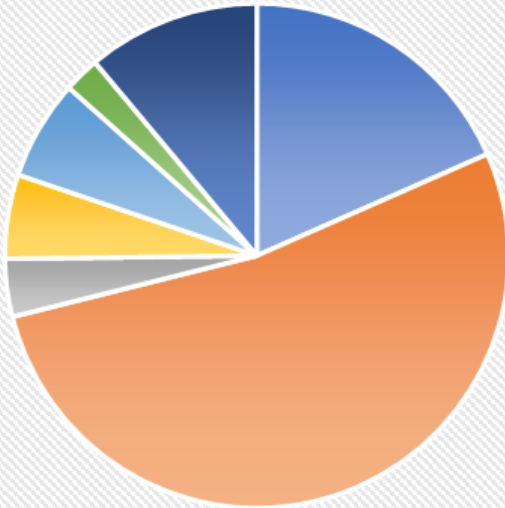
# **BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL**

## **BALANCE SHEET 2022/2023**

| <b>Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023</b> |                             |                                  |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>31<sup>st</sup> March 2022</b>                     |                             | <b>31<sup>s</sup> March 2023</b> |
|   | <b>Current Assets</b>       |                                  |
| 4,474   | Debtors                     | 4,150                            |
| 2,808   | VAT                         | 4,707                            |
| 3,277   | Prepayments                 | 3,041                            |
| 22,318  | Current Bank A/C            | 7,764                            |
| 5,297   | Savings A/C                 | 25,578                           |
| 101,653   | Public Sector Deposit Fund  | 103,563                          |
| 11,938  | Tennis Club Account         | 13,663                           |
| 84,792  | Hampshire Trust             | 84,792                           |
| 50,759  | Nationwide 45DN Savings A/C | 66,039                           |
| 70  | Petty Cash – Office         | 70                               |
| 100   | Petty Cash - Handyman       | 100                              |
| <b>287,486</b>  |                             | <b>313,468</b>                   |
| 287,486   | <b>Total Assets</b>         | 313,468                          |

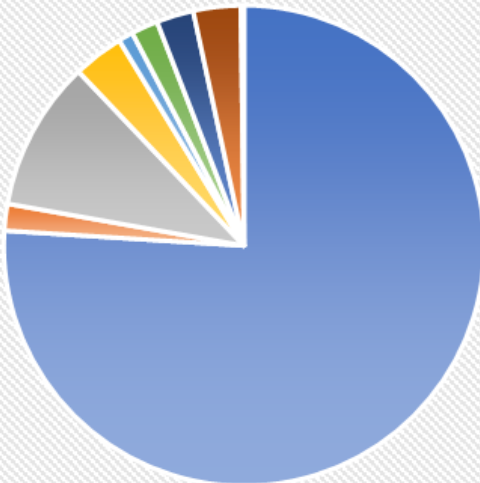
|              |  |              |
|--------------|--|--------------|
|              | <b>Current Liabilities</b>                   |              |
| 2,124        | Creditors                                    | 1,238        |
| 1,562        | Accruals                                     | 1,388        |
| 2,532        | Wages  | 2,298        |
| 1,185        | Pensions                                     | 1,098        |
| 0            | Receipts in Advance                          | 3,250        |
| <b>7,404</b> |  | <b>9,273</b> |
| 280,082      | <b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b> | 304,195      |

## EXPENDITURE (Total £232,149)



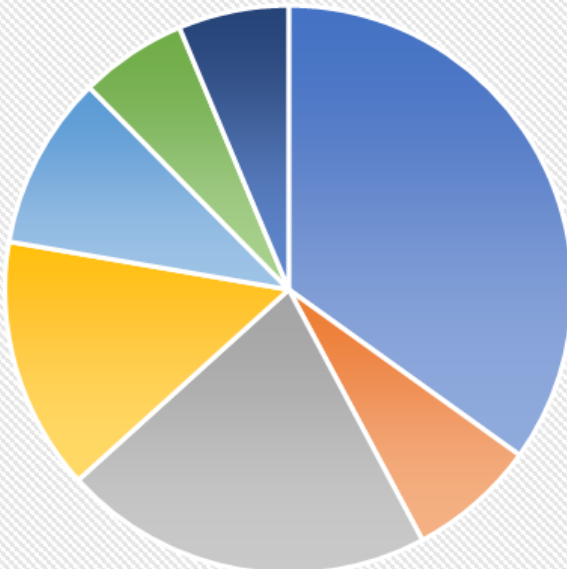
- Policies & Resources
- Salaries
- Burial Grounds
- Highways & Environment
- Leisure
- Planning (minimal)
- Sports Field

## INCOME (Total £256,262)



- Precept
- Interest
- Burial Ground
- Sports Pitches
- Allotments
- Rental Income
- Telemast Rental
- Grants
- Misc/Other (minimal)

## RESERVES (Total £304,195)



- General Reserves
- Policies & Resources
- Burial Ground
- Highways & Environment
- Leisure
- Planning
- Sports Field

## **Barton-Le-Clay Educational Trust Annual Report 2022**

**Registered Charity No. 307470**

The Trust exists to promote the education of persons between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five who, or whose parents, are resident in one of the following parishes: Barton-Le-Clay, Higham Gobion or Pulloxhill.

Grants are made annually to students of this age group who, having completed statutory education, are in training for a profession or calling at universities, colleges of education or other institutions of further education. Provision is also made to give financial aid to schools and to voluntary organisations which serve young persons within the area of benefit.

Notices of the awards available are published in the parish magazine for Barton-Le-Clay and Hexton and in the newsletter for Pulloxhill. Student applications are called for in October and are considered at the Trust's Annual General Meeting at the beginning of December. Grants for schools and youth organisations are considered in an ordinary meeting in March.

In the 2021 – 2022 Trust financial year, thirty-two students were awarded grants. Four grants were awarded to schools this year.

Trustees: David Cope; Lesley Gordon; Andrew Johnson; Peter Parrish (Chairman); Barbara Thomas

Main Address:

Cerk to the Trust

E-mail:- [joanna.daye@btinternet.com](mailto:joanna.daye@btinternet.com)

## Village Hall Report

Once the Covid shackles were removed there was an initial pickup in utilisation of the Hall, but sadly this did not continue. For the most part “regular hirers” have remained stable but general bookings for events, parties, weddings, etc. remain considerably down.



As a consequence, revenues have been significantly adversely impacted. At the same time, costs have of course risen quite sharply in a number of areas. Even with further grant income the Hall made an unwelcome loss in its 2022 financial year.

The Management Committee nevertheless remains optimistic for the future, and determined to turn things around. Action is being taken to improve the décor of the hall. A team of volunteers have already made a hugely positive difference to the entrance foyer/bar area. Further work is planned. The Village Hall website (<http://bartonleclayvillagehall.co.uk>) has been completely overhauled with further content and functionality added. This now includes an online booking facility to enable potential hirers to easily check availability. Pricing structures are being reviewed. The new Site Agent team are proving very effective in identifying and being able to remedy a number of maintenance/presentation issues without recourse to external contractors (however these are still called upon when absolutely necessary)

As reported last year, the Committee are also looking further ahead, to address the needs of the planned Village expansion along Higham Road. The specialist architects appointed have produced a general feasibility report/drawings indicating what might be done to expand/improve the existing Village Hall, to be funded by S106 funds resulting from the proposed new development. The Management Committee, supported by the Parish Council, has recently undertaken a Consultative survey across all Village households seeking input regarding people’s views and wishes for the “Village Hall of the Future”. The survey results will help inform and shape future development.

The end of this review period also marks the end of an era for the Village Hall, with the retirement of Bookings Officer, Maureen Turner. Maureen has been a Village Hall stalwart for more years than most people wish, or are able to, remember. Thank you Maureen and very best wishes for a long, healthy and happy retirement.

## **Local Schools Liaison Report**

The Parish Council made two grants through the S137 scheme to schools during the year, both were to help recognise and celebrate the success of local students at watershed moments in their education. £50 was awarded to Arnold Academy in Barton-le-Clay for their Year 8 annual leavers' award while £125 was awarded to Harlington Upper School to fund prizes for their Annual Awards ceremony.

The Parish Council have met with the CEO of The Pyramid Schools Trust and the Headteachers from Ramsey Manor Lower School and Arnold Academy during the year to help build a relationship with them and work together on common goals. In particular we are working together to try and improve the parking issues on Manor Road to address some of the safety concerns.

## **Barton Tennis Club Report**

Barton Tennis Club continues to thrive and provide a valuable asset to our community. Annual membership runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March, and is available by contacting the Club on Tel: 01582 881597 or by emailing: [bartonleclaytennisclub@btinternet.com](mailto:bartonleclaytennisclub@btinternet.com)

The Club is always looking to attract new members. They offer both adult and junior coaching sessions throughout the season. Court usage is controlled by key access and a booking system.

For more details, please look on their website:  
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/BartonTennisClub>

The annual court lease fee, payable to the Parish Council, is currently £1,750. This fund is used towards future resurfacing costs.

