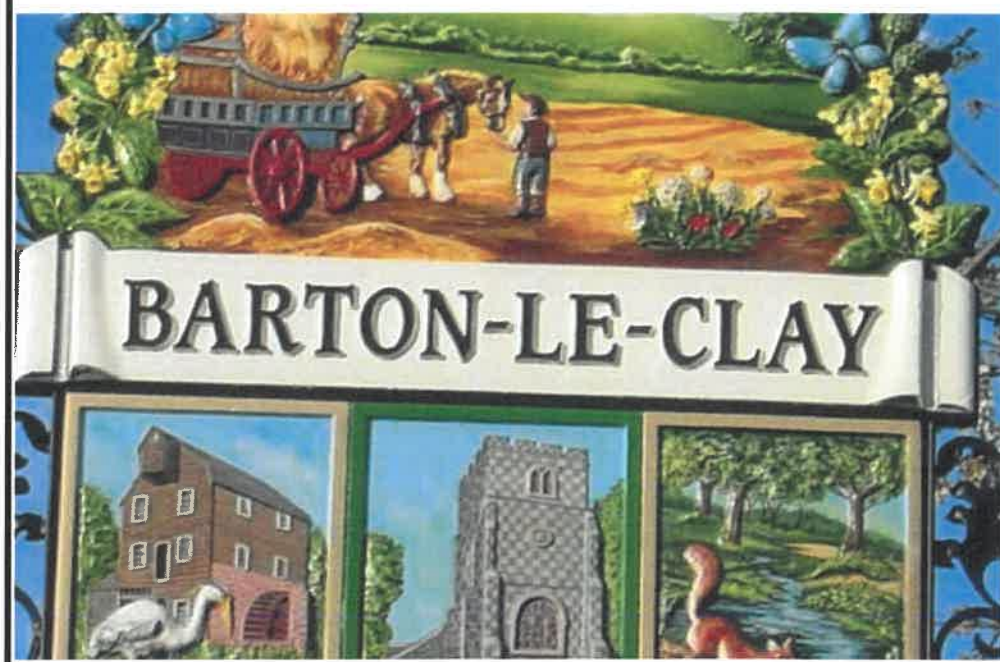




ANNUAL REPORT

2024—2025

Published May 2025



PARISH COUNCIL FACTFILE
Members of the Council 2024/2025

Chair:
Vice Chair:

Mr J Paxton
Mrs J Mikkelson
Mrs G Gardner
Mrs A Fletcher
Mr S Laycock
Mr W Rudd
Mr J Selley
Mrs B Thomas
Mrs A Vale
Ms A Tebb
Mr K Qureshi

Staff

Carolyn Callen
Suzanne Cowie
John Fitzgerald
Ian Nicholls
Jim Pope
Karen Small
Selina McConville

Clerk to the Council
Assistant Clerk to the Council
Full-Time Ground/Facilities Maintenance Person
Part-Time Groundsman
Part-Time Groundsman
Norman Road Playground Keyholder
Norman Road Playground Keyholder

Council Address:

1 Windsor Parade
Barton-le-Clay
Bedfordshire
MK45 4NA
(01582) 883990

Telephone:

E-mail:
Website:
Facebook:

theparishclerk@bartonleclay-pc.gov.uk
www.bartonleclay-pc.gov.uk
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1563405067289955>

2024/2025 Precept: £233,340

Report from the Parish Council Chairman

This has been a very interesting year for the Parish Council. As you will see from this Annual Report, the Council have been able to make additions and improvements around the Village that I know will be used and appreciated by everyone and that reflect the vibrant community that we are. I love living in this Village and, working closely with partners and groups across the area, the Parish Council will continue to make Barton-le-Clay a beautiful and pleasant place to live.

The Community Garden has been a fantastic new asset for the whole Village since it opened in 2024. The Parish Council are delighted to have supported this project, and my thanks must go to the Rotary Club, Blooming Barton and all the volunteers who have made this such a charming space for everyone to enjoy. The newly established Community Cafe at the Village Hall has been another success and I am delighted that the Council have been able to support the volunteers who put on such nice events for parishioners.

Work is expected to begin on the new development to the East of Barton sometime in the next 12 months. The Council have been actively liaising with both CBC and the developers, Taylor Wimpey, to ensure that the new housing is appropriate for the Village, and that the impact of increased traffic in the Village is mitigated. Whilst extra housing will bring challenges to the Parish Council, it also presents great opportunities as we receive more funding to improve the infrastructure around the Village.

The Council are consistently looking for funding opportunities through grants, the new play equipment in the Arnold Recreation Ground being a prime example of how we can provide enjoyable new facilities for residents, without overburdening parishioners through their Council Tax. Barton has much to look forward to in the next few years with some exciting projects which I am sure will be welcomed.

As ever, the Parish Council simply could not function without our professional and dedicated staff, who work hard throughout the year and put themselves out to ensure our Village is safe. We are blessed to have a great team in the Office and around the Village representing the Council so effectively and enthusiastically. I thank them, and also my fellow Parish Councillors who give up so much of their free time to run and attend meetings, manage and support local events, and work hard for the Village on a voluntary basis. I am extremely proud to Chair the Parish Council and look forward to being a part of an exciting future for the Village.

Councillor Jonathan Paxton
Chairman Barton-le-Clay Parish Council

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. Reviewing the plans involves looking at previous and proposed plans, visiting the site or property to understand the context of the proposal and then discussing them at the Committee meeting. Over the last year, we have considered 45 applications, commenting on 13, objecting to 10 and raising no comments on 22. 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 application to build up to 500 new homes on Land East of Barton-le-Clay was finally granted outline planning permission in December 2024. This included executing the Section 106 Agreement to confirm what the developers need to contribute to mitigate the impact of the new development on the current Village infrastructure and facilities. The Parish Council and the Ward Councillors have held several meetings with Central Beds Council Planning Officers to try and ensure the needs of the Village are met.

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.

Councillor Abigail Fletcher
Chairman of Planning Committee



Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee

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 Plan has been completed by The Greensands Trust in consultation with local residents. A supplemental Design Code to accompany the Neighbourhood Plan has been produced, incorporating current design features and what is considered good and bad, so that it can provide guidance to meet the future development design needs of the Village.

A six-week consultation was held during Summer 2024, where residents had an opportunity to review the Draft Plan and comment before it was finalised. Feedback from the consultation has now been incorporated into the revised plan and it will now go to formal independent examination, before the final Referendum is held later in the year. Further details on the Neighbourhood Plan and process are available on our website using the following link:

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

Councillor Abigail Fletcher
Chairman of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee



Leisure Committee Report

This marks my first year as Chair of the Leisure Committee, and I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Councillor Thomas for her unwavering dedication and exemplary leadership as the previous Chair over the years. I also appreciate her continued support and invaluable advice. Additionally, I would like to offer my thanks to The Clerk and Assistant Clerk for their guidance and commitment to supporting me throughout this term.

The Leisure Committee is tasked with the oversight of the Arnold Recreation Ground, Norman Road Play Area, the Allotment site, and the Coronation Community Garden.

In July 2024, the annual RoSPA safety inspection was conducted on all our play equipment by an independent surveyor. As a result of normal wear and tear, several pieces of equipment were identified for necessary repairs, which have since been completed.

The winter of 2024 brought significant rainfall, resulting in extensive flooding across the Recreation Ground. The Leisure Committee, in partnership with the Barton-le-Clay Educational Trust, has engaged with Central Bedfordshire Council's Drainage and Highways departments to collaboratively explore long-term solutions to address the recurring flooding issues.

The flooding also caused delays in the installation of the new play equipment, which was postponed until November 28, 2024. Despite these delays, the installation is now complete, signed off, and operational. However, additional work is required to level the soil and resurface the area surrounding the new equipment. A separate report detailing this new play area can be found later in the annual report.



A new waste bin has been installed, and a second one is scheduled for replacement later this year. Additionally, a new picnic bench will be installed near the new playground equipment.

In July, an attempt was made to remove the Queen's Jubilee Bench, and one of the trees planted in honor of this occasion was damaged. The concrete base was replaced, and the tree was carefully nurtured by our groundsman, eventually recovering fully. Unfortunately, we also experienced an act of vandalism in the form of arson on the Recreation Ground.

At the Norman Road Play Area, a new picnic bench was installed in November 2024. This area was temporarily closed for a few days in March 2025 to allow for essential repairs to the safety surfacing, cleaning, and repainting of some of the equipment. Hedge planting was also carried out during this period.





The Allotment site, offering 91 plots of various sizes, remains a popular facility, with approximately 14 vacant plots currently available for rent. If you are interested in growing your own produce but lack the space at home, we invite you to consider taking on a plot. Please contact the Parish Office to arrange a viewing of the available plots or to join the waiting list. This year, the Committee

approved the allowance of sheds on allotment plots, subject to an approved application detailing size and conditions. Additionally, all existing plot number markers will be replaced.

Our Groundsmen have been exceptionally busy throughout the year, carrying out tasks such as bush trimming, strimming, grass cutting, and other repairs around the village. As part of the maintenance contract, annual hedge cutting took place over the winter. After discussions with the contractor, our Groundsmen also cut back additional hedgerow areas not covered by the contract, ensuring the village remains well-maintained. We are fortunate to have two such hardworking groundsmen who contribute significantly to the upkeep of our village.

The Coronation Community Garden officially opened on July 31, 2024. Regrettably, it experienced some initial challenges with vandalism, resulting in the destruction of plants, shrubs, and wooden structures. However, these were promptly replaced by the dedicated volunteers who continue to nurture the garden. This team has invested countless hours in planning, building, planting, and maintaining this beautiful addition to our community. I encourage everyone to visit and, if interested, join us in the ongoing efforts to plant, weed, and maintain the garden. It is a shared space for the entire community to enjoy and benefit from. Unfortunately, there will be no village show this year. A new committee will need to be formed to explore the possibility of reviving this event in future years. Any suggestions or offers to assist with its organization are warmly welcomed. Please feel free to email or visit the Parish Office with your ideas.



Looking ahead, the Committee's key projects for the upcoming year include the replacement of the gates at the Recreation Ground, continued improvements to the allotment hedgerow and security boundaries, the installation of signage for fitness equipment, and addressing any outstanding RoSPA actions.

Councillor Alison Vale
Chair of Leisure Committee



Following a successful grant application for money to go towards installing new play equipment, we were pleased to secure a grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (administered by Central Bedfordshire Council) for £36,000 to help fund the project. The total cost of the project was £45,490 and the balance of £10,490 has been funded by the Parish Council from saved funds. You may wonder why the installation took place during the winter when the ground was so wet? This was a condition of the funding that the project must be completed by 31st December 2024, and it did prove difficult due to very high levels of rainfall and flooding.

You will see that the play area has been extended, and four new pieces of play equipment installed. These are aimed at young and mid aged children and were chosen following the public survey and engagements with the Lower and Middle Schools. You told us that you wanted an area where families can play together. Slides, tunnels and climbing equipment were all high on the wish list. The large multi-play unit incorporates a range of activities including climbing, balancing, slides and tunnels. The rota net offers climbing and spinning and the seesaw and multi-play unit aimed at young children, offer a range of activities as well as a chance to socialise and play together. We hope you'll agree that the new equipment has enhanced the play area and now provides an opportunity for families to play together in one area within the village.

The Play Equipment Working Group and Leisure Committee will be looking to find a solution for the ongoing flooding issues and for grant opportunities to further enhance our play areas.

Councillor Jill Mikkelson
Chair Play Equipment Working Group



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.

Following numerous acts of vandalism/damage by vehicles, the entrance gates to the Burial Ground had to be replaced. The new gates were installed in June 2024 and additional measures have been installed to protect the gate posts from future damage.



On 6th June 2024, the community came together to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. The evening included a performance by Barton Community Choir who sang uplifting songs from war followed by the reading of the Tribute and lighting the Beacon. We thank Darren Whiley, Barton Rovers FC for providing the PA system, Barton Community Choir for their performance, David Cope and Ward Councillor Liz Childs for reading the

Tribute, Myles Greenhalgh for lighting the beacon and the volunteer marshals.

The project to improve the War Memorial area has now been completed. In the past year a second bespoke bench to commemorate the 2nd World War has been installed and the green space that this sits on has been cleared, levelled, tree stumps removed, and new turf laid. Two new planters have also been installed and Central Bedfordshire Council have planted 2 trees to replace those which fell/diseased. We hope that you will agree that the area has been greatly improved and reflects the respect and thanks we all have for those who fought for us.



The annual Remembrance Service took place on Sunday 10th November 2024 and was really well attended. It was lovely to see the horse from the local stables at the service and it reminds us of the invaluable role horses, donkeys and animals played in the war. In the run up to the service, Barton Scout leaders displayed red poppies throughout the village and the 'tommy' statues were displayed in key areas of the village. We were all saddened to find that one of the statues which was displayed at the entrance to Church Road, had been stolen but enormous thanks go to the resident who quickly made a new one, in time for Remembrance Sunday.



An important part of the service is the road closures which allow the usual sound of traffic to disappear for a short time and a safe route for the parade up to church. To aid marshals, we purchased walkie talkies which have significantly improved communication and safety for the event. Without the help of volunteers, road closures would not be possible so if you would like to help with this, we'd love to hear from you.

Remembrance Sunday is a key event for the village, and we would like to thank everyone who helped and gave their time - David Cope for leading the service, Marek Kosala for performing The Last Post and Reveille, Scout Leaders for making and displaying the poppies, the resident for making and gifting the Tommy statues and finally, all the volunteers who gave their time to make the road closures possible.

Each year the committee reviews the Burial Ground Fees and Regulations. We are all aware that the cost of living is affecting everyone so in 2024 it was agreed that the fees should not be increased despite an increase in contractor costs. The annual review has just taken place for 2025 and a copy of the new fees is available to view on the Parish Councils website.

Over the winter months, the hedges in the Burial Ground, Churchyard and War Memorial were cut. Maintenance of hedges is only carried out during the non-bird nesting season, between September – March. Since 2023 the box hedge in the Burial Ground and Churchyard has suffered a caterpillar infestation and despite ongoing treatment a section within the Burial Ground has unfortunately been lost.

In March 2025 memorial stability testing was carried out in the Churchyard. A total of 35 memorials were found to be unsafe and will need attention. The majority of unsafe memorials are located within the Garden of Rest and as this area is much more recent, we hope to locate the owners or relatives so that they can take action to ensure their loved one's memorial are safe.

This year, on 8th May 2025 we mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day and we are pleased to join the nation by lighting a beacon to commemorate this important date in history. Arrangements for the Beacon Lighting and other events to celebrate VE Day are well underway - look out for information on the baking competition, events in the library, and the beacon lighting event on the evening of 8th May.

Councillor Steve Laycock
Chairman Burial Grounds Committee



Highways & Environment Committee Report

Road Safety in the Village is a major concern for residents. Whilst the Parish Council have no power to introduce safety measures such as speed restrictions, safer crossing points and barriers, we have been liaising with the Highways Improvement Team at Central Bedfordshire Council to try and persuade them to consider various options. In March 2025, a traffic survey was undertaken on Bedford Road, between the Co-op and Manor Road junction. The results are still awaited.

Following requests from residents, the Committee reviewed the general waste and dog waste bins around the Village and highlighted areas where further bins could be installed to prevent overflowing bins. These locations were provided to Central Bedfordshire Council who have now installed additional dog bins on Dunstall Road/Manor Road and Old Road/Washbrook Close.



In October, the Probation Service Community Payback team painted the five bus shelters through the centre of the Village. Further refurbishment is planned for the shelter on Windsor Road over the coming year, in conjunction with Central Bedfordshire Council Bus Service Improvement Funding programme.

The 'Blooming Barton' volunteer group have continued to maintain the flower planters and planting by the Village gates. The Parish Council have provided a Grant to the group towards the Summer bedding plants for the planters.

The Parish Council has continued to support the local group of litter-picking volunteers, taking part in the Keep Britain Tidy 'Great British Spring Clean' Event in March. Litter picking equipment and safety clothing is provided to the group, who regularly organize litter picking from the roadside verges on Hexton Road, Luton Road and Sharpenhoe Road.

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 quickly clear any broken glass from footpaths when it is reported to us. Additionally, they regularly inspect and wash our bus shelters.



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.



The Parish Council were successfully awarded a Central Bedfordshire Tree Planting Grant of £268.95 in February. This has allowed us to plant new hedgerows in the Norman Road Play Area and at the Allotments, which will help wildlife and the environment, as well as improving security in these areas.



Priorities for 2025/26 are to continue to push Central Beds Council for highway improvements in the Village, to review our current grass and hedge cutting works contracts, and to plant replacement trees at Lovers Walk where the diseased trees were felled. We will also be looking at further environmental improvements, in line with our Biodiversity Policy.

Councillor Jonathan Paxton
Chairman of Committee



Sports Field Committee Report

The Sports Field offers 9 football pitches of various sizes and the Pavilion changing facilities which are currently utilised by 19 Barton Youth teams, 1 Sunday League adult team and ad hoc hirers.



Following the end of the football season in May 2024 the annual maintenance programme began. We work in close partnership with Barton Rovers Football Club which enables better buying power and shared machinery hire costs meaning that we have been able to reseed and top up the soil levels on all goalmouths, as needed. Additionally, the pitches received an application of fertiliser and weed selective to keep the grass in good condition. During the maintenance programme the sports field is closed off to all users. We appreciate that this may be inconvenient to some, but it is incredibly important to allow the seed time to germinate, ready for the new season.

Dog fouling and dogs off lead on the pitch continues to be a significant issue which is disappointing. We have been fortunate to have support from Central Bedfordshire Councils Community Officers who have been engaging with owners to remind them of the laws regarding dogs off lead and the importance

of picking up after your pet. The pitches are primarily used by children and dog fouling is incredibly dangerous as well as being anti-social behaviour.

If you walk your dog on the site, please remember that the dog must be kept on a lead (of no more than 2 meters) at all times and any dog fouling must be picked up immediately. The fine for those who choose to ignore this is £1,000.



As the 2024/25 season comes to an end the pitches are still in very good condition, which is testament to the investment made each year and our fantastic groundsmen who work so hard to keep the facility in tip top condition.

We are fortunate to have 3 dedicated Groundsmen (1 full time 2 part time) who work hard all year round to ensure that the sports facility is available and in good condition. Although we have a main contractor to cut the field itself, jobs such as strimming around the perimeter and the goal posts is carried out by the Groundsmen in addition to other routine tasks on the site and elsewhere. In November 2024 a section of the access road was replaced and in February 2025 the groundsmen replaced a speed hump on the access road and fitted new bolts to the existing speed humps.

You will have heard that Taylor Wimpey is progressing their application to build up to 500 houses east of the village. Although outline planning has already been granted by Central Beds Council, the S106 agreement was not signed by Taylor Wimpey until 20th December 2024. The S106 agreement has secured £366,991 for the Luton Road Sports Field and Pavilion and this will be used to install a much-needed 3g pitch. Although the news that the S106 has been signed is welcomed there is no money at this stage. Once building begins, 50% of the funding will be paid by Taylor Wimpey, and the remaining 50% will be paid in phases as the development progresses. Realistically, it is likely that it will take some years for the development to be finished and full funding to be available and with a build cost of in excess of £1,000,000, additional grant opportunities will need to be explored. We will continue to work with Barton Rovers Youth FC, Barton Rovers FC, AFC Shillington, CBC Ward Councillors, Blake Stephenson MP, Beds FA and the Football Foundation to bring this long-awaited dream to life!

Councillor John Selley
Chairman Sports Field Committee



Policies & Resources Committee

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 2025/2026

The Parish Council are very aware of the current cost of living crisis impacting households. However, with price increases being applied by many contractors and suppliers, and the additional costs following the changes in National Insurance rates, the Parish Council will be incurring higher costs in 2025/26. The budgets were reviewed and cost savings made, where possible. As a result, the Parish Council Precept Budget for 2025/26 was agreed at **£243,059**, representing an increase of £4.79 per year on a Band D property (4.1% increase).

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 c.£3,312 this year to the following good causes:

Barton-le-Clay Pre-School £200.00 <i>Projector & Screen for learning</i>	Noah's Ark £50.00 <i>Folding garden chairs</i>
Barton Kids Club £150.00 <i>Sensory & SEND resources</i>	Barton Helping Hands £164.34 <i>Public Liability Insurance</i>
Barton Community Choir £300.00 <i>Piano tuning & music</i>	Barton Rovers Youth Football Club <i>Football goals</i> £250.00
Arnold Academy PTA £250.00 <i>Table Tennis table & equipment</i>	Royal British Legion £100.00 <i>Poppy Wreath for Remembrance service</i>
Harlington Upper School £125.00 Arnold Academy £50.00	Barton Icknield (Luton) Scout Group <i>STEM educational games</i> £250.00

Barton Rovers Football Club <i>Litter bins for car park</i> £250.00	Barton-le-Clay Bowling Club <i>12 bowl mats</i> £172.50
Unity Hall £500.00 <i>Upgrade Camp Fire Circle</i>	Blooming Barton £300.00 <i>Plants & tools</i>
Keech Hospice Care £100.00 <i>Music & art therapy service</i>	Magpas Air Ambulance £100.00 <i>Emergency equipment & medical supplies</i>

Annual Accounts

The Parish Councils' financial year ends on the 31st 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 – Forvis 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.

Cllr Jonathan Paxton
Chairman of Policies & Resources Committee

Pay & Personnel Sub-Committee Report

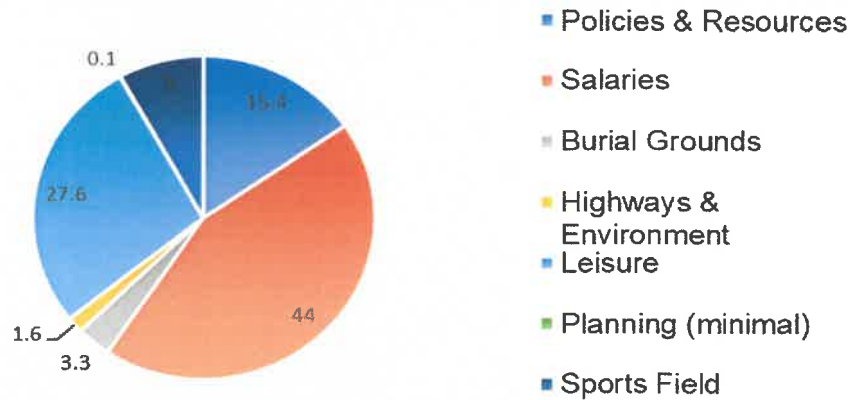
The Parish Council continues to operate with a very supportive and stable team. They are committed in ensuring that all the Village facilities and environment are maintained and improved as appropriate.

As a responsible employer, we continue to undertake annual performance reviews for all staff. These identify strengths, training and development needs, as well as individual support as required.

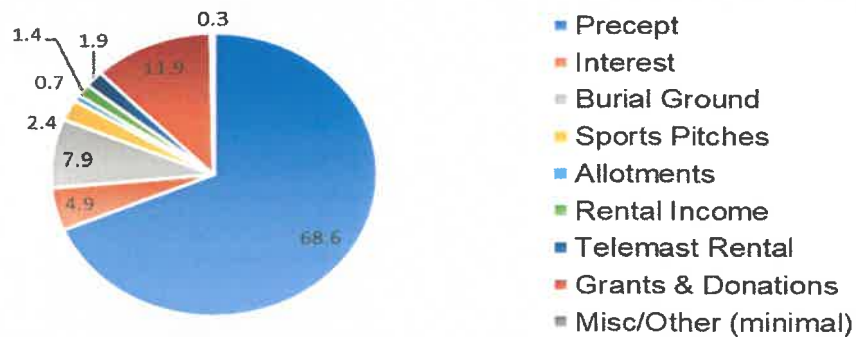
HR policies and procedures are reviewed annually to ensure compliance with any changes relating to employment legislation.

Cllr Jill Mikkelson
Chair Pay & Personnel Sub-Committee

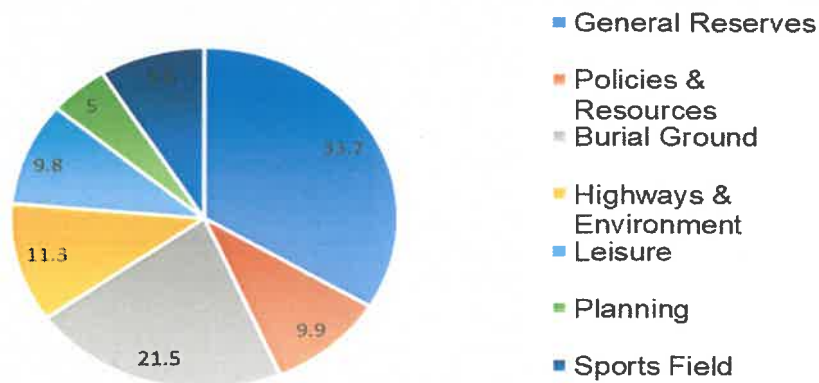
EXPENDITURE (Total £334,936)



INCOME (Total £340,162)



RESERVES (Total £363,317)



BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025			
31st March 2024		31^s March 2025	
	Current Assets		
3,085	Debtors	3,236	
6,578	VAT	4,394	
3,294	Prepayments	4,801	
14,531	Current Bank A/C	13,669	
44,110	Savings A/C	10,434	
159,980	Public Sector Deposit Fund	184,883	
15,585	Tennis Club Account	17,586	
84,792	Hampshire Trust	84,792	
53,363	Nationwide 45DN Savings A/C	53,948	
70	Petty Cash – Office	70	
100	Petty Cash - Handyman	0	
385,488		377,815	
385,488	Total Assets	377,815	

	Current Liabilities		
16,689	Creditors	2,692	
718	Other Creditors	0	
1,712	Accruals	2,902	
1,300	Allotment Deposits	1,600	
2,525	Wages	2,722	
1,202	Pensions	1,331	
3,250	Receipts in Advance	3,250	
27,396		14,497	
358,092	Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	363,317	

	Represented by:		
116,772	General Reserves	121,531	
241,320	Earmarked Reserves	241,786	
358,092		363,317	

Local Schools Liaison Report

The Parish Council gave two grants 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 contributed a small grant to Arnold Academy PTA towards the purchase of 4 table tennis tables and equipment for pupils to enjoy.

We continue to work with the Ward Councillors and the Schools to try and improve road safety on Manor Road and Hexton Road, to address some of the concerns raised by residents, pupils and parents.

Councillor Alison Vale

Village Hall report

The Village Hall, a Registered Charity, depends solely on hiring out the facilities and various fundraising events. The current committee, with the help of a full-time site agent and caretaker, maintain the hall and improve facilities for the benefit of hirers and residents who use the hall.

Councillor Rudd took over in June, as the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee.

Major works to the entrance of the Village Hall have not been pursued due to costs and planning permissions required. This will be reviewed again once the Section 106 Funding from the Taylor Wimpey Development is progressed. Unfortunately, the Charity were also unsuccessful with their Grant application from Central Bedfordshire Council UKSPF Fund to replace the rear fencing.

CCTV has been installed both inside and outside the building. Some concerns about privacy and recording have been raised and these are being addressed by the Village Hall Committee.

Helping Hands are holding a monthly Community Café in the Village Hall, which is doing well, with over 60 attendees on a regular basis. They are now using the main hall rather than the foyer due to the increased numbers.

Bookings for the Village Hall are increasing and regular and new hirers are using the online booking system well.

The Village Hall was not able to assist at short-notice in September as a central emergency building when the Village experienced flooding issues. Locations of premises to be used in an emergency are being sort by the Parish Council and Central Bedfordshire Council.

The Treasurer is retiring in May 2025 and a new treasurer has been engaged. In addition, they are also looking for new Committee members and a new Chair.

Councillor Will Rudd



Barton Tennis Club

Barton Tennis Club continues to thrive and provide a valuable asset to our community. Annual membership runs from 1st April to 31st March, and is available by contacting the Club on Tel: 01582 881597 or by emailing: 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 an online 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.



Barton-le-Clay Educational Trust Annual Report 2024

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 Barton Library and in the newsletter for Pulloxhill. Information can also be obtained from the Barton-Le-Clay Parish Council Office and from the Clerk at the address below. 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 2023-2024 Trust Financial Year, twenty-six students were awarded grants. Four grants were awarded to schools this year and two grants to youth organisations.

Trustees: Mr David Cope; Councillor Ms Liz Childs, Mrs Lesley Gordon; The Reverend Andrew Johnson, Mr Peter Parrish (Chairman); Councillor Mrs Barbara Thomas

Main Address: - Mrs J. Daye, Clerk to the Trust
E-mail:- jbmdaye@gmail.com





CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEROES



Barton-le-Clay Parish Council
NEEDS YOU!

MAKE A CHANGE
BECOME A COUNCILLOR

TO FIND OUT MORE, CONTACT:

theparishclerk@bartonleclay-pc.gov.uk



Are You Interested In Growing Your Own Fruit & Veg?

We have allotments available to let NOW
Parking and water on site

For more details contact the Parish Council Office:
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BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL

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