

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 11th MAY 2026
AT THE VILLAGE HALL, HEXTON ROAD, BARTON-LE-CLAY AT 6.30PM

Present: Councillors J Paxton (Chair), J Mikkelson (Vice-Chair), A Fletcher, A Vale, W Rudd, A Tebb and K Qureshi

In Attendance: C Callen (Clerk), S Cowie (Assistant Clerk),
Ward Councillors A French and E Childs
2 members of Barton-le-Clay Rotary Club
2 members of Barton Helping Hands
3 members of the Village Hall Committee
1 representative from Bedfordshire Hospital NHS Charity Blossom Service
and 6 members of the public

Minutes: C Callen

Councillor Paxton welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were displays of photos showing the work of the Parish Council over the past 12 months and details of recent events. The Rotary Club also had a display and details of what they do, and Helping Hands had leaflets promoting their service for residents and the dates of the Community Café. The Village Hall Committee are looking for new volunteers to help manage the Hall and had a stall to promote the facility. A representative from the Bedfordshire Hospital NHS Charity had a stall providing details of the Blossom Service, where volunteers provide support for patients receiving end-of-life care. Unfortunately, the Community Police team had to pull out at the last minute due to policing commitments elsewhere. Informal discussions were held with residents by members of the Parish Council and the Ward Councillors and refreshments were provided, kindly served by the Helping Hands volunteers.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – These were received from Councillors J Selley and S Laycock.
2. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12th MAY 2025**
Copies of the minutes from last year were available for attendees to review. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes from the meeting held on 12th May 2025, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mikkelson and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.
3. **MATTERS ARISING** – There were none.
4. **REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR (2025/26)**
The Parish Council's Chairman thanked the office staff, and particularly the Assistant Clerk, for producing the Annual Report 2025-26 document for presentation, as well as the display boards. The Chairman's report was included in the Annual Report document, page 3. A copy of the full report was given to those present at the meeting. It will be published on the Council Website, and paper copies will be made available from the Library and several local shops, following the meeting. A newsletter containing the Chairman's report will be delivered to all households in the Village, following the event. There were no further questions, and no further comments made.
5. **COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORTS FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR (2025/26)**
Those present were advised that the committee reports, summarising each committees responsibilities and photos of achievements over the previous year, were included in the Annual Report: Planning, *page 5*; Leisure, *page 6*; Burial Grounds, *page 7*; Highways & Environment, *page 8*; Sports Field, *page 9*; Policies & Resources, *page 10*. There were no further questions, and no further comments made.
6. **REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**
Parish Councillors represent the Parish Council with the following local organisations: Barton-le-Clay Village Hall Committee; Schools Liaison; Barton-le-Clay Educational Trust; Barton Tennis Club and Barton Rovers Youth Football Club. Reports are provided throughout the year on these groups' operations.
7. **PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2025/2026**
The financial figures for the last financial year were prepared by the Clerk. The Financial Summary was included in the Council's Annual Report 2025/26, pages 12 and 13. Expenditure is monitored closely, with

cost savings made where possible. The Parish Grounds Staff undertake as much work in-house as possible to save on contractor's costs. There were no further questions and no further comments made.

8. OPEN FORUM

No specific questions were raised and attendees held informal discussions regarding relevant issues, including anti-social behaviour concerns, green waste collections, new development on Higham Gobion Road, etc.

Councillor Paxton thanked the Parish Councillors for giving their time to serve the Village. There are still opportunities for new Councillors to join the Parish Council.

9. CLOSE OF MEETING

As there was no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.30pm

I certify these minutes are a true and correct record of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 11th May 2026.

Dated this 10th May 2027

COUNCILLOR J PAXTON
Chairman

DRAFT