

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2022 COMMENCING AT 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors Mr J Paxton (Chairman), Mr N Day (Vice-Chair), Mrs A Miller, Mrs B Thomas (ex-officio) and Miss G Widdowfield (ex-officio)

In Attendance: Mrs C Callen (Clerk) and Councillor Mrs G Gardner

Minutes: Mrs C Callen

22/160 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillor Mr J Selley and Mr J Roberts

22/161 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (*Cllrs may make declarations pertaining to the agenda at this point or at any point during the meeting*) – There were none.

22/162 MATTERS ARISING –

On the 17th August, Councillor Miller and the Clerk met with a Senior Highways Officer from Central Beds Council (CBC) Traffic Management Community Services team, primarily to discuss the locations for Planters purchased by the Blooming Barton group. The Clerk also queried the proposed locations for the Community noticeboard and bike rack – these have now been clarified and the groundsmen will do the installation when back from holiday. The Clerk also shared the frustrations of the Parish Council with regards to the Highways response for S106 funding from the new development – the Officer has agreed to refer to Planning to seek clarification. The Clerk will follow up with Highways if no response received.

CBC have confirmed the location of 12 new electric charge points across the area they have obtained funding for – nearest to Barton are at Gravenhurst and Maulden. They will seek further grants for 2023 to expand the network of sites.

22/163 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20th JUNE 2022

A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 20th June 2022, **SECONDED** by Councillor Miller and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

22/164 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTERS INSPECTION

The inspections undertaken on 26th September were acknowledged. Everything was in order. Councillor Gardner advised that in another Village, there were signs on the bus shelter advising that it was provided by the Parish Council. It was suggested that this should be considered for the shelters in the Village. **ACTION – Clerk to investigate.**

22/165 TO CONSIDER APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FOR TREES AS PART OF THE QUEENS GREEN CANOPY AND AGREE WAY FORWARD

Councillor Miller declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of Blooming Barton. Earlier in the year, the Parish Council discussed the possibility of applying for funding via CBC Tree Planting Grant under the Queen's Green Canopy scheme, for trees to be planted on Arnold Recreation Ground to mark the Queens Jubilee. Blooming Barton are also applying under this scheme for a Christmas tree to be planted on Lime Close. The Clerk has contacted CBC for advice on the scheme and provided details ahead of the meeting of suitable trees and items to be considered by the Committee, so that the project can be undertaken in the Autumn. Following discussion, Councillor Day **PROPOSED** approval to purchase 5 standard trees (2/3m) - 3x Field Maple and 2x Liquid Amber - plus green watering bags and metal gages for each. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Miller **with 4 in favour and 1 against**.

The Clerk will obtain quotes from local nurseries for approval and then liaise with CBC regarding the Grant application. Councillor Miller volunteered to speak to the contacts she has been speaking to for Blooming Barton's tree, regarding possible quotes.

22/166 TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE COMMUNITY PROJECT FOR FRANKLIN AVENUE AND AGREE WAY FORWARD

The Clerk has been in contact with the new owners of Franklin Avenue – Catalyst Housing Ltd – regarding the maintenance programme for their land. As part of the discussions, the Clerk mentioned the possibility of a Community Project on the site of the former play area. Feedback

from residents has been that they would like more parking in this area for the care home, but they are open to discussion about what else could be considered, if the Parish Council wanted to take this forward. After consideration, Members agreed that additional parking and landscaping in this area would be the best option and to look at other sites for a Community Project in the future.

22/167 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE QUOTES FOR TREE AND HEDGE WORKS ON SIMPKINS DRIVE

A resident from Simpkins Drive has complained about a tree which is blocking their driveway and hampering access for them parking a vehicle on the drive which is needed for work. The hedge and tree are on Parish Council land and have not been maintained for some time. The Clerk has obtained a quote from Reynolds Landscaping Services to cut down the crab apple tree and raise the crown on the Silver Birch urgently at a cost of £250 plus VAT. This work can be completed on 5th October. A second quote of £220 plus VAT has been provided to cut back the overgrown hedge in front of nos. 27/28 Simpkins Drive to clear the footpath. Councillor Widdowfield **PROPOSED** approval of both quotes totalling £470 plus VAT, **SECONDED** by Councillor Miller and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

22/168 TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF CENTRAL BEDS COUNCIL CONSULTATION REGARDING PRIORITISED ROADS DURING EXTREME WEATHER AND CONSIDER ANY RESPONSE

CBC have launched a consultation regarding roads to be kept open as a priority during extreme weather. Luton Road, Bedford Road and Manor Road are currently the priorities for the Centre of the Village. After review, it was agreed that these covered the minimum to ensure access to schools and exiting the Village. No further response was considered necessary.

22/169 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

Councillor Paxton requested that the Clerk reports the overgrown footpath between Bradshaws Road and Osborn Road to Central Beds Council Rights of Way team.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm