

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2022 COMMENCING AT 8.26pm**

Present: Councillors Mr J Paxton (Chairman), Mr N Day (Vice-Chair), Mrs A Fletcher, Mr J Selley, Mr J Roberts, Mr W Rudd and Mrs B Thomas (ex-officio)

In Attendance: Mrs C Callen (Clerk)

Minutes: Mrs C Callen

22/293 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillor Miss G Widdowfield

22/294 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (*Cllrs may make declarations pertaining to the agenda at this point or at any point during the meeting*) –
Councillor Fletcher declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 22/298 as a member of Blooming Barton Group.

22/295 MATTERS ARISING –

Councillor Paxton welcomed Councillor Rudd onto the Committee.

The Clerk reported that Central Beds Council Highways team had completed the installation of wooden bollards along the roadside at the top of Old Road to prevent antisocial parking.

22/296 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3rd OCTOBER 2022

A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 3rd October 2022, **SECONDED** by Councillor Day **with 5 in favour and 2 abstentions**.

22/297 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTERS INSPECTION

The inspections undertaken on 16th November were acknowledged. Everything was in order.

22/298 UPDATE REGARDING THE TREE PLANTING GRANT AND AGREE WAY FORWARD

The Clerk has obtained 2 quotes for the supply of trees for the Queens Green Canopy in Arnold Recreation Ground. The Central Beds Council Grant team have been updated on the plans and a location map has been provided – they have advised that they do not need to undertake a site visit.

Following a review of the proposals and quotes, Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** to recommend the quote provided by Todds Nursery at a total cost of £4760 plus VAT, **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. Members agreed to use the funds donated by the Conservation Group, currently held in an Ear Marked Reserve, towards the Parish Councils contribution. In addition, Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** to include the Christmas tree being purchased by the Blooming Barton Group in their grant application, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley **with 6 in favour and 1 abstention**.

ACTION – Clerk to update CBC Grant team on the proposed purchases and agree way forward.

22/299 UPDATE REGARDING THE SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE AND AGREE WAY FORWARD

Central Beds Council Traffic Management team plan to install the Speed Indicator Device for Sharpenhoe Road by the end of the year. Under the Rural Match Funding scheme, the Parish Council will be expected to cover 50% of the costs following installation. The total costs have been advised as c. £4930.

ACTION – Clerk to investigate if the Police Commissioners Road Safety Grant can still be used to meet these costs.

22/300 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE FOR 2022/23 AND TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE DRAFT BUDGETS FOR 2023/24

Expenditure for 2022/23 was reviewed. Grass and hedge contractual work have been undertaken but minimal additional expense has been incurred so far this year. It was suggested that any underspend is reviewed in March 2023 and funds transferred to Ear Marked Reserves (EMR) as appropriate to save for future years work. Councillor Fletcher agreed to co-ordinate a review of all hedge works required around the Village so that these can be included in future annual contract quotes.

Budgets for 2023/24 allow for an increase of 5.7% for the Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract for grass and hedge cutting. Members felt this did not reflect the current rate of inflation, so the figures were reworked with a 10% increase. Routine bus shelter upkeep is expected to be minimal but additional funds proposed to be transferred into Bus Shelter EMR, towards an ongoing maintenance programme. Vandalism costs for replacement Perspex to be held in stock, in case of need. Funds to be put aside in Ear Marked Reserve for new bins and trees/shrubs maintenance.

A budget of £2000 to be transferred into EMR towards the next tree survey due in 2023 and £200 to be set aside for the future renovation of the Village signs.

Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** the approval of the draft 2023/24 Highways & Environment Income and Expenditure budgets, with a £8,300 committee precept. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Day and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

22/301 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

No further update has been received from Central Beds Council in respect of the parking issues around Ramsey Manor and Arnold Academy schools. Councillor Fletcher advised that both she and the Clerk had met with the head of the Pyramid Trust and the new Head Teacher at Arnold Academy to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan – issues with parking were raised with them.

It is hoped that the CBC Community Safety team will visit the site to tackle any poor parking offenders.

Meeting closed at 9:24pm