

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 23rd JANUARY 2023 COMMENCING AT 8.15pm**

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

In Attendance: Mrs C Callen (Clerk) and Councillors Mrs G Gardner and Mr S Laycock

Minutes: Mrs C Callen

22/410 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillors Miss G Widdowfield and Mr J Roberts

22/411 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.

22/412 MATTERS ARISING –

Re **Minute no. 22/298** – The Tree Planting Grant application has been submitted to Central Beds Council and a response is awaited.

Re **Minute no. 22/127.1** – Parking congestion outside Ramsey Manor Lower School is an ongoing problem. The school have introduced figure signs to encourage parents not to park on the zigzags. Several local residents are in contact with the school regarding cars parking across or on their driveways. This matter will be discussed with the headteachers from both Arnold Academy and Ramsey Manor Lower School on Thursday 26th January when Councillors Paxton, Gardner and Vale are due to meet with them.

The Clerk shares details of the roadworks and road closures for the Village on the website and Social Media. Unfortunately, several have recently had their dates changed or have not taken place as advertised. The Clerk always updates the notices when advised by Central Beds Council. The online <https://one.network/> site can also be used to check on roadworks. The information shared by the Parish Council is as up to date as possible.

Councillor Paxton reported that temporary repairs have been made by Central Beds Council to the worst of the potholes on Manor Road, pending more patching works scheduled for February.

22/413 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21st NOVEMBER 2022

A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 21st November 2022, **SECONDED** by Councillor Fletcher and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

22/414 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTERS INSPECTION

The inspections undertaken on 17th January were acknowledged. It was noted that the seat was slightly damaged at the Bedford Road North shelter, and the Perspex window in Windsor Road shelter is cloudy where graffiti was removed – neither of these needed replacing urgently and are not health and safety concerns. The small timetables in several of the shelters have not been replaced now that the large timetable boards have been installed. Everything else was in order.

ACTION – Councillor Thomas was concerned about the cloudy Perspex in Windsor Road as she felt they should look clean and tidy. Councillor Paxton agreed to review the condition of the Perspex in the Windsor Road shelter to see if it now needs replacing.

22/415 UPDATE REGARDING THE SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE FOR SHARPENHOE ROAD

The SID device in Sharpenhoe Road will be installed shortly. This will be paid for in full, from the PCC Road Safety Grant. The device will be positioned to face eastbound traffic. Central Beds Council (CBC) have confirmed that the device can be swivelled to face westbound traffic periodically at an additional cost of £500 each time, if the Parish Council consider this to be advantageous.

CBC will maintain the device for 5years. From the sixth year (April 2029), the Parish Council will be expected to cover the ongoing maintenance costs of c.£1000. Members agreed that a new Ear Marked Reserve should be established to save towards these costs over the next 5 years. Further actions will be considered once the device is installed.

The Clerk reported that a resident of Sharpenhoe Road has complained to the Parish Council regarding the vehicles speeding along Sharpenhoe Road and also the lack of street lighting on their side of the road. Both these issues are the responsibility of Central Beds Council. The Clerk has updated the resident on the Parish Council's efforts to reduce speeding following its application to CBC last year under the Rural Match Funding Scheme. They will contact CBC directly to try and get the situation reviewed. The Parish Council support their concerns but understand that there may be no suitable measures appropriate.

22/416 TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE PARISH COUNCILS ACTION PLAN 2023/24 FOR THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The draft Plan has been drawn up by the Clerk, following the Budget review at the end of 2022. Members discussed the role of the volunteer Tree Warden which has not been undertaken in recent years. It was agreed that with 3yearly tree inspections now being carried out by a contractor, there was no longer a need for a Tree warden. Members agreed to amend the Plan for the Groundsman to undertake periodic reviews. The committee were happy with the amended plan in respect of Highways & Environment to be put forward for adoption at the next Full Council meeting. Therefore, Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the draft Action Plan 2023/24, **SECONDED** by Councillor Rudd and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

22/417 TO CONSIDER WAY FORWARD WITH HEDGE AND TREE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR 2024

Maps showing the Parish Council owned land were provided ahead of the meeting. Members discussed how best to review the maintenance requirements for each area so that contractors can be asked to quote later in the year. It was agreed that Councillors would walk-around the Grange Road estate in the Spring, to review the requirements.

ACTION – Clerk to add this item to the next agenda to approve a suitable date.

22/418 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

There was none.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm