

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL  
ON MONDAY 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023 COMMENCING AT 8.05pm**

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

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

**Minutes:** Mrs C Callen

**22/551 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Councillors Mr J Roberts

**22/552 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.

**22/553 MATTERS ARISING** –

Re **Minute no. 22/298** – Tree Planting Grant has been requested from Central Beds Council to pay the invoice from Todds Nursery. Balance £1.5k to be paid from the Enhancing Environment Donation EMR. The trees are due to be planted on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Exact locations to be marked out during the week.

**ACTION – Councillors Paxton and Thomas and the Clerk to meet at the Recreation Ground with the Groundsman to mark out the locations.**

The Great British Spring Clean event is running until 2<sup>nd</sup> April. The Rotary Club and local Volunteers undertook a litter pick on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March, mainly clearing the road verges along Hexton, Luton and Sharpenhoe Roads. 10 rubbish bags were collected.

**ACTION – Clerk to write to the Rotary Club to thank them and their volunteers for their efforts.**

A resident has been in contact with the Parish Council after discussing their aspiration for tree planting in every garden with another resident. This might be something the Neighbourhood Plan Design Code could capture but it is mainly down to Central Beds Council (CBC) with regards to new builds. CBC have been giving out free trees to residents over recent months as part of the Queens Green Canopy initiative.

**ACTION – Clerk to respond to resident and send link to CBC Tree Planting website.**

Re **Minute no. 22/534.3** – Parking buddies and sign for Ramsey Manor School. The Clerk is arranging for these to be ordered in line with the school's requirements. A local sign maker is happy to provide small stickers to apply to the signs to state that they have been donated by the Parish Council at a small cost, all within the budget agreed.

**22/554 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2023**

A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023, **SECONDED** by Councillor Rudd **with 6 in favour and 1 abstention.**

**22/555 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTERS INSPECTION**

The inspections undertaken on 15<sup>th</sup> March were acknowledged. Everything was in order.

**22/556 TO CONSIDER THE TREE SURVEY FOR 2023**

The last tree survey was completed in 2020 and is now due again (every 3years). This covers c.400 trees. Including the woodland at Lovers Walk.

The Clerk has sent out messages to 3 different companies, asking for them to quote for the survey.

Once these companies have had a chance to review the works required and provide a quote, Members will be able to consider and approve the way forward. Funds have been budgeted for in the Tree Survey Ear Marked Reserve.

**22/557 TO CONSIDER WAY FORWARD WITH HEDGE AND TREE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR 2024**

Maps showing the Parish Council owned land were provided at the last meeting. It was agreed to have a walk about in April to review the urban areas and agree requirements, so that contractors can be asked to quote later in the year. After discussion, it was agreed to hold the walk about on 19<sup>th</sup> April, meeting at 6pm at the Bedford Road North bus stop at the entrance to Grange Road.

**22/558 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE**

Councillor Paxton reported that the resident has cut back their large conifers on Grange Road, which have sometimes caused issues to pedestrians in the past when left to overgrow.

Councillor Rudd asked about ownership of a large tree on the green space in Manor Farm Close, which is dropping several branches and may need pruning.

**ACTION – Clerk to investigate ownership.**

Meeting closed at 8.32pm