

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL  
ON MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 7.52pm**

**Present:** Councillors J Paxton (Chairman), A Fletcher and A Tebb

**In Attendance:** C Callen (Clerk) and Councillor S Laycock

**Minutes:** C Callen

**23/184 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – These were received from Councillors N Day, J Selley and W Rudd.

**23/185 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.

**23/186 MATTERS ARISING** –

Re: **minute ref 23/103.5** – As discussed at Full Council, the Clerk contacted Central Beds Council Highways Improvement Schemes following the meeting Councillor Paxton had with CBC Highways and the two Ward Councillors, regarding possible crossing improvements on Bedford Road. No response has been received. This area will be discussed with DPCC as referenced under item 23/192.

The Parish Council have been sent details of the ‘Slow Ways’ national walking network. This has been set up to make it easier for people to walk and cycle between places, using a network of trusted routes. They are asking for Councils to help survey the routes and submit reviews so that they can be added to the network. Members agreed that as there are no local facilities (parking/toilets), then the request should be declined.

Re: **minute ref 23/103.4** – The CBC Active Streets Engagement Officer has agreed to attend the Committee meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> October to provide more information on their Play Streets and School Streets programmes.

The Clerk advised that the Greensand Trust have started the process to list the chalk stream that runs through the Village as part of the Chiltern Chalk Streams network. This will help to protect it through active projects co-ordinated through the Chiltern Society.

**23/187 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> JULY 2023**

A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023, **SECONDED** by Councillor Fletcher and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

**23/188 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTERS INSPECTION**

The inspections undertaken on 21<sup>st</sup> September were acknowledged. Everything was in order.

**23/189 TO RETROSPECTIVELY APPROVE COST FOR TREE WORKS ON GRANGE ROAD ESTATE**

At the last meeting, it was agreed to fell a tree on Ashby Drive. The Clerk met with the tree surgeon on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September and discussed the additional works required in that area as a result of the Tree Survey. A reduced fee for the extra work was negotiated, provided it was done at the same time as the Ashby Drive tree. After reference to Councillor Paxton as Chairman, it was agreed to accept their quote.

Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** retrospective approval of the cost of £120 plus VAT for the tree works, **SECONDED** by Councillor Fletcher and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

**23/190 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE COSTS FOR TREE WORKS AROUND THE VILLAGE**

The Clerk has obtained quotes from three tree surgeons for the tree works required at the Sports Field, Recreation Ground and Burial Ground, as highlighted in the Tree Survey. Quotes in respect of the works required at Lovers Walk have been requested by early October. Following consideration, Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval for Jempson Tree Services Ltd to

undertake the work for a total maximum cost of £2,800 plus VAT, **SECONDED** by Councillor Tebb and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. This includes the felling of a dangerous tree at the entrance to Lovers Walk, not included in the full Tree Survey but advised to fell as a matter of urgency during the follow-up meeting with the Arboriculturist. Members agreed that for safety reasons this work should be instructed as soon as possible.

**23/191 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE INVOLVEMENT IN CENTRAL BEDS COUNCIL SALT BAG SCHEME**

CBC have offered Parish Councils free salt bags this winter. They will deliver either 1 tonne or 0.5 tonne bags from October over the winter – maximum 3x deliveries. The salt will need to be stored and can be spread by local volunteers or groundsman on minor roads and pavements not covered by gritting routes. Storage should be on an impermeable surface and covered with tarpaulin. There is only one salt bin in the Village (Manor Road/Bedford Road junction) which has not been used for several years. Members discussed the implications and responsibility of managing salting of paths and roads. It was felt that a strategy, including full gritting plan, should be prepared to cover any liability before the Parish Council agree to take on this service.

Therefore, Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** to reject the offer for 2023 and look at a strategy for 2024, **SECONDED** by Councillor Tebb and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

**ACTION – Clerk to speak to the Ward Councillors and neighbouring similar-sized Parishes for their strategy.**

**23/192 TO CONSIDER TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND AGREE WAY FORWARD**

As discussed with the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, the Parish Council were unsuccessful with its applications for Rural Match funding last year to improve the safety on the roads around the Village. A meeting has now been arranged for 11<sup>th</sup> October for the Parish Council to do a walkabout with Ian Dalgarno, DPCC, to see what could be achieved as part of a revised Traffic Management strategy, including pedestrian crossings and speed limit reductions.

**23/193 TO ACKNOWLEDGE CENTRAL BEDS COUNCIL HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME FOR 2023/24**

Details of the Programme were shared with members and acknowledged. It was noted that the surface dressing on Bedford Road, Manor Road and Faldo Road had now been completed. Further footway resurfacing works and traffic calming are planned for Q3/4.

**23/194 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE TREE PLANTING STRATEGY**

In 2021, the Parish Council laid out its Tree Planting Strategy. Members reviewed the strategy and no amendments were considered necessary. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the Tree Planting Strategy V2, **SECONDED** by Councillor Fletcher and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

**23/195 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE TREE & HEDGE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

The Clerk has reviewed the current policy and recommended minor changes to update it. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the amended Tree & Hedge Management Policy v3, **SECONDED** by Councillor Fletcher and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

**23/196 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE**

There was none.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm