

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 7.58pm**

Present: Councillors J Paxton (Chairman), N Day (Vice-chairman) and A Tebb

In Attendance: C Callen (Clerk)

Minutes: C Callen

- 23/293 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – These were received from Councillors A Fletcher, J Selley and W Rudd.
- 23/294 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.
- 23/295 MATTERS ARISING** –
Re: **Minute ref 23/190** – Jempson Tree Services will undertake the work at the Sports Field on 7th December. The Football Club have been advised. Planning applications for the Recreation Ground and Burial Ground have been submitted and should be confirmed by 20th December. The Felling Licence for Lovers Walk has been submitted.
- 23/296 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30th OCTOBER 2023**
A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Day **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 30th October 2023, **SECONDED** by Councillor Tebb **with 2 in favour and 1 abstention**.
- 23/297 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTERS INSPECTION**
The next inspections will be undertaken week commencing 20th November, when the shelters will be washed. The Groundsmen replaced the broken Perspex section of the Bus Shelter in Windsor Road on 14th November.
- 23/298 UPDATE REGARDING ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AND CONSIDER WAY FORWARD**
Central Beds Council have replied to both a local resident and Ward Councillor Childs in response to their requests for road safety improvements in the Village. Members discussed the feedback given in their decisions to decline the requests. It was agreed that the Parish Council should continue to build a case for safety measures, with relevant evidence, as agreed at the meeting on 30th October.
ACTION – Clerk to acknowledge correspondence from resident and continue to build evidence collection, working with the schools and Ward Councillors.
- 23/299 TO ACKNOWLEDGE CENTRAL BEDS COUNCIL RIGHTS OF WAY REVIEW OF THE FOOTPATH ROUTES THROUGH THE VILLAGE AND AGREE WAY FORWARD REGARDING ONGOING MAINTENANCE**
The Rights of Way Officer has contacted the Parish Council to request a review all the footpaths through the Village so that they can ensure the correct ones are included on their maintenance contract for next year. Members reviewed the map and agreed the areas to be included.
ACTION – Clerk to send the updated map to CBC Rights of Way Officer to action.
- 23/300 TO ACKNOWLEDGE CPRE HEDGEROW PROJECT AND CONSIDER WAY FORWARD**
Beds CPRE have contacted the Parish Council regarding an expression of interest in joining their Hedgerow Heros project, where they are looking to increase hedgerows by 40% by 2050 in response to Climate Change. They are looking for commitment to help plant or restore local hedgerows in Bedfordshire. The Parish Council are already committed to planting within the Village, with new hedgerows planted at the Allotments and Community Garden areas over the last few years and other areas planned.
ACTION – Clerk to respond to CPRE request with details of what is being done locally.

23/301 TO CONSIDER SUPPORT OF THE CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY BILL

Zero Hour have contacted the Parish Council requesting support for the Climate and Ecology Bill. They are suggesting lobbying the local MP. Following discussion, members agreed that whilst it was an important subject, it would be inappropriate to respond on behalf of the Village without more detailed knowledge and views from parishioners.

23/302 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE EXPENSITURE FOR 2023/24 AND TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE DRAFT BUDGETS FOR 2024/25

Expenditure for 2023/24 was reviewed. Grass and hedge contractual works have been undertaken and the Tree Survey completed. Remedial Tree works are due to be completed by the end of February. It was suggested that any underspend is reviewed in March 2024 and funds transferred to Ear Marked Reserves (EMR) as appropriate to save for future projects.

Budgets for 2024/25 allow for an increase of 5% for the Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract for grass and hedge cutting. 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 review of dog bin coverage to be undertaken, to address requests for additional bins.

A budget of £1750 to be transferred into EMR towards the next tree survey due in 2026, as well as £1500 for future tree works. £200 to be set aside for the future renovation of the Village signs.

Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** the approval of the draft 2024/25 Highways & Environment Income and Expenditure budgets, with a £8,785 committee precept. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Tebb and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

23/303 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

There was none.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm