

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 15th JANUARY 2024 COMMENCING AT 7.30pm**

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

In Attendance: C Callen (Clerk) and Councillor B Thomas

Minutes: C Callen

23/389 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – These were received from Councillor W Rudd. Councillor Day advised that he would arrive late to the meeting.

23/390 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.

23/391 MATTERS ARISING –

The Groundsmen have cut back the hedges on Smithcombe Close. These hedges were cut back in parts by the Contractor last winter but left untidy, as noted during the Spring 2023 Walkabout by the Committee. They are now easier to manage and keep on top of. The Clerk has discussed with the Contractor using the allocated hedge contract to concentrate on the areas in need of more attention.

Re: **minute No. 23/300** – CPRE have acknowledged the Parish Council response to their Hedgerow Heroes Project. Barton-le-Clay will not be part of their 2024 project as the works on hedgerows are already being undertaken by the Council.

Central Beds Council (CBC) Highways have confirmed that they will be doing some drain/gully clearance work urgently on the Hexton Road by Old Road, where the recent flooding has been seen.

As advised at Full Council, CBC and The Environment Agency have requested details of areas affected by the recent flooding. The Village has not been affected significantly by flooding, only localised areas on fields and the corner of Hexton Road where the gullies need clearing. No houses have been impacted and the existing drainage is working as intended. No response is proposed.

In 1951, Bedfordshire County Council commissioned a number of roadside signs for Bedfordshire villages to commemorate the Festival of Britain. Most of these signs are still in existence, including in Barton-le-Clay, but sadly the crests have either been lost or are in need of refurbishment. A company has contacted the Parish Council to offer their services to undertake this work. The Clerk was asked to investigate costs, etc. and bring to the next meeting for further discussion.

23/392 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20th NOVEMBER 2023

A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 20th November 2023, **SECONDED** by Councillor Tebb **with 2 in favour and 2 abstentions**.

23/393 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTERS INSPECTION

The next inspections will be undertaken week commencing 15th January, when the shelters will be washed.

23/394 TO ACKNOWLEDGE CENTRAL BEDS COUNCIL TREE PLANTING SUPPORT AND AGREE WAY FORWARD

CBC Sustainability Team confirmed that they are continuing their Tree Planting Support for the Community. Details were provided to members ahead of the meeting. Following discussion,

members agreed that the Clerk should investigate if a Grant can be obtained for the replanting at Lover's Walk and possibly for additional hedgerow at the Community Garden.

The Clerk was also asked to contact the landowner East of the Village, to see if the sapling tree guards which are no longer required on the fields could be recycled by the Parish Council for use at Lovers Walk.

ACTION – Clerk to take forward, as requested.

(Councillor Day joined the meeting at 7.51pm)

23/395 TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE PARISH COUNCIL'S ACTION PLAN 2024/25 FOR THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The draft Plan has been drawn up by the Clerk, following the Budget review at the end of 2023. With regards to traffic calming and road safety, it was agreed to add working with the Ward Councillors and Police to improve traffic management and parking around the Village. The tree-planting project at Lovers Walk has also been added. 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 amended draft Action Plan 2024/25, **SECONDED** by Councillor Fletcher and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

23/396 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE ADDITIONAL DOG WASTE BIN PROVISION

Several residents have expressed the need for additional dog waste bins, particularly in the Norman Road and Manor Road locations. The existing bins are often seen overflowing. The Clerk provided a map of the current locations for both dog bins and normal waste bins (which can also be used). Any new bins would need to be emptied by CBC Waste Services and so locations should be easily accessible for them. The Parish Council have a budget for replacement bins, if required. Members reviewed the current locations and, after consideration, agreed that a request for bins should be made to CBC to put bins on amenity land on the corner of Windsor Road and Norman Road, Whitehill Road and Manor Road, Dunstall Road and Manor Road and at the entrance to Arnold Recreation Ground at the Washbrook Close entrance. It was suggested that the current double bins which are under-utilised on Higham Gobion Road could be relocated to one of these locations, to save costs.

ACTION – Clerk to liaise with CBC Waste Services with the request for additional bins.

23/397 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

There was none.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm