

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2024 COMMENCING AT 8.01pm**

Present: Councillors J Paxton (Chairman), A Fletcher, J Selley, W Rudd and A Tebb

In Attendance: C Callen (Clerk) and Councillors S Laycock and B Thomas

Minutes: C Callen

23/482 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – These were received from Councillor N Day

23/483 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.

23/484 MATTERS ARISING –

The majority of the hedge work has now been completed by contractors around the Village.

Macauley Tree Services have been working on the trees at Lovers Walk. Following a site visit by the Clerk, it became clear that there was some confusion with the Arboriculturists report over what work was required. Work was halted and Councillors Day, Paxton and the Clerk arranged to meet the contractor on site when a full assessment of the work was undertaken. A report will be sent to the Forestry Commission.

23/485 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15th JANUARY 2024

A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 15th January 2024, **SECONDED** by Councillor Tebb **with 4 in favour and 1 abstention.**

23/486 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTERS INSPECTION

The inspections completed on 22nd February were acknowledged. Everything was in order and the bus shelters were washed.

23/487 UPDATE REGARDING REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL DOG WASTE BINS FOR VILLAGE

Following discussion at the last meeting under item 23/396, the Clerk submitted a formal request to Central Beds Council Waste Services for 4 additional bins. Feedback from CBC was discussed at the meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the residents living close to the proposed locations for consent and then work with CBC to provide the bins.

ACTION – Clerk to contact residents and CBC Waste Services to progress project, involving Ward Councillors if necessary.

23/488 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR PERMISSIVE FOOTPATH

A local farmer has requested funding support to set up a permissive footpath across their land to create a circular route for local residents to walk and enjoy without having to walk on roads or fields – linking FP16 on the East and BW16 on the West. They are looking for £200 for the signage and set up costs (grass seed, etc.) and then c.£35 pa for the ongoing maintenance (mowing, etc. - 2 cuts per annum) based on 12p per meter for the 284m length. They would do additional cuts at their own cost. After consideration, Councillor Fletcher **PROPOSED** approval for the £200 set up cost and £35pa maintenance costs, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

23/489 TO CONSIDER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN EVENT 2024

The next Great British Spring Clean event is planned for 15th March – 31st March 2024.

In recent years, the Rotary Club have organised an event and the Parish Council have arranged the collection of the waste from a pre-agreed location, following the event, with CBC. The Keep Britain Tidy website has lots of useful information, posters, logos, etc. for publicity. Members agreed to contact the Rotary Club to see if they are happy to undertake this event again this year, with the support of the Council.

23/490 TO ACKNOWLEDGE REQUEST TO SIGN A PETITION FOR CENTRAL BEDS COUNCIL TO ADOPT A CLEAR PAVEMENT POLICY

The Parish Council have been approached by Biggleswade Living Streets asking the Council to support their e-petition to CBC regarding making pavements safer and accessible for all. Whilst there were some good suggestions, members were not happy with all the suggestions proposed. Following discussion, it was agreed that members should respond on an individual basis.

ACTION – Clerk to email the link to all Councillors.

23/491 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Members agreed to consider the Tree Planting Strategy for Lovers Walk, in line with the Forestry Commission Felling Licence, at the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.33pm