

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE  
ON MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 COMMENCING AT 8.18pm**

**Present:** Councillors J Paxton (Chairman), S Laycock (Vice-chairman), A Fletcher, J Selley, A Vale, W Rudd and A Tebb

**In Attendance:** C Callen (Clerk)

**Minutes:** C Callen

**24/287 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – These were received from Councillor J Mikkelson.

**24/288 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.

**24/289 MATTERS ARISING** –

The drainage works at Old Road to clear the standing water started on 11<sup>th</sup> November and continued all week, including an overnight road closure for the pumping to be completed. Unfortunately, over the weekend it was reported that there were two water leaks on the bridleway and Anglian Water were called out to fix them. This has resulted in further flooding issues. The Clerk is seeking an update from Central Beds Council to see if they are able to fix the problem and will provide more information at the next meeting.

The Clerk reported that Ward Councillor Childs has written to the landowners for Morrisons, to highlight the concerns raised by residents regarding the potholes, wall and tree on the service road on Bedford Road, outside the shop. A response is awaited.

**24/290 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>rd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024**

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> September 2024, **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock with **4 in favour and 3 abstentions**.

**24/291 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE EXPENSITURE FOR 2024/25 AND TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE DRAFT BUDGETS FOR 2025/26**

Expenditure for 2024/25 was reviewed. Grass contractual works have been undertaken, with only 14 cuts against a budget of 17 for the year. Hedge works are due to be completed in the coming weeks, in line with the contracts. Bus shelters have been painted with the help of the Probation Service. Any underspend will be reviewed in March 2025 and funds transferred to Ear Marked Reserves (EMR) as appropriate, to save for future projects.

Budgets for 2025/26 allow for an increase of 4.5% 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 and replacement 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 dog bins and trees/shrubs planting and maintenance. Central Beds Council to be approached for a tree planting grant for Lovers Walk and the Probation Service are keen to assist with the planting project.

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. At present there is no clear strategy for road calming projects identified in the Village. A meeting is being arranged with Central Beds Council Highways Officers to discuss options.

Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** the approval of the draft 2025/26 Highways & Environment Income and Expenditure budgets, with a £8,900 committee precept. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

**24/292 TO ACKNOWLEDGE CENTRAL BEDS COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS REGARDING FREIGHT STRATEGY AND STREET TRADING POLICY, AND AGREE ATTENDANCE AT THE TOPIC ONLINE SESSION ON 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**

Central Beds Council have launched two new consultations, which were acknowledged. They are holding an online topic session on 25<sup>th</sup> November at 6pm to provide more details for Town and Parish Councils. Councillors Fletcher and Paxton agreed to attend.

**24/293 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA**

Councillor Fletcher requested that the Parish Council contact Central Beds Council, Anglian Water and the Internal Drainage Board to try and investigate why properties in the Village flooded in September, following the heavy rains. This will help to inform any future strategy for the Village.

Meeting closed at 8.56pm