

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE  
ON MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025 COMMENCING AT 8.02pm**

**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

**24/374 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – These were received from Councillor J Mikkelson.

**24/375 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.

**24/376 MATTERS ARISING** –

The Head Teacher from Arnold Academy has contacted the Parish Council following complaints raised by residents regarding the football being played on Dunstall Road green space by their children before and after school. The Parish Council also received complaints in the Autumn and referred the matter to the CBC Neighbourhood Safety Officers but as there are no restrictions against ball games, there was nothing they could do except advising the residents to either speak to Central Beds Council (CBC) via their Ward Councillors or speak to the school, which it would appear is what they did. The school are hoping that with improved communications with the children, parents and residents, an amicable solution can be found, which allows the children to enjoy the outside recreation, without annoying the residents.

The Clerk chased the CBC Rights of Way Officer before Christmas regarding the issue with gates at Lovers Walk. Several residents are concerned about the now open area and also the impact the works at the Old Reservoir may have. More frequent inspections may be required as we go into the Spring in this area, which is a County Wildlife Site.

The Clerk has now spoken to the landowner of the Old Reservoir site and sent him photos of the soil spillage into the woodland. Looking at the deeds, it may well be that the soil is going into woodland which is not part of Lovers Walk that the Parish Council own. Further investigations will be made.

Central Beds Council have undertaken urgent gully clearance works on Manor Road bend on 20<sup>th</sup> January, to improve drainage following the floods last September.

The Clerk reported that the Village Gates on Sharpenhoe Road eastbound have fallen over. The Groundsmen were requested to make repairs as soon as possible to prevent any further damage.

**24/377 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**

A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024, **SECONDED** by Councillor Tebb and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

**24/378 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTER INSPECTIONS**

The inspections completed on 16<sup>th</sup> January were acknowledged. Everything was in order and the shelters were washed.

**24/379 UPDATE REGARDING REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL DOG WASTE BIN PROVISION AND AGREE WAY FORWARD**

Following several requests from residents for the need for additional dog waste bins, last year the Clerk requested approval from CBC to add new bins in several locations. Some were refused but others required confirmation from the neighbouring properties that the bin could be put there. The Clerk has now written to the properties in Manor Road/Dunstall Road and received no objections

(deadline was 17/01/25). Following discussion, Councillor Fletcher **PROPOSED** the approval to purchase a new dog waste bin for Arnold Recreation Ground, Washbrook Close entrance, and to request CBC install a dog waste bin on the junction of Dunstall Road and Manor Road. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Tebb and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. A follow-up review will be undertaken later in the year to see if a further bin is required on the Norman Road estate.

**24/380 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE APPLICATION FOR CENTRAL BEDS COUNCIL TREE PLANTING GRANT FOR LOVERS WALK AND AGREE WAY FORWARD**

Under the terms of the Felling Licence for Lovers Walk in 2023, the Parish Council are required to re-stock the area on a ratio of 3:1, a minimum 42 stems, to replace the trees felled in February 2024. Work is to be completed within 2 years. Central Beds Council currently offer grants for tree planting with applications closing on 31<sup>st</sup> January. Tree guards have already been acquired second hand from PX Farms which can be used to protect some of the saplings.

The Clerk is proposing the Council seek a grant for 75 saplings across 5 species, plus some additional tree guards, to meet the terms of the licence. Additional costs may include bark chippings and soil, although there are already ample chippings on the woodland floor from the felling that could be used. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval for the grant to be submitted on this basis, with the total cost to purchase the items from The Woodland Trust of £292.75 plus VAT. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Vale and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

**24/381 TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE PARISH COUNCIL'S ACTION PLAN 2025/26 FOR THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

The draft Plan has been drawn up by the Clerk, following the Budget review at the end of 2024. Minor amendments to dates have been suggested to update the current projects being progressed. 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 2025/26, **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

**24/382 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA**

A meeting has been arranged for Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 8am with Central Beds Council Highways team to review potential road safety and traffic calming measures for the centre of the Village. The Ward Councillors will also be attending. Councillor Qureshi and Tebb and the Clerk will represent the Parish Council.

Meeting closed at 8.33pm