

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE
ON MONDAY 29th SEPTEMBER 2025 COMMENCING AT 7.46pm**

Present: Councillors J Paxton (Chair), S Laycock (Vice-chair), J Selley, W Rudd and A Tebb

In Attendance: C Callen (Clerk)

Minutes: C Callen

- 25/191 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – These were received from Councillors A Fletcher, A Vale and J Mikkelsen.
- 25/192 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.
- 25/193 MATTERS ARISING** –
Traffic surveys are currently being undertaken on Manor Road, outside Ramsey Manor School and just before the Whitehill junction. This is part of Central Beds Council Highway's work to assess any traffic management requirements on the road, following the Petition submitted by Councillor Childs.
- The Clerk attended the online topic session on Waste Strategy on 25th September. Central Beds Council are consulting on their strategy until 14th October and the Clerk gave a brief update.
- 25/194 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23rd JUNE 2025**
A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 23rd June 2025, **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.
- 25/195 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTER INSPECTIONS**
The inspections completed on 22nd September were acknowledged. Everything was in order.
- 25/196 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE TREE AND HEDGE MANAGEMENT POLICY**
The Clerk has reviewed the current policy. No changes are proposed. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the Tree and Hedge Management Policy v.4, **SECONDED** by Councillor Tebb and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.
- 25/197 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE TREE PLANTING STRATEGY**
The Clerk has reviewed the current strategy. Amendments were suggested with regards to tree planting at Lovers Walk, which is due this Autumn. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** to approve the amended Tree Planting Strategy, **SECONDED** by Councillor Tebb and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.
- 25/198 TO ACKNOWLEDGE CENTRAL BEDS COUNCIL 'FLOOD READY TOGETHER' EVENTS BEING HELD IN OCTOBER AND CONSIDER ATTENDANCE**
CENTRAL Beds Council are launching 'Flood Ready Together' this autumn to help residents take simple and practical steps to protect themselves, their families and their homes from flooding. A series of events are being held across the area, including practical advice from: The National Flood Forum, Environment Agency, the Internal Drainage Board and Anglian Water, as well as view local flood maps and pick up free resources. Councillor Paxton agreed to attend the event on 14th October in Flitwick and report back.
- 25/199 TO CONSIDER JOINING THE SLOW WAYS DIGITAL PLATFORM FOR LOCAL NETWORK WALKING AND CYCLING ROUTES**
The Parish Council has been invited to sign up for this service. Members debated the possible pros and cons for the Village. After consideration, Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** to not progress with this project, given the traffic issues that were experienced during the Covid lock down in

2020, the lack of parking and no facilities available and the additional cost for the membership. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

25/200 TO CONSIDER COST TO REPAIR/REPLACE THE VILLAGE GATES

The Village Gates at the entrances to the Village are in need of maintenance. Some need repainting or replacing. There is currently £800 in the Ear Marked Reserve towards this project. Several suppliers now offer recycled plastic options in different designs, which reduce ongoing maintenance. Working on these areas is not easy for the Groundsmen due to their location at the side of busy roads. After discussion, it was agreed to obtain quotes to initially replace the gates on Hexton Road on a like-for like basis design – depending on timescales, it might be possible to coincide any works on Hexton Road with the planned road closure at the end of October for the installation of speed humps. The Clerk will investigate costs and report back at the next meeting so that a full strategy programme can be approved.

25/201 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

There was none.

Meeting closed at 8.11pm