

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE
ON MONDAY 19th JANUARY 2026 COMMENCING AT 7.50pm**

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

In Attendance: C Callen (Clerk)

Minutes: C Callen

25/385 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – These were received from Councillors J Mikkelson and W Rudd.

25/386 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.

25/387 MATTERS ARISING –

Central Beds Council Traffic Management have responded to complaints raised by local residents regarding the safety of pedestrians using the zebra crossing on Hexton Road, outside the Village Hall. They suggest the Police are alerted to the dangerous driving issues experienced by families. They have agreed to investigate upgrading the beacons to newer LED units and to arrange for the maintenance team to look at refreshing the road markings.

Central Beds Council have launched a consultation on proposed new powers to tackle vehicle-related anti-social behaviour across the area, including car meets, street racing, excessive engine noise, etc. If introduced, the Public Space Protection Order will enable the Police to take suitable enforcement action. Members were encouraged to respond.

Re: **Minute no. 25/290** The Rotary Club are considering whether they contribute anything towards the replacement of the Village Gates or just update their current signage. Councillor Fletcher also suggested that Blooming Barton might wish to have some recognition on the Village Gates. This item will be discussed again further at the next meeting.

25/388 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17th NOVEMBER 2025

A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 17th November 2025, **SECONDED** by Councillor Fletcher **with 5 in favour and 1 abstention**.

25/389 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTER INSPECTIONS

The inspections completed on 12th January were acknowledged. Leaves and branches were removed and everything was in order.

25/390 UPDATE REGARDING TREE PLANTING AT LOVERS WALK AND AGREE WAY FORWARD

Re: minute no. 25/291, the tree saplings from the Woodland Trust have now been delivered and require planting. Members considered arrangements for the planting. It was agreed that Councillors Tebb and Vale meet the Clerk on site on Thursday 22nd January at 10am, to agree locations and timings for the tree planting.

25/391 UPDATE REGARDING THE PROPOSED DITCH WORKS ON HEXTON ROAD

Councillor Paxton and the Clerk & Assistant Clerk met with the Operations Manager from IDB Bedford Group of Drainage Boards on Friday 16th to consider the works they have been contracted to complete on behalf of Central Beds Council on the ditch at Hexton Road. They had previously requested space at the Allotments for the disposal of the silt, but were advised that this area is not suitable due to its use for parking for allotment tenants, the narrow roadway unable to support large lorries and the contamination issues advised previously.

A copy of the contamination report has been requested – it would seem to only reflect tar and waste from the roads and there is no fuel or other major pollutants. A lane closure will be required to complete the works so they are trying to get a date during the Easter school holidays. It was

suggested that the silt could be collected on Mr Horner's Field at the top of Old Road. Further details will be provided at the Full Council meeting.

25/392 TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE PARISH COUNCIL'S ACTION PLAN 2026/27 FOR THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The draft Plan has been drawn up by the Clerk, following the Budget review at the end of 2025. 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 2026/27, **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

25/393 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Councillor Tebb highlighted the feedback that was sent out to members on 19th December, following her attendance at the Environmental Forum in November. In particular, the Food Matters team who have been engaged by Central Beds Council to work on a project around sustainable food and community-led food initiatives: community fridges, orchards, allotments, food share, etc. It was suggested that a representative from Food Matters attend a Council Meeting to discuss how to formalise sharing excess produce from within the Village with those in food poverty. It was agreed that the Leisure Committee would take this forward as part of the Allotments surplus produce considerations.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm