

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE  
ON MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2026 COMMENCING AT 7.48pm**

**Present:** Councillors S Laycock (Vice-chairman), A Fletcher, W Rudd, A Vale and J Mikkelson

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

**Minutes:** C Callen

- 25/480 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – These were received from Councillors J Paxton, J Selley and A Tebb.
- 25/481 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.
- 25/482 MATTERS ARISING** –  
Councillor Paxton, Ward Councillor Childs and the Clerk are due to meet on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the damaged grass verges around the Village, particularly near the schools and The Royal Oak, to agree a proposal for Central Beds Council (CBC) to consider ways to improve the situation. An update will be provided at the Next Full Council meeting.
- Re: **Minute no. 25/369.3** – Works to improve the bus stop at Bedford Road South (Hanover Place) were undertaken on 11<sup>th</sup> February, raising the kerb to allow passengers to step on and off the bus easier. Further works are planned for the other bus stops on Bedford Road but no further dates have been given.
- 25/483 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026**  
A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Laycock **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026, **SECONDED** by Councillor Fletcher **with 3 in favour and 2 abstentions**.
- 25/484 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTER INSPECTIONS**  
The inspections completed on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February were acknowledged. Everything was in order and the shelters were washed on 10<sup>th</sup> February.
- 25/485 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE BIODIVERSITY POLICY**  
The Clerk has reviewed the current policy and no changes were proposed. A copy was provided to members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Laycock **PROPOSED** approval of the Biodiversity Policy version 2.0, **SECONDED** by Councillor Rudd and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.
- 25/486 TO CONSIDER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN EVENT 2026**  
The next Great British Spring Clean event is planned for 13<sup>th</sup> March – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026. 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 support the Rotary event again this year. In addition, the local ‘Barton Spring Cleans’ group will be contacted to see if they also want to litter pick around the Village, focusing on the footpaths to the East of the centre.  
**ACTION – Clerk to contact the Groups to agree dates and arrangements.**
- 25/487 UPDATE REGARDING THE PROPOSED DITCH WORKS ON HEXTON ROAD**  
As previously advised, IDB Bedford Group of Drainage Boards have been contracted to complete the drainage works on behalf of Central Beds Council on the ditch at Hexton Road. They have now confirmed that the planned works will take place on the roadside ditch between the allotments entrance and the Anglian Water sewer inlet, including the culvert under the access road to the Village Hall/Doctors. Planned date for the work is 30<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> April (Easter school

holidays). The culvert will be jetted by a separate contractor and may include the culvert under Hexton Road between the Recreation Ground and the ditch.

Silt will be collected on the field at the top of Old Road to dry out and then removed permanently from the site, with any reinstatement works completed.

A lane closure will be required to complete the works with traffic control lights. Pedestrians will be routed via Manor Road. The contractors have been given permission to park 4 vehicles in the Village Hall car park.

**25/488 UPDATE REGARDING VEGETATION ISSUES ON FOOTPATHS AND AGREE WAY FORWARD**

The Clerk and Councillor Childs met with the CBC Rights of Way Officer and a member of the CBC Assets (Trees) team on 18<sup>th</sup> February to consider what actions to take to clear vegetation from the footpaths to the east of the centre of the Village. The RoW Officer is trying to get some involvement from Environmental Services and the Volunteers P3 group to complete some of the works. She is also proposing to write to some residents, asking them to cut back overhanging vegetation from their gardens. Tree works are proposed on the footpath from Chiltern Road to Whitehill. Suggested wording for a Social Media piece was discussed. Litter picking could also be done in this area as part of GBSC.

**25/489 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA**

There was none.

Meeting closed at 8.23pm