

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 15th JUNE 2026 COMMENCING AT 7.40pm**

Present: Councillors J Paxton (Chair), S Laycock (Vice-chair), A Fletcher, A Vale, J Selley,
A Tebb and J Mikkelsen (ex-officio)

In Attendance: C Callen (Clerk)

Minutes: C Callen

26/059 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – There were none.

26/060 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.

26/061 MATTERS ARISING –

Urgent repairs to Hexton Road speed hump potholes were completed over the weekend. The repairs to Norman Road are scheduled for September, once the Higham Gobion Road closure has reopened.

26/062 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23rd FEBRUARY 2026

A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 23rd February 2026, **SECONDED** by Councillor Fletcher with 4 in favour and 3 abstentions.

26/063 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTER INSPECTIONS

The inspections completed on 15th June were acknowledged. Everything was in order.

26/064 TO CONSIDER TREE SURVEY AND AGREE WAY FORWARD

The 3yearly survey of Village trees is now due. For the last few years, this has covered the main areas with mature trees (c.400+), but other areas have now grown up. Since the last survey, an additional review was done of Arnold Recreation Ground trees, covering those bordering Hexton Road and Church Road and also a couple of trees have come down between the top field and the Springs.

Following discussion, Councillor Fletcher **PROPOSED** approval that all mature trees on land owned by the Parish Council are included in this year's survey, **SECONDED** by Councillor Vale and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

ACTION – Clerk to obtain quotes for the Parish Council to approve.

26/065 TO ACKNOWLEDGE GRAFFITI/VANDALISM AT THE ENTRANCE TO LOVERS WALK AND CONSIDER WAY FORWARD

As previously reported, the graffiti to the gate and concrete block have now been removed by the Rangers. However, the graffiti on the tree trunk remains. The best treatment would seem to be masking the graffiti using organic, non-toxic outdoor camouflage paint to cover the graffiti while protecting the tree from chemicals or physical abrasion. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** a maximum budget of £100 plus VAT to cover the cost of the materials, **SECONDED** by Councillor Fletcher and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

26/066 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL LITTER PICKING EQUIPMENT FOR USE BY VOLUNTEERS

The Barton Spring Clean volunteers continue to undertake regular litter picking around the Village and use the equipment provided by the Parish Council several years ago, or their own.

The Parish Council have now been approached by the local Brownies to ask if they can borrow litter picking equipment. They are doing a Girl Guiding Challenge Badge, which includes learning about nature and the environment, and they would like to do a litter pick in the Village during one

of their sessions on a Monday night to support their badge work. There are about 15 Brownies in the pack.

Unfortunately, the Parish Council does not hold spare bin bag hoops or litter pickers. It was agreed that the Brownies be offered gloves and waste bags only and to dispose of any rubbish collected via their own waste collection.

26/067 TO CONSIDER SIGNAGE AT TOP OF CHURCH ROAD/OLD ROAD RE COUNTRYSIDE CODE

As highlighted at Full Council (Minute no. 26/044.4), additional signage is suggested to discourage parking and anti-social behaviour from visitors to the Recreation Ground and Nature Reserve. CBC Highways have refused to provide additional street signage. Reinforcement of the Countryside Code might be appropriate, in conjunction with Natural England. Members agreed to see what changes Natural England introduce, following their recent fire and the anti-social behaviour seen on the Reserve. The Leisure Committee will consider additional signage for the Recreation Ground.

26/068 TO REVIEW THE RISK ASSESSMENTS FOR HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The Clerk completed the annual review of the risk assessments for Highways & Environment responsibilities in March. A copy of the assessments was provided to members ahead of the meeting. Following review, no changes were proposed to the assessments.

26/069 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Councillor Paxton reported the overgrown hedges on the footpath between Mill Land and Grange Road. The Clerk will chase up Central Beds Council to get these on their maintenance schedule.

Meeting closed at 8.09pm