

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE ON
MONDAY 2nd MARCH 2020 COMMENCING AT 7.31pm**

Present: Councillors Mr J Paxton (Chairman), Mr N Day (Vice-Chair), Mr K Taylor, Mr J Roberts, Mr J Selley, Mr L Davison-Williams (ex-officio) and Mrs B Thomas (ex-officio)

In Attendance: Mrs C Callen (Clerk) & 1 member of the public

Minutes: Mrs C Callen

19/640 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – There were none.

19/641 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.

19/647 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE QUOTE TO REDUCE HEIGHT OF HEDGE AT REAR OF 3 GRANGE ROAD

Councillor Paxton brought this item forward for discussion.

At the last meeting it was reported that a resident from Grange Road has contacted the Parish Office regarding the hedge at the rear of their property which has not had a reduction in height in the Winter hedge-cutting schedule. The Hedge is currently c.16ft high and the resident has requested it is reduced to 8/10ft high, in line with their fence. The resident was invited to outline the issue which has reoccurred over the past 3 years. Two quotes for the required work have been provided. Following discussion, Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the quote by Reynolds Landscapes of £210 plus VAT, to reduce the hedge to just above the fenceline. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Roberts and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. Councillor Paxton subsequently **PROPOSED** that the works be instructed now with a view to getting the work booked in to be done the week of 10th March, in view of the start of the nesting season, **SECONDED** by Councillor Roberts and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

In future, this will be added to the routine maintenance schedule.

1 member of the public left at 7.46pm.

19/642 MATTERS ARISING

PR Newson Ltd have been instructed to undertake the Tree Survey. They anticipate starting at the end of March and will advise a date in due course. They advise that they no longer tag trees as the maps they supply are accurate up to 1.5m. In the case of densely wooded areas, they spray mark trees that require work. If we want them to apply metal tags and nail them to the tree, there is an additional cost/time implication.

An email from a resident regarding the success of the traffic calming measures on Hexton Road was acknowledged.

At the last Committee meeting it was reported that a resident of Simpkins Drive had contacted the Council to advise that the works completed by Grangers to cut back the hedges at the side of their property had not been completed satisfactorily and that the hedge is still pushing against their fence. The Clerk has spoken to Grangers who feel that the work was completed as requested. Councillor Davison-Williams has visited the site with Reynolds Landscapes and they have provided a quote to complete the works. Councillor Davison-Williams **PROPOSED** approval of the works by Reynolds Landscapes be instructed now with a view to getting the work booked in to be done the week of 10th March, in view of the start of the nesting season, subject to retrospective approval at March Full Council. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Roberts and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

19/643 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27th JANUARY 2020

Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 27th January 2020, **SECONDED** by Councillor Roberts **with 5 in favour and 2 abstentions**.

19/644 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTER INSPECTION

The inspection undertaken on the 18th February was acknowledged. Everything was in order..

- 19/645 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**
Draft Terms of Reference drawn up by the Clerk after reference with NALC and other Town & Parish Councils were provided prior to the meeting. Following discussion, Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** the approval of the Terms of Reference, as amended, **SECONDED** by Councillor Day and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.
- 19/646 TO REVIEW CONDITION OF BUS SHELTERS AND CONSIDER ANY REPLACEMENT OR REPAIRS REQUIRED**
Following discussion at last month's meeting and the provision of Councillor Thomas' report, members were requested to review the condition of the bus shelters so that a maintenance programme could be agreed. The Groundsman has now reported that new notice billboards have been put up in all the bus shelters on Bedford/Luton Road. They have been mounted onto the Perspex. The Clerk has spoken to Central Bedfordshire Council Transport team who confirm that this was part of an information improvement scheme across the county by the local authority and they were unaware that the Parish Council own and maintain the shelters in the Village. Members were asked to look at the shelters and further action on the way forward to be agreed at the March Full Council meeting.
- 19/648 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE REQUEST FROM BARTON COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION REGARDING SEEDING AND MAINTAINING A SMALL AREA OF ROADSIDE VERGE ON LUTON ROAD**
Following discussion and a review of the plans, the Council confirmed that they had no objections to the works being undertaken. **ACTION – Clerk to write to Barton Countryside Conservation confirming the Council support for their initiative.**
- 19/649 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN 2020**
The campaign is running from 20th March to 13th April 2020. It was agreed that the Parish Council would promote the campaign and offer support to any local organisations looking to take part.
- 19/650 TO ACKNOWLEDGE COMPLAINT FROM RESIDENT REGARDING THE OVERGROWN TREES AND HEDGES ON BEDFORD ROAD AND SIMPKINS DRIVE AND AGREE WAY FORWARD**
A resident from Simpkins Drive has contacted Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the overgrown trees between the A6 roundabout (western side) and the smaller roundabout at the entrance to Grange Road. He has requested that after 25 years of growth they now need to be cut back to allow the light back into his and his neighbours properties. Additionally he has raised concerns regarding a tree overhanging the parking spaces in Simpkins Drive which needs cutting back.
A second resident has also contacted the Parish Office about the same trees on Bedford Road. The residents have invited the Council to meet with them to discuss the issues. Councillors Paxton and Davison-Williams agreed to meet on-site to review the situation and report back at the next Committee meeting.
- 19/651 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE**
The poor street-lighting on Bedford Road between Clipstone Cottages and the junction of Sharpenhoe Road was raised. Councillor Day has reported the issue to Central Bedfordshire Council but no actions have been taken. **ACTION – Clerk to escalate the report and also investigate whether the landowner of Clipstone Mews would consider removing the conifer trees which are blocking the street light and traffic lights by the pedestrian crossing.**
Councillor Roberts requested that the Clerk chase up a response to the un-lit bollards on Bedford Road.

Meeting closed at 8.26pm