

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ONLINE
MONDAY 15th JUNE 2020 COMMENCING AT 7.35pm

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), Councillors Mrs G Gardner & Mr A Channon, Central Bedfordshire Councillor Mr I Shingler, J Cross, Central Bedfordshire Council, Community Services, Highways, S Wilson, Natural England Reserve Manager
7 members of the public

Minutes: Mrs C Callen

20/045 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – There were none.

20/046 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.

20/047 MATTERS ARISING – There were none

20/048 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 2nd March 2020

Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 2nd March 2020, **SECONDED** by Councillor Taylor and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

20/049 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTERS INSPECTION

The inspection undertaken on the 8th June was acknowledged. Following approval at Full Council on 8th June, three new sheets of polycarbonate have been ordered to repair the damage at Luton Road North, for collection week commencing 22nd June.

Councillor Channon joined the meeting at 7.52pm.

20/050 TO DISCUSS PARKING ISSUES IN THE VILLAGE AND CONSIDER WAY FORWARD

Further to the discussion at Full Council, Councillor Paxton summarised the issues raised by residents. The Clerk invited a representative from Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Highways department, Natural England, the Church, the Police and the residents to attend the meeting. The Rector & Churchwarden sent apologies but support the residents with regards to the inconsiderate parking and anti-social behaviour being seen. They requested that the need for parking for weddings and funerals be considered in any discussions.

Unfortunately, PC Konopka was unable to attend but will seek feedback from the Parish Council on the areas discussed later in the week.

J Cross from CBC Highways outlined possible options that could be considered to ease the parking issues, including more signage, parking restrictions (including double yellow lines, H-bars over driveway access, etc.) and resident parking schemes. Due to the emergency traffic order that has been passed due to COVID-19, restrictions could be introduced with minimum consultation, where needed. She confirmed that the current temporary road bollards will be available as necessary. A resident from Old Road requested that additional bollards and barriers be provided outside 27 Old Road where the road narrows and the wide verge is being utilised as a parking area. It was agreed that CBC would liaise with the Parish Council to arrange an on-site meeting to review requirements and put together a suggested plan to address the issues. Residents would be consulted on the plan before proceeding.

S Wilson from Natural England shared their experiences with increased rubbish being left on the Reserve; barbeques being held, despite signage stating they are banned due to the risk of fire; anti-social behaviour, etc. She confirmed that at the start of the Lockdown, consideration was given to temporarily closing the Reserve but since there are public rights of way through the reserve, it was not a viable option and would not prevent the anti-social behaviour of people gaining access.

The possibility of alternative parking provision in the village was discussed. Councillor Shingler advised that a local resident had offered a field for car parking next to the Reserve. Use of the schools, Village Hall and football club car parks were also suggested. However, both residents

and Natural England expressed concerns with introducing these alternatives which could encourage further visitors and anti-social behaviour.

The residents expressed their concerns with the anti-social behaviour being seen, in addition to the parking problems. Drugs, loud music and partying are being seen at all hours. This has been reported to the police but no actions appear to be taken. The Clerk has been in contact with Safer Central at Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the anti-social behaviour aspect and has arranged to attend their drop-in session on 18th June to discuss the issues being seen in the Village. She will also update the Community Police on feedback from this meeting. Natural England will also ensure any issues regarding activities on the Reserve are reported.

Councillor Paxton explained the lack of parking throughout the Village is an ongoing issue and whilst current events have exacerbated matters, a longer-term strategy is required to address parking in general.

ACTION – Clerk to liaise with CBC for an on-site meeting to be held as soon as possible to agree possible plans to address the areas discussed.

7 members of the public, Councillor Shingler and J Cross left the meeting at 8.46pm.

20/051 TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TREE SURVEY AND APPROVE QUOTATIONS TO UNDERTAKE WORKS SPECIFIED AS APPROPRIATE

PR Newson Ltd have now completed the full survey of the trees in the village.

There are 10 trees that require further investigation within 1 month as they are showing signs of internal trunk decay. 9 of these are located in Lovers Walk and the other is the Wild Cherry in the Burial Ground. A quote has been provided from PR Newson Ltd of £850 plus VAT to use their 'resister graph machine' to establish the extent of the decay and advise on what follow-up action is recommended. Following discussion, it was agreed to refer the trees to Central Bedfordshire Council Tree Officer, since they are situated in the ANOB, and then to consider alternative quotes for approval at the Policies & Resources Committee meeting on 29th June.

Once the investigation has been completed, further quotes will be sought from Tree Surgeons to address the 3 month actions – again, the majority of this work is in relation to the trees at Lovers Walk (40 trees), 2 in the Burial Ground and 1 at the Sports Field.

ACTION – Clerk to speak to Central Bedfordshire Council Tree Officer and then seek quotes for the further investigation if required.

20/052 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

In light of the issues discussed under 20/050, Councillor Davison-Williams requested that the Community Police be contacted to raise anti-social behaviour at their next Priorities Setting Meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.58pm