

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE ON  
MONDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JULY 2019 COMMENCING AT 9pm**

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

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

**Minutes:** Mrs C Callen

**19/152 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Councillor Mr J Paxton

**19/153 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.

**19/154 MATTERS ARISING**

With reference to the Portable Speed signage, feedback has been sought from other Parish Councils that use these. Several parishes in the north of Bedfordshire use the Morelock signs and speak very highly of the service received both in installing them and the ongoing maintenance. Further information is currently being sorted and this will be brought back to committee once it is available.

The Land Surveyor has been instructed to establish the Boundary between Simpkins Drive and A6, as agreed at Full Council. He is coming to site on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July.

Further to the complaint received via Facebook regarding the parking on Manor Road near the bend, the Clerk has spoken to Central Beds who confirm there is nothing formally they can do to prevent this on a solid white line. The resident has been advised to report her concerns regarding the obstruction to the police via the non-emergency 101 number or online. The Parish Council may wish to consider applying for double yellow lines in this area to prevent further issues in the future.

The Clerk has completed a return to the Community Safety Partnership & Communities Team at Central Beds regarding an update on the current Public Space Protection Orders which are due to be reviewed in October 2020, with a public consultation being planned for September 2019.

**19/155 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2019**

Councillor Day **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019, **SECONDED** by Councillor Roberts and **with 4 in favour and 1 abstention**.

**19/156 UPDATE REGARDING LOCAL WALKS LEAFLETS**

The Clerk attended the Chilterns Conservation Board (CCB) Local Walks workshop at Whipsnade Village Hall on 9<sup>th</sup> July. This was primarily to discuss volunteers putting together and leading walks around the Chilterns and the Barton Hills Nature Reserve. There were representatives from the Barton Hills NNR team and volunteers plus Barton Countryside Conservation (BCC) volunteers. CCB hold two walking festivals each year and are keen for these to include walks in the north of the Chilterns. Examples of local walks leaflets were also provided by both CCB and the Chilterns Society – the Parish Council subscribe to both organisations. BCC also run regular local walks and help to update the Viewranger mobile app.

Members have already agreed to await the outcome of the Local Plan before spending any funds producing leaflets of walking routes which may change. No grant funding is currently available from CCB. At this stage, members agreed to promote the walks being organised by the local groups.

**19/157 UPDATE REGARDING TRAFFIC CALMING IN VILLAGE**

The traffic calming installation works on Hexton Road are scheduled to be undertaken between 12<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August. Advance warning signage has been put up between Old Road and Church Road and local residents who may be affected have been advised. There are no plans to incorporate the resurfacing works required on the junction of Luton Road and Hexton Road at the same time, to prevent further road closures.

A response has been received from Central Beds Traffic Management Team regarding the raised table elevation, as queried last year in respect of the tables installed in Luton Road. This advises that they no longer use the red 'brick' imprint on tables due to the cost implications. The tables are set to the existing kerb heights, resulting in different levels in different locations. There are set dimensions these can be as per design manuals and legislation and cannot increase beyond those limits and the existing kerb heights.

- 19/158 TO CONSIDER RESIDENTS REQUEST FOR WILD FLOWER AREA ON SAXON CRESCENT**  
At the previous meeting, the Parish Council declined a request from a resident for the Parish Council to support letting a small area of land on Saxon Crescent be set aside as a wild flower area. A further email has now been received asking for consideration of the amenity areas at the side of the green space, which are frequently used for car parking, to be set aside for a wild flower area. A discussion took place regarding the ongoing management required for such an area, with cutting back in the autumn and re-seeding, etc. It was felt that Saxon Crescent is not a suitable location for a wild area to be established. A response from the resident has been requested to confirm he has the support of his neighbours for his idea.
- 19/159 TO CONSIDER SIGNAGE FOR BARTON HILLS NNR**  
Barton Countryside Conservation are looking at the possibility of putting signs up along Old Road to encourage access to the Barton Hills NNR via Footpath 4 and Footpath 1, rather than the congested Church Road. Examples of the proposed signs were provided. Councillors were supportive of this action, subject to approval by Central Bedfordshire Council.
- 19/160 TO CONSIDER AND AGREE STRATEGY FOR SURVEY OF HEDGES AROUND VILLAGE**  
Ahead of the Grass & Hedge Cutting Contracts being reviewed for the year 2020/21, a survey needs to be completed before the autumn, of all the hedged areas owned by the Council, to enable accurate information to be provided for tender. Councillor Davison-Williams and the Clerk agreed to provide each Committee with detailed maps of their areas, so that they can be marked up with details of the desired hedge heights, depths, trees to be retained, etc. to then be collated and used in the tender process.
- 19/161 TO CONSIDER PLANTING ON JUNCTION OF GRANGE ROAD & BEDFORD ROAD**  
The overgrown area at the junction of Grange Road and Bedford Road was cleared earlier in the year and the groundsman has been strimming to keep the growth down. It was agreed that low, slow growing shrubs should be sought to plant in that area, with grass seed in between.  
**ACTION – Clerk to investigate suitable shrubs and discuss with the Conservation Group about undertaking the planting work.**
- 19/162 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE COST TO CUT BACK HEDGE ON SIMPKINS DRIVE**  
A complaint has been received from a resident on Simpkins Drive regarding the overgrown hedge bordering his property on the green open space. The hedging has become too dense. Reynolds Landscaping have quoted to cut back and reduce the depth. **ACTION – Clerk to seek a further quote for consideration at the next meeting.**  
  
In addition, another resident on Simpkins Drive has approached the groundsman regarding the hedges hanging over their pathway, which need trimming back to allow access to the rear of their property. Following discussion, it was agreed that it was the residents responsibility to keep these cut back on their land, as per normal practice. **ACTION – Clerk to write to resident accordingly.**
- 19/163 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE – None.**

Meeting closed at 10.17pm