

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL  
ON MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021 COMMENCING AT 8.28pm**

**Present:** Councillors Mr J Paxton (Chairman), Mr N Day (Vice-Chair), Mr J Selley, Mr J Roberts  
Mrs A Miller and Mrs B Thomas (ex-officio)

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

**Minutes:** Mrs C Callen

**21/346 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – There were none.

**21/347 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.

**21/348 MATTERS ARISING** –

Blooming Barton Group have formed and have had their first online meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November. A copy of the minutes from the meeting were provided to members. Councillor Paxton thanked the Group, via Councillor Miller, for taking on this project.

Blooming Barton Group have already had several hundred bulbs donated to them from residents and requested permission to plant these around the Village, mainly by the Village Gates and in certain open spaces. Members were pleased to agree to the planting in areas owned by or the responsibility of the Parish Council.

**ACTION - The Clerk will liaise with the Group on which areas they can use.**

The Clerk advised that so far two residents have come forward to volunteer to get involved with Speedwatch, following the request in the latest Parish Newsletter. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

The Police & Crime Commissioner has launched his second round of bids for the Road Safety Fund. The Parish Council applied earlier this year for funds for a speed sign but were unsuccessful.

**ACTION – Councillor Paxton and the Clerk will look to submit a new application before the 10<sup>th</sup> December deadline.**

Councillor Miller advised that she spoke to Central Beds Council at the Town & Parish Councils event last week regarding the possibility of using the Treescapes fund for planting in the Wild Area at the allotments. She has provided the Clerk with the contact details for who to approach to consider this request.

**21/349 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **with 5 in favour and 1 abstention.**

**21/350 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTERS INSPECTION**

The inspection undertaken on the 15<sup>th</sup> November was acknowledged. Everything was in order.

**21/351 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE FOR 2021/22 AND TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE DRAFT BUDGETS FOR 2022/23**

Expenditure for 2021/22 was reviewed. Grass and hedge contractual work have been undertaken but minimal additional expense has been incurred so far this year. It was suggested that any underspend is reviewed in March 2022 and funds transferred to Ear Marked Reserves (EMR) as appropriate to save for future years work.

Budgets for 2022/23 allow for an increase of 4.9% for the Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract for grass and hedge cutting. Routine bus shelter upkeep is expected to be minimal but additional funds proposed to be transferred into Bus Shelter EMR, towards an ongoing maintenance programme. Vandalism costs for replacement Perspex to be held in stock, in case of need. Funds to be put aside in Ear Marked Reserve for new bins and trees/shrubs maintenance.

Traffic Calming budget of £2000 to be transferred into EMR for 2022/23 – to be used towards either further works in conjunction with Central Bedfordshire Council, or for the Parish Council to purchase further speed management equipment. A further budget of £2000 to be transferred into EMR towards the next tree survey due in 2023.

Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** the approval of the draft 2022/23 Highways & Environment Income and Expenditure budgets, with a £9,250 committee precept. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Miller and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Councillor Paxton thanked the Clerk for putting together the budget figures ahead of the meeting.

**21/352 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE**

There was none.

Meeting closed at 8.57pm