

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE ON
MONDAY 17th JUNE 2019 COMMENCING AT 8.13pm**

Present: Councillors Mr J Paxton (Chairman), Mr N Day, Mr J Roberts, Mr J Selley & Mr L. Davison-Williams (*ex-officio*)

In Attendance: Mrs C Callen (Clerk)

Minutes: Mrs C Callen

19/063 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillor Mrs B Thomas

19/064 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.

19/065 MATTERS ARISING

Whitbread Wanderbus have been running a second bus since 7th May 2019. Unfortunately, the bus was out of service for 2 weeks with an electrical fault and they have struggled to get volunteer drivers but now assure us that the service will be more stable in future. Of the weeks it has operated, only twice has a second bus been required, with 3 or 4 passengers. It has been suggested that they operate a simple ticket system to give passengers the comfort that they will be able to return to Barton.

With reference to the Portable Speed signage, further information is currently being sorted and this will be brought back to committee once it is available.

19/066 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15th APRIL 2019

Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 15th April 2019, **SECONDED** by Councillor Roberts and **with 4 in favour and 1 abstention**.

19/067 TO CONSIDER REAL-TIME BUS INFORMATION SIGNS COSTS AND LOCATIONS

Further to previous discussions, the Principle Public transport Officer from CBC has been in touch again regarding the possible installation of battery powered screens. Members discussed the cost of signs and possible locations. It was agreed that the high cost (£5800 for post-mounted and £4500 for shelter mounted plus annual maintenance), even on a 50/50 basis with Central Beds Council, outweighed the benefit for those residents who would use the service. Members agreed to revisit this project in the future should further funding become available from possible S106 funds.

19/068 TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND CONSIDER WAY FORWARD FOLLOWING RESIDENTS COMPLAINT REGARDING TREES BETWEEN SIMPKINS DRIVE AND THE A6

Members acknowledged the correspondence and photographs received from the 2 residents of Simpkins Drive which highlight the issues they are facing with the trees between their property and the A6. Councillor Davison-Williams advised that ownership of the strip of land between the resident's fence and the outer fence has still not been established. It was agreed to approach an independent surveyor to determine the length of the gardens and agree the boundary so that the matter can be progressed.

ACTION – Clerk to seek quotes from Surveyors with PI Cover for approval by Council.

19/069 TO CONSIDER ATTENDANCE AT CHILTERN WALKS WORKSHOP 9TH JULY 2019

In response to our previous enquiries regarding local walks, an invitation has been received from Chilterns Conservation Board to attend a workshop at Whipsnade Village Hall on 9th July, 10am-12noon, to look at walks around Barton Hills Nature Reserve. Councillor Davison-Williams may be able to attend. It was suggested that the Clerk attends on behalf of the Council.

19/070 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE COST CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS HEXTON ROAD TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME

Details have now been provided from the Highways Improvements Team. Build cost is £42,067.06, including a section of footway to be widened at £6k (CBC to fund). Total RMF Cost £36,067.06 – with 50% contribution from Parish Council of £18,033.53 required. Work is due to take place between 12th and 23rd August.

Members discussed concerns with the build quality of the speed humps in Luton Road which has previously been raised with the Highways Department. **ACTION – Clerk to chase up response, with offer to meet on site and review heights, etc.** Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the cost of £18033.53, subject to the works being completed to a satisfactory standard, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

- 19/071 TO CONSIDER FURTHER ACTIONS REGARDING RURAL MATCH FUNDING SCHEME**
As discussed at the Council meeting on 20th May, the application for 2019/20 funding has been declined. Members discussed the implications of this on the Councils 5 year Strategic Traffic Scheme Plan. It was agreed that Councillor Day would draft a letter to challenge the methodology for rejecting the Bedford Road request, based on the statistics they have provided.
- 19/072 TO CONSIDER RESIDENTS REQUEST FOR WILD FLOWER AREA ON SAXON CRESCENT**
An email has been received from a resident requesting the Parish Council consider letting a small area of land on Saxon Crescent be set aside as a wild flower area. They have previously approached Central Beds Council who have advised them to contact the Parish Council. The Clerk has spoken to the Ecologist at Central Beds who confirms the land is owned by CBC and that they would need the Parish Council and neighbours to support any proposal. Members discussed the matter and whilst they would be supportive of biodiversity schemes where possible, the area suggested was not felt to be ideal, being an open green space used for ball games and it would not be possible to protect the area. **ACTION – Clerk to write to resident to decline his request on this basis.**
- 19/073 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE – None.**

Meeting closed at 9.28pm