

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ONLINE
MONDAY 19th OCTOBER 2020 COMMENCING AT 8.19pm**

Present: Councillors Mr J Paxton (Chairman), 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

20/294 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillor Mr K Taylor

20/295 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.

20/296 MATTERS ARISING –

Planning Permission for the tree works in the Burial Ground is currently out for public consultation (CB/TCA/20/00563).

Following approval at the Full Council meeting on 12th October, Macauley Tree Services have been instructed to undertake the urgent tree works at Lovers Walk. They have scheduled the works into their calendar for the last two weeks of November.

20/297 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 28th SEPTEMBER 2020

A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 28th September 2020, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley with **4 in favour and 2 abstentions**.

20/298 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTERS INSPECTION

The inspection undertaken on the 14th October was acknowledged.

20/299 TO CONSIDER RESTOCKING STRATEGY FOR LOVERS WALK

The Clerk has applied to the Forestry Commission for a felling licence, as advised by their Woodland Officer. The application was returned requesting details of restocking strategy. The Clerk has now spoken to the Forestry Commission to progress the application, advising that there is an element of natural regeneration within the woodland and confirming the urgency to get the tree works completed in an area with public right of way. She has also spoken to an Ecologist Consultant from The Greensand Trust, seeking advice on restocking works for the future, possibly using local volunteers to assist.

Members discussed their long-term replacement strategy, acknowledging the need to consider location for replanting if removed trees were diseased or in an area of high usage. It was agreed to seek expert advice in the new year.

ACTION – Clerk to check with tree surgeon regarding risk assessment and signage for the tree works in November.

ACTION – Clerk to contact Central Beds Council Ecologist regarding protected species and replanting at Lovers Walk.

20/300 TO CONSIDER TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR THE VILLAGE

Following completion of the traffic calming measures in Luton Road, Hexton Road and the slip road on Bedford Road, Members discussed their strategy and priorities for the Village going forward. At present there does not appear to be any Rural Match Funding support from Central Beds Council for any works. After debate, it was agreed to review the Parish Council's Traffic Calming Strategy, introduced in 2015, updating it in light of recent studies around environmental impact.

ACTION – Clerk to investigate repairs to existing speed signs on Sharpenhoe Road and Higham Gobion Road and engage with the proposed CCTV suppliers to explore any possible options.

20/301 TO CONSIDER BUS SHELTER MAINTENANCE STRATEGY

The Committee have previously discussed undertaking a review of the bus shelters to put together a maintenance schedule, over and above the usual painting/cleaning undertaken by the groundsman. Urgent work to consider is the replacement/repair of the seating in the shelters on Bedford Road. It was agreed that Councillors Paxton and Day undertake a survey of the shelters

to review potential hazards or works required and bring back findings to the committee to formulate a plan of action.

Councillor Davison-Williams advised that there were plans for Central Beds Council to move the current bus stop on Bedford Road outside number 69 to nearer The Bull Public House and install a shelter. **ACTION – Clerk to contact Councillor Shingler to provide details.**

20/302 UPDATE REGARDING THE TREE AND HEDGE WORKS ON THE GRANGE ROAD ESTATE

As discussed at the previous committee meeting (20/236), the Clerk has arranged for quotes for the works. Reynolds Landscaping met with Councillor Paxton and the Clerk on Monday lunchtime to review the areas. In addition, the Clerk has spoken to MJ Grangers regarding the works they usually do at this time of the year.

The areas in question are:

- Bedford Road/rear of Simpkins Drive, between A6 roundabout and Grange Rd roundabout: the hedgerow here has been cut back by the residents in the last week. Reynolds Landscaping have quoted £120 plus VAT to chip and clear the arisings left on site. In addition, they have quoted £120 plus VAT to cut back the overgrown laurel bush away from the residents fence-line.

ACTION – Clerk to check that this quote includes a reduction in height of the hedge.

- Smithcombe Close: Shrubs and trees on open space have grown in height and width over recent years and now are encroaching on the footpath. Reynolds Landscaping have quoted £50 plus VAT to cut back the hedge from the path and raise the crown of the tree to allow pedestrian access. Height reduction works are to be budgeted for in the next financial year.

- The Baileys Piece area behind Ravensburgh Close where the trees are overshadowing residents garden and up against fence: the residents appear to have cut this area back and no works are now required in the short-term.

ACTION – Clerk to arrange for firm quotes to be taken to the Full Council meeting in November for approval.

Councillor Davison-Williams provided an update regarding the potential sale of the Baileys Piece land once access issues are resolved with the Housing Association. This will release capital to fund other priorities for the Parish Council. This will be discussed at the next Policies & Resources Committee meeting.

20/303 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

There was none.

Meeting closed at 9.21pm