

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ONLINE
MONDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 2021 COMMENCING AT 8.08pm**

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

In Attendance: Mrs C Callen (Clerk) and Councillor Mrs G Gardner

Minutes: Mrs C Callen

20/564 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillor Mr L Davison-Williams

20/565 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.

20/566 MATTERS ARISING –

Minute 20/500 – Following discussion at the last Committee meeting, the Clerk has spoken with Barton Countryside Conservation (BCC) regarding a possible bollard/gate at the entrance to Lovers Walk, to deter vehicle access. Subsequently CBC Public Rights of Way Officer has attended the site to look at their damaged horse gate on the bridleway and spoken with the neighbouring house owner. Consequently, it has been agreed to replace the existing horse gate/fencing on the bridleway with a single drop post and a row of posts on either side. This will run diagonally from the hedge at the entrance to the house, to the bridleway finger post adjacent to the Parish Councils gate/fence (c.9m), thus incorporating the entrance to Lovers Walk. It will not prevent the motorcycles accessing Lovers Walk and the Bridleway but will stop any cars/fly-tipping. Ground stats have been requested and it is anticipated that the work will be undertaken in late March/early April. In the meantime, BCC have volunteered to put a spare post in the current gap as a temporary measure. BCC also advise that there is no DDA compliance issue.

Minute 20/502 – Following the felling of the trees at Lovers Walk, it was agreed to review the Council's Tree Planting strategy. The work to fell trees at Lovers Walk was considered 'thinning' with natural regeneration occurring in that area as new saplings develop. However, there are other areas within the Village where new trees or hedgerow could be planted from the Autumn. The Leisure Committee are looking at the Allotments and Arnold Recreation Ground. The current Tree & Hedge Management Policy is due for review in September 2021 and so the strategy should be agreed alongside that at a future meeting. Members were asked to consider possible locations ahead of a meeting.

ACTION – The Clerk was requested to investigate the current position with replanting trees on Lime Close by Central Beds Council, following the felling of deceased trees in February 2020.

The Clerk reported that several residents have contacted the Parish Office regarding the lack of parking enforcement being carried out on Church Road, Old Road and Hexton Road, following the installation of double yellow lines last Summer. **ACTION – Clerk to chase up Central Beds Council enforcement team.**

A resident from Old Road has made enquiries to the Parish Council regarding the planting of shrubs on the verge opposite their house to deter unauthorised parking. **ACTION – Clerk to contact the Traffic Management team at Central Beds Council to progress this request.**

Sharpenhoe Road by the junction with Bedford Road is closed due to emergency works required by UK Power Networks. It is expected to reopen by 25th February.

20/567 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25th JANUARY 2021

A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 25th January 2021, **SECONDED** by Councillor Roberts and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

20/568 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTERS INSPECTION

The inspection undertaken on the 16th February was acknowledged. Everything was in order.

20/569 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE QUOTATION FOR URGENT TREE/HEDGE WORKS AT BAILEYS PIECE

The Groundsman has previously reviewed the tree/hedge overhanging the resident's fence at the rear of Ravensburgh Close, on Bailey's Piece land, and recommended a contractor undertakes the clearance work required. Two contractors have visited the site and provided quotations. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the quote provided by Reynolds Landscaping Services Ltd for £210 plus VAT, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

20/570 TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE STREET LIGHTING ON THE FOOTPATH BETWEEN BROOKEND DRIVE AND SHARPENHOE ROAD

The lack of street-lighting on this footpath has been a concern for several years and has been raised in the past with Central Beds Council Highways department. Following confirmation that street lighting is to be installed on footpath No.9 between Taylor Close and Sharpenhoe Road, Councillor Paxton has requested that this item be revisited. The Clerk has emailed CBC Highways Street Lighting team to enquire if lighting is possible and is awaiting a response. It is understood that the land is owned by UK Power Networks. **ACTION – Clerk to investigate the cost for lighting for this well used footpath for discussion at the next meeting.**

Councillor Channon joined the meeting at 8.34pm

20/571 TO CONSIDER TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR THE VILLAGE

The current 5-year strategy was agreed back in 2015. The committee agreed last autumn that this should now be revisited, particularly since the Central Beds Council Rural Match Funding option appears to have been withdrawn. At the January meeting, members were asked to consider options to address the remaining hotspots and feed this back to the Clerk to collate ahead of further discussion at the meeting. Following discussion, it was agreed that the original strategy should be revisited and updated. The next priority area is the stretch of Bedford Road between the Grange Road roundabout and the Manor Road/Mill Lane junction.

ACTION – Clerk to arrange a meeting with Central Beds Traffic Management Team to discuss options for the centre of the Village.

20/503 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

There was none.

Meeting closed at 8.44pm