

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ONLINE
MONDAY 25th JANUARY 2021 COMMENCING AT 7.31pm

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)

Minutes: Mrs C Callen

20/494 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillor Mr L Davison-Williams

20/495 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.

20/496 MATTERS ARISING –

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. Due to other priorities, the Clerk is still to arrange quotes for the work to be undertaken and this will now be actioned for approval at the next Full Council meeting.

The survey of the Bus Shelters to establish a maintenance schedule has been deferred until the Spring, when restrictions allow the Groundsman to accompany Councillors Paxton & Day.

The outstanding Highways issues have been chased up by the Clerk and also copied to Councillor Shingler, as agreed at the last Full Council meeting.

A resident from Cromwell Road has contacted the Parish Council regarding the state of the grass verges. The Parish Council arranged for a review of this narrow road last winter following receipt of several resident's complaints, but Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) declined to take any further action at the time. The Clerk has acknowledged the complaint and requested that they submit a report to CBC again.

A resident has approached the Parish Council to request the planting of a wild-flower meadow & children's bug hotel area on the corner of Harold Road and Norman Road, where several trees were removed last year by CBC. The Clerk has suggested they get support from the neighbours and speaks to the Ecologist at CBC to formulate a plan, including ongoing maintenance management, before they apply for approval from CBC (landowners) and then put this to the Parish Council for consideration of support for the application.

It was reported that the privately owned conifer hedgerow on Grange Road is very overgrown and encroaching on the pavement. **ACTION – Clerk to report to CBC Highways to contact owners.**

The Clerk advised that Anglian Water have damaged the horse gate to the bridleway next to Lovers Walk. CBC Rights of Way officer is aware and arranging for the repairs.

CBC have launched a new mobile app for residents to report Highways issues around the village. The Clerk has advertised the app on Social Media.

20/497 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23rd NOVEMBER 2020

A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 23rd November 2020, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

20/498 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTERS INSPECTION

The inspection undertaken on the 18th January was acknowledged. Everything was in order.

20/499 TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE PARISH COUNCILS ACTION PLAN 2021/22 FOR THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

As discussed at the last Full Council meeting, the draft Plan has been drawn up by the Clerk.

Members discussed a few minor amendments to be made before putting the Plan forward for adoption at the next Full Council meeting.

20/500 TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE BOLLARD/GATE TO PREVENT VEHICLE ACCESS TO LOVERS WALK

During the last year, there has been an increase in walkers using the Lovers Walk footpath as part of their daily exercise as a result of the Pandemic restrictions. The entrance to Lovers Walk at the top of Old Road is to the left of the bridleway which has a steel horse gate and fence across it. There was an old wooden sleeper across the footpath to prevent bikes using the path but this has been repeatedly pushed to the side and the opening has gradually got wider through frequent usage (walkers and bikes). When the tree works were undertaken just before Christmas, it was suggested by CBC Rights of Way Officer that a large felled tree trunk be laid across to prevent any vehicle access. However, the contractors felt that if they were able to move a trunk into position then it would be too easy for someone else to move it too. There is a large concrete block further up the path that prevents vehicles driving too far. However, if they access the footpath at the bottom they can then get onto the bridleway.

After consideration, it was agreed to investigate the cost of a gate. Item to be carried forward to the next meeting.

ACTION – Clerk to speak to Barton Countryside Conservation regarding suitable gate options and possible disabled access requirement.

20/501 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. 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 next meeting.

20/502 TO CONSIDER TREE PLANTING STRATEGY FOR THE VILLAGE

Following the felling of the trees at Lovers Walk, it was agreed to review the Council's Tree Planting strategy. This item was deferred to the next meeting.

20/503 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

Councillor Day requested that the damaged traffic calming in Luton Road be reported to Central Beds Council Highways department. **ACTION – Clerk to submit report.**

Meeting closed at 8.01pm