

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL  
ON MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021 COMMENCING AT 7.33pm**

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

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

**Minutes:** Mrs C Callen

**21/270 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Councillor Mr J Roberts.

**21/271 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.

**21/272 MATTERS ARISING** –

**Minute 21/211** – The planters purchased as part of the Welcome Back Funding were delivered on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. There are 3 in Bedford Road and 1 at Windsor Parade. Funds are still available to plant on Old Road (£500), if required. The bike rack for outside the Library car park has been delivered and is awaiting installation.

Blooming Barton Group have formed and are currently recruiting members via their Facebook page. It is hoped that they will take on the ongoing planting/maintenance of the Welcome Back Fund Planters and also the work previously undertaken by the Barton Conservation Group by the Village Gates in Bedford Road.

**21/273 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021, **SECONDED** by Councillor Miller and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

**21/274 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTERS INSPECTION**

The inspection undertaken on the 21<sup>st</sup> October was acknowledged. Everything was in order.

**21/275 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE LOCATIONS FOR REAL TIME BUS DISPLAYS**

Central Beds Council have approached the Parish Council following our previous expression of interest, regarding the installation of Real Time displays at bus stops. They have offered to fund a max of 2 displays within Barton-le-Clay. After consideration, Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval for the displays to be located at Bedford Road South, opposite the Chemist (in the shelter) and Bedford Road North outside no. 67 (pole mounted), **SECONDED** by Councillor Miller and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

**ACTION** – Clerk to clarify insurance and ongoing maintenance responsibility prior to final confirmation of order.

**21/276 UPDATE REGARDING THE LOCAL AUTHORITY TREESCAPES FUND**

Central Beds Council have announced that they have been successful in securing £300k from the Forestry Commission, which they will match-fund, for the replanting and 3year maintenance of trees in non-woodland settings.

Barton-le-Clay Parish Council supported their application in May and will be one of the urban areas where planting will be focused. It is envisaged that this will fund replanting on Lime Close, and some amenity land areas where trees have been lost due to disease and is in line with the Council's Tree Planting Strategy.

**21/277 UPDATE REGARDING TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

The Clerk has managed to contact the Central Beds Council Traffic Management Team. They have advised that they are re-launching the Rural Match Funding process later this year to all parishes. They are currently finalising the details/criteria.

They have also confirmed that they are currently formulating their policy with regards to Vehicle Activated speed signs (SIDs), to ensure consistency when installing them. They advised that the Sharpenhoe sign is on their 4year plan for works, as is a sign for Hexton Road by Arnold School.

With reference to the zebra crossing for Bedford Road we requested they consider back in March, they do not believe there is enough demand. The Clerk has resent the concerns raised by the Council in March for them to re-consider.

The review of the current Traffic Management Strategy Document for Barton-le-Clay is still outstanding but what can be achieved will depend on the revised RMF Scheme.

**ACTION – Clerk to investigate whether the local schools will complete a survey to gauge how many children current walk to school from the Grange Road Estate area and have to cross Bedford Road, to support the Council’s request.**

**21/278 TO CONSIDER QUOTES FOR PORTABLE SPEED SIGNAGE AND AGREE WAY FORWARD**

In 2019 the Parish Council considered the purchase of a mobile speed sign. Councillor Paxton attended a demonstration of the Morelock system. Revised quotes have now been obtained from Morelock Signs Ltd and TWM Traffic Control Systems.

Following discussion, Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of a cost of £3200 plus VAT to purchase the Morelock SID Vario, Cloud based with spare battery and mounting clip, subject to confirmation regarding battery usage. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Day and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

**ACTION – Clerk to confirm with Company regarding the life span of batteries.**

**21/279 UPDATE REGARDING THE SPEEDWATCH SCHEME AND TO CONSIDER WAY FORWARD**

Beds Police have provided details of the Scheme. A minimum of 4 volunteers are required, with one agreeing to be the co-ordinator. Each would have to be vetted. There is then an online training presentation to be undertaken and a Speedwatch handbook to read. A roadside demonstration will be provided.

4 Roads need to be chosen for the activity to be carried out on and a Risk Assessment will be completed for each.

It was agreed that Councillor Paxton would be one volunteer and that a request for volunteers be included on the Parish Newsletter to be distributed to residents in the Village in the next 10days. Possible roads for inclusion in Speedwatch activity were considered as: Higham Gobion Road, Bedford Road (near Lime Close), Bedford Road (slip road by Café Goa), Bedford Road (between Sharpenhoe Rd and Hexton Rd), Luton Road, Hexton Road, Sharpenhoe Road and Manor Road. Final decision on roads to be made once Group has been agreed.

**21/280 UPDATE REGARDING THE COMMUNITY GARDEN SCHEME**

Following the visit to Toddington Community Garden on 1<sup>st</sup> October, Councillor Paxton has requested members consider possible locations that could be used by the community. A list of suggested sites was provided ahead of the meeting. General agreement was that pocket gardens with flowering shrubs would be a more manageable project in the first instance. Further discussion will be required going forward.

**ACTION – Clerk to update Rotary Club and engage with the Blooming Barton Group regarding the new Welcome Back Fund Planters.**

**21/281 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A LITTER BIN BETWEEN MILL LANE & GRANGE ROAD AND AGREE WAY FORWARD**

A resident from Grange Road has requested a litter bin is installed near the alley between Mill Lane and Grange Road. They frequently collect up litter in this area. The Clerk has emailed Waste Services at Central Beds Council to investigate if they would add an additional bin to their collection route. A response is awaited. This item was deferred to the next Committee meeting for further consideration once a response from Central Beds Council is available.

**21/282 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE**

Councillor Paxton expressed concerns regarding the potentially dangerous parking outside Ramsey Manor Lower School in the evenings and on Saturday mornings when the site is being used for extracurricular groups and the football club. Parish Council to consider writing to the new Head Teacher to ask for a reminder to be sent out to parents regarding safe parking when attending the site.

Meeting closed at 8.44pm