

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE ON
MONDAY 27th JANUARY 2020 COMMENCING AT 8.34pm**

Present: Councillors Mr N Day (Vice-Chair), Mr K Taylor, Mr J Roberts, Mr L Davison-Williams (ex-officio) and Mrs B Thomas (ex-officio)

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

Minutes: Mrs C Callen

19/512 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillors Mr J Paxton and Mr J Selley

19/513 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.

19/514 MATTERS ARISING

A resident from Grange Road has contacted the Parish Office regarding the hedge at the rear of their property which has not had a reduction in height in the Winter hedge-cutting schedule by Grangers. The Hedge is currently c.16ft high and the resident has requested it is reduced to 10ft high. **ACTION – Cllrs Davison-Williams and Paxton to inspect the hedge. Clerk to obtain quotes to reduce the height of the hedge.**

A resident from Simpkins Drive has contacted the Parish Office to say that the works undertaken by Grangers to cut back the hedges at the side of his property have not been completed satisfactorily and the hedge is still pushing against his fence and has not been reduced in height in all areas. **ACTION – Clerk to contact Grangers to review the hedge works. Cllrs Davison-Williams and Paxton to inspect the hedge-works.**

Cllr Davison-Williams has arranged to meet with Reynolds Landscaping Services on 6th February to review the works completed on the trees at the rear of Simpkins Drive to ensure everything now in order and review the request from a resident regarding the overgrown shrubbery in the same area.

Central Bedfordshire Council Tree Officer has advised that the works to the trees on Lime Close will be undertaken during the week commencing 3rd February. Notices have been put up to advise residents. Further tree works at the Library and Hexton Rd junction will need traffic lights so these will be completed in the following weeks. **ACTION – Clerk to put a post on Facebook to advise residents of why the tree works are required.**

CBC Tree Officer has also now replied to the Parish Councils query regarding the tree by the Library. Whilst this appears to sit on Highways land, the GIS Officer has advised it is not on the Highway so whilst they are able to fell the tree as it is considered a safety concern, a replacement would need the owner's permission (this could be the Library). A request has also been received to consider planting a 'Christmas tree' in this location – the tree officer is exploring this option.

19/515 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18th NOVEMBER 2019

Councillor Day **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 18th November 2019, **SECONDED** by Councillor Taylor **with 2 in favour and 3 abstention.**

19/516 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTER INSPECTION

The inspection undertaken on the 23rd January was acknowledged. The broken Perspex on the bus shelter at Bedford Road North was replaced by the groundsman and Chairman.

19/517 TO REVIEW CONDITION OF BUS SHELTERS AND CONSIDER ANY REPLACEMENT OR REPAIRS REQUIRED

Whilst the groundsman regularly inspects the bus shelters for damage and graffiti, several are showing signs of wear and tear. Councillor Davison-Williams provided background about criticism on the poor state of some of the bus shelters around the village in a Local Plan report from 2019. Councillor Thomas has subsequently reviewed the condition of each bus shelter and provided a

report for consideration. A maintenance programme was suggested for repairs to the shelters. Councillors agreed to review the information and consider priorities at the next Committee meeting.

- 19/518 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE QUOTE FOR TREE SURVEY**
Following discussion, Councillor Day **PROPOSED** approval of the quote from PR Newson Ltd for £2,250 plus VAT, subject to confirmation that they will re-tag trees where necessary and ensure they are placed at a suitable height, higher up the trees. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Roberts and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.
- 19/519 TO CONSIDER TRAFFIC CALMING STRATEGY FOR 2020**
This item was deferred to the next Committee meeting.
- 19/520 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN 2020**
This item was deferred to the next committee meeting.
- 19/521 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**
Councillors were requested to email the Clerk with any changes or amendments to the draft Terms of Reference proposed. This item will be carried forward to the next meeting for approval.
- 19/522 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE PLANTING ON GRANGE ROAD / BEDFORD ROAD JUNCTION**
Following discussion it was agreed to ask the Barton Conservation Group if they would complete planting on the junction of Grange Road and Bedford Road. Councillor Day **PROPOSED** the approval of a maximum budget of £100 for planting to be made available to the Barton Conservation Group, **SECONDED** by Councillor Roberts and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.
- 19/523 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE –** There was none.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm