

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ONLINE
TUESDAY 27th APRIL 2021 COMMENCING AT 8.13pm**

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), Councillor Mrs G Gardner and 1 member of the public

Minutes: Mrs C Callen

20/745 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – There were none.

20/746 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.

20/747 MATTERS ARISING –

Minute no. 20/628 No response has been received from Central Beds Council (CBC) regarding the request submitted on 16th March to consider a zebra crossing on Bedford Road.

Minute no. 20/630 - Following our request, CBC have now advised that following a site visit, they see no need for planting or fencing on the area opposite 27 Old Road. They have closed their case. The Clerk has forwarded a further email to CBC asking them to reconsider our request to plant shrubs in this area to deter unauthorised parking and address the potential anti-social behaviours once the temporary barriers are removed. A response is awaited. The Clerk was requested to see if Councillor Shingler can assist with this matter and also to investigate the cost of free-standing planters to be placed in the area.

ACTION – Clerk to investigate the costs for planters and report back at the next meeting. Clerk to contact Councillor Shingler for assistance.

A resident from Simpkins Drive has enquired regarding the ownership of the fencing at the rear of their property, bordering Parish Council land, and also the fencing running alongside the shared parking areas. The Clerk has responded that these are the responsibility of the homeowners and suggested they check their deeds to clarify regarding the shared areas.

With reference to the ongoing parking enforcement issues on Church Road and Old Road, Councillor Shingler has advised that CBC Civil Enforcement Team may consider voluntary overtime to undertake parking enforcement visits on a Sunday. He will provide a further update at the next Full Council meeting.

The Clerk reported that Streatley Parish Council have approached the Parish Council regarding the overgrown hedgerow on the roadside between Barton-le-Clay and Sharpenhoe which is a hazard for pedestrians walking between the two Villages. Members confirmed they were happy to support Streatley Parish Council in reporting the matter to CBC.

ACTION – Clerk to report to CBC and update Streatley Parish Council accordingly.

20/748 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15th MARCH 2021

A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 15th March 2021, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

20/749 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTERS INSPECTION

The inspection undertaken on the 23rd April was acknowledged. Everything was in order.

Re: **Minute 20/301**, Councillor Paxton requested that the delayed survey of the bus shelters be undertaken in May, now that Pandemic restrictions have eased.

ACTION – Clerk to arrange a suitable date during May for Councillors Paxton and Day and Groundsman to undertake the survey.

20/750 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN EVENT 2021

The Keep Britain Tidy 'Great British Spring Clean' event is to be held between 28th May and 13th June (incorporating the school half-term). This year, supporters are asked to make a pledge of how many minutes they'll clean up for during the campaign. These minutes are then converted

into miles as part of the 'Million Miles Mission'. People can pledge individually or as a group, ensuring they follow the latest Covid-19 guidance about group gatherings outdoors. The Keep Britain Tidy website has all the latest safety advice and information. Following a review of the campaign details, it was agreed that the Parish Council would facilitate the event with advertising, offering bin bags and liaising with volunteers and the Keep Britain Tidy website.

20/751

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE TREE WORKS ON THE GRANGE ROAD ESTATE

Further to the discussions at Full Council regarding the tree behind 5 Grange Road, the Clerk has spoken to the resident who advises that someone has now removed the rubbish but has also chopped back half the tree. The resident now has concerns that this may have weakened the structure. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** that the Clerk writes to the resident living closest to the tree to highlight the concerns of vandalism and requesting their comments on the unauthorised works undertaken. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Day and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. **ACTION – Clerk to send letter to resident and also speak to a tree surgeon to clarify the stability of the remaining tree.**

In addition, the resident at 30 Simpkins Drive has contacted the Council regarding the three tall trees at the rear of his property. Last November the Parish Council had the hedges cut back from the resident's fence line following a site visit by Councillors Paxton, Day, Davison-Williams and the Clerk last March. He is now requesting the trees are halved to allow light into his garden. The Clerk has explained that no tree or hedge works will be completed during the nesting season, but he has requested the works completed in the autumn, to improve his quality of life.

Members discussed the trees in question, confirming that they were planted as part of the landscaping and to act as a sound barrier when the estate was built. The tree survey completed in 2020 raised no concerns regarding these trees. Following discussion, it was agreed that no actions should be taken at the present time.

ACTION – Clerk to write to the resident to decline their request.

20/752

UPDATE REGARDING TREE PLANTING STRATEGY FOR THE VILLAGE AND AGREE WAY FORWARD

Following discussion at the last meeting, Councillor Paxton and the Clerk met with the Tree Warden, Helen Gebler, on 13th April to look at areas for planting to be considered as part of a Tree Planting Strategy. After reviewing the land owned by the Parish Council, it was felt that some planting could be undertaken at the top of Arnold Recreation Ground, bordering the top field and also at such time as the landscaping works are undertaken for a new burial ground. Any new housing development would also require trees to be planted. Barton Rovers FC are currently planting hedgerow and trees where the overgrown conifers have been removed alongside the access road. Other areas around the Village are the responsibility of Central Beds Council, i.e. Lime Close and amenity lands.

Based on these discussions, it was agreed that a draft Tree Planting 10year Strategy document be drawn up for future discussion.

20/753

TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE REQUEST FROM CENTRAL BEDS COUNCIL PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY TEAM REGARDING SIGNAGE FOR FOOTPATH 9

The resurfacing of the grass Footpath No.9 between Taylor Close and Sharpenhoe Road has now been completed. Central Beds Council Public Rights of Way Officer has contacted the Parish Council for their agreement that the new footpath is NOT to be signed as a 'public footpath', given that it passes over private land and is mainly used as access to/from the residential housing estate. After consideration, Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** to confirm that no signage was necessary, **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

20/754

ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

There was none.

Meeting closed at 9.04pm