

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2021 COMMENCING AT 8.36pm**

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

In Attendance: Mrs C Callen (Clerk)

Minutes: Mrs C Callen

21/205 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillor Mr J Selley.

21/206 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.

21/207 MATTERS ARISING –

Barton Countryside Conservation advise that they will be looking to complete the delayed works at the entrance to the Bridleway near Lovers Walk by end of November.

Barton Conservation Group have now transferred the sum of £2393.31 to the Parish Council as a donation following the closure of the Group (as reported at Full Council). This sum has been ring-fenced into a new Ear Marked Reserve for future use on a suitable project to 'enhance the environment' as requested by the group. The Committee will need to consider the ongoing maintenance of the planting areas previously undertaken by the group at their next meeting.

21/208 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 28TH JUNE 2021

A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 28th June 2021, **SECONDED** by Councillor Day and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

21/209 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTERS INSPECTION

The inspection undertaken on the 21st September was acknowledged. Everything was in order.

21/210 UPDATE REGARDING THE COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

A visit to Toddington Community Garden project has been arranged for 1st October at 3pm. The Clerk and Councillors Thomas and Paxton will attend as well as representatives from the Barton Rotary Club. For information, the Facebook page is [toddingtoncommunitygarden](#). Feedback will be provided at the next meeting.

21/211 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE A PLANTER FROM THE WELCOME BACK FUND

Minute no. 20/630 – The Clerk has successfully got agreement from the Government Welcome Back Fund to buy a free-standing planter for Old Road to help prevent anti-social parking at the top end of the road. Funding available is £500. After careful consideration, it was felt that the area is too large to benefit from one planter and other options for this area should be considered. The Clerk was asked to investigate whether an additional planter could be purchased for Windsor Parade shops, included in the same delivery as that previously agreed for Bedford Road.

ACTION – Clerk to make enquires.

21/212 TO CONSIDER TREE WORKS ON THE GRANGE ROAD ESTATE

As previously reported, a resident from 7 Simpkins Drive has requested the tree bordering their property be reduced in height to prevent blocking light. The tree appears to be a self-seeded Ash tree and has already been cut back from the garden. A tree surgeon has reviewed the tree and advised that there is nothing actually wrong with the tree apart from its close proximity to the neighbour's fence line. After debate, Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** to follow our tree works policy and take no further action, with the tree to be maintained as necessary. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Miller and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

21/213 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE TREE & HEDGE MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Policy introduced in 2019 is now due for its bi-annual review. Minor amendments were suggested. After review, Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the updated Policy, **SECONDED** by Councillor Miller and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

- 21/214 TO CONSIDER A VILLAGE TREE PLANTING STRATEGY AND AGREE WAY FORWARD**
Following previous discussions regarding the tree planting within the Village, Councillor Paxton has drafted a Tree Planting Strategy for the Parish Council. Following discussion, it was agreed that this should be updated and put to Full Council for adoption.
ACTION – Clerk and Councillor Paxton to review the document and update, as discussed.
- 21/215 TO CONSIDER THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND AGREE WAY FORWARD**
As previously discussed, the Village Traffic Calming Plan published on our website in 2017 is now out of date and Members need to consider a revised strategy going forward.
Central Beds Council advised in March 2021 that the Rural Match Funding scheme was being re-evaluated, but no further update has yet been received. The Clerk has tried to engage with CBC regarding a possible zebra crossing on Bedford Road, near Lime Close, but has not received a response.
No repairs have been made to the speed signs on Higham Gobion Road or Sharpenhoe Road, despite numerous requests.
Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Councillor Shingler to assist with engaging with the CBC Traffic Management team regarding the way forward, particularly with reference to the zebra crossing request. It was also agreed for the Clerk to obtain and up to date quote for the mobile speed sign, so that the Council can approve it's purchase at the next meeting.
A review of the current Strategy will be undertaken and discussed further at the next meeting.
ACTION – Clerk to take forward actions above.
- 21/216 TO CONSIDER THE FORMATION OF A COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH GROUP IN THE VILLAGE**
Details of the scheme were provided ahead of the meeting for consideration. A minimum of 2 volunteers will be required and training will be given.
Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval to set up a Speedwatch group in Barton-le-Clay, **SECONDED** by Councillor Miller and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.
- 21/217 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A CHARITY CLOTHES COLLECTION BIN IN THE VILLAGE**
Councillor Paxton has been approached by EAAA Charity following his recent sponsored walk, regarding putting one of their clothes collection bins somewhere within the Village. There are already Salvation Army Clothes Collection bins situated at the Village Hall and Co-op car parks.
After review, it was agreed that the Council did not have any suitable land available to put a bin.
ACTION - Councillor Paxton to advise the Charity of the decision.
- 21/218 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE**
There was none.

Meeting closed at 9.43pm