

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 28TH JUNE 2021 COMMENCING AT 8.33pm**

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

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

Minutes: Mrs C Callen

21/097 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – There were none.

Councillor Paxton welcomed Councillor Miller to the Committee.

21/098 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.

21/099 MATTERS ARISING –

Minute no. 20/750 – The Great British Spring Clean event 2021 took place between 28th May and 13th June. The Clerk publicised the event on the Website and on Social Media. The Groundsman utilised some of the logo sacks to advertise the event and gave sacks to several interested residents he met when going about his work. Barton Rotary Group also undertook a litter pick in the Village.

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. This will be discussed at the Policies & Resources Committee meeting along with the other projects approved. The Council may wish to consider buying another one for that area. Ongoing maintenance will also be a consideration, perhaps getting the neighbours to assist. This item will be taken to the next Committee meeting once funding and timescales have been agreed.

Minute no. 21/055.4 – As reported at Full Council, a resident has contacted the Parish Council with their concerns regarding safety on Manor Road, specifically the tight bend by the Manor House, when children are walking to school. They have suggested possible one-way system and/or speed humps. The Clerk has acknowledged the complaint and advised the resident to report their concerns via FixMyStreet to CBC Highways department in the first instance (this does not appear to have been recorded yet). It was agreed to include this in further discussions by the Committee regarding the Traffic Strategy update, in due course.

A resident from Sharpenhoe Road has reported their concerns regarding the safety of pedestrians, and particularly children, using the footpath along Sharpenhoe Road. Cars are frequently parked on the pavement and traffic speeds along the road. Recently there has been an increase from patrons at The Royal Oak parking their vehicles all over the place. He has spoken to the landlord.

Councillor Selley confirmed that he has spoken to the Community Policing Officer regarding the issues at The Royal Oak and they confirm they are working with the landlord to help resolve them. It was agreed to look at Sharpenhoe Road as part of the Traffic Strategy review.

21/100 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27th APRIL 2021

A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 27th April 2021, **SECONDED** by Councillor Roberts and **with 5 in favour and 1 abstention.**

21/101 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTERS INSPECTION

The inspection undertaken on the 24th June was acknowledged. Everything was in order.

21/102 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE MAINTENANCE ACTIONS FOLLOWING BUS SHELTER SURVEY

Re **Minute ref 20/749** – Councillors Paxton and Day met with the Groundsman on 25th June to undertake the survey of all bus shelters. A summary of the findings was provided at the meeting. Overall, the shelters were found to be in good order. The Groundsman will undertake some minor maintenance required. Following resident feedback, the seating in the bus shelter on Bedford Road South, opposite the Chemist, was considered.

ACTION – Clerk to obtain quotes for consideration at the next Committee meeting.

The Clerk has also contacted Central Beds Council to obtain a key to use the billboards in the Bus Shelters for Public Health information posters, pending revised Bus Timetables being made available in late Summer.

21/103 UPDATE REGARDING THE BEDS PCC ROAD SAFETY FUND APPLICATION

The Clerk submitted an application on 5th May for £3200 towards the cost of a portable radar speed sign to help discourage traffic driving too quickly through the Village. A response was expected w/c 15th June but is still awaited. **ACTION – Clerk to chase up response.**

21/104 TO CONSIDER HEDGE AND TREE WORKS ON THE GRANGE ROAD ESTATE

As reported at Full Council, a resident from Simpkins Drive has requested the tree bordering their property be reduced in height to prevent blocking light. The Groundsman has looked at the tree, which appears to be a self-seeded Ash tree that has already been cut back from the garden.

ACTION – Clerk to obtain quotes from tree surgeons for discussion at the next Committee meeting.

In addition, the open space on Simpkins Drive that the Parish Council own has a large area of stinging nettles around the border. It was agreed that the Groundsman strims these back in the short-term. In the longer-term, a review of all Council-owned areas is to be undertaken and clearly defined specifications of works required by the contractors is to be agreed.

21/105 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR TREES TO BE PLANTED ON OLD ROAD AMENITY LAND

As reported at Full Council, a resident from Old Road has suggested planting Cherry Trees along Old Road for the Queens Jubilee next year and to act as a deterrent for unlawful parking.

Members debated the pros and cons of the request. Central Beds Council's application for a Local Authority Treescape Fund grant may cover this type of request in due course.

In the short-term, the Clerk was asked to investigate possible signage with Central Beds Council to prevent parking on the grass verges.

ACTION – Clerk to contact CBC Highways Department regarding possible signage.

21/106 TO CONSIDER THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY AND THE GOVERNMENT'S TREE ACTION PLAN TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE VILLAGE TREE PLANTING STRATEGY AND AGREE WAY FORWARD

As reported at Full Council, NALC are encouraging Parish Council's to get involved with the recently launched Queen's Green Canopy initiative – 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' and have also published their Tree Charter case studies alongside DEFRA's England Tree Action Plan 2021-2024. Details were provided to members ahead of the meeting. This item was deferred to the next Committee meeting for further discussion alongside agreeing a Tree Planting Strategy for the Village.

21/107 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

There was none.

Meeting closed at 9.26pm