

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ONLINE
MONDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2020 COMMENCING AT 8.25pm**

Present: Councillors Mr J Paxton (Chairman), Mr K Taylor, Mr J Roberts, Mr J Selley and Mrs B Thomas (ex-officio)

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

Minutes: Mrs C Callen

20/227 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillors Mr N Day and Mr L Davison-Williams

20/228 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.

20/229 MATTERS ARISING –

The Clerk has chased up the Traffic Management Team regarding the outstanding replacement island at the junction with Hexton Road and Luton Road. This will be undertaken as soon as possible.

The Wanderbus have advised that they have now resumed their full service.

The Committee has previously discussed the possibility of mobile speed signs for the Village. Traffic Management Strategy to be discussed at the next meeting.

The Committee were going to undertake a review of the bus shelters to put together a maintenance schedule, over and above the usual painting/cleaning. This will need to be budgeted for next year and discussed at the next meeting.

20/230 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15th JUNE 2020

A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 15th June 2020, **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

20/231 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTERS INSPECTION

The inspection undertaken on the 18th September was acknowledged. It was noted that some of the seating needs to be improved.

20/232 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE QUOTATION FOR ESSENTIAL TREE WORKS FOLLOWING TREE SURVEY

A further tree survey was undertaken in mid-August, to include resistance testing on the trees closest to the main pedestrian area on Lovers Walk. The trees requiring urgent attention have been marked up. The Clerk has subsequently met with two tree surgeons on site at the beginning of September to outline the works required from the Survey and highlighted as required within 3 months. The works comprise of 17 trees to be felled and 23 to be reduced or dead branches to be removed. The work is expected to take 10/15 days to complete.

Quotes have been requested. One has been provided by Macauley Tree Services at £7500 plus VAT. The Clerk met another tree surgeon on site on Monday who indicated a cost of £10-£12k for the work – firm quote to be provided as soon as possible.

The Clerk has spoken to the Tree Officer from Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) and is in the process of requesting permission for the tree works in the Burial Ground, which is within the Conservation area. As Lovers Walk is in the ANOB, permission is not required from CBC but the Parish Council have been advised to contact the Forestry Commission to obtain a felling licence. They have suggested the Parish Council engage a professional forestry agent to assist. It is not clear if this is required for emergency works to remove potentially dangerous trees. It was agreed the Clerk should apply for the Felling Licence as a precaution.

Due to the urgency to get the works booked in with the tree surgeon, Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of a budget of £13,000 maximum spend for the works, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

ACTION – Clerk to apply for the felling licence and chase up the quotes from the tree surgeons for approval at Full Council.

20/233 UPDATE ON PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN MANOR ROAD, HEXTON ROAD, CHURCH ROAD AND OLD ROAD

The double yellow lines have been installed, with the exception of the top end of Old Road – the Clerk has been in contact with the Traffic Management Team at CBC who advised that the works would be completed by 25th Sept (weather permitting). Until these are in place, the enforcement officers cannot patrol that area. Residents of Old Road are still keen to see some sort of barrier/planting on the verge alongside ‘Mr Horner’s Field’.

ACTION – Groundsman to move the barriers from Church Road and place them at the top of Old Road to prevent parking on the verge pending installation of the lines.

CBC decided not to undertake a formal consultation regarding Church Road and Old Road – advising that ‘The work is experimental and will be advertised as such and can be amended as time passes’. Several residents have contacted CBC directly with their feedback which has been considered by the Traffic Management team. Councillor Laycock has advised that as a result, the lines on Church Road have now been changed to create 3 additional spaces and restrict parking opposite numbers 6 and 8 Church Road to allow access to their drives.

The consultation regarding Manor/Hexton Roads ended on 11th September – no update has been received.

ACTION – Clerk to continue to chase CBC re completion of works, engaging with Councillor Shingler to assist if necessary. Parish Council to review the parking restrictions in 2021 in light of feedback from residents.

20/234 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM RESIDENT TO FORM A ‘BARTON IN BLOOM’ GROUP

A resident has approached the Parish Council to ask permission to set up a group of local people to form ‘Barton in Bloom’ committee. The Parish Council were supportive of the suggestion in principle and agreed to put the resident in touch with the existing conservation group in the Village to progress the idea.

20/235 TO CONSIDER REQUEST TO INCLUDE A LINK TO ‘WALKING IN BEDFORDSHIRE’ WEBSITE ON THE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Parish Council were approached in May to ask if it would share a link to the ‘Walking in Bedfordshire’ website on the Parish Website. Whilst Councillors agreed that local information should be available on the Parish website, it had concerns regarding some of the material provided and its suitability for the Village. After consideration, Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** to refuse the request, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

ACTION – Committee to investigate local groups to promote on the website going forward.

20/236 TO CONSIDER TREE AND HEDGE WORKS ON THE GRANGE ROAD ESTATE

Back in March a couple of residents from Simpkins Drive complained about the overgrown hedgerow at the rear of their properties on Bedford Road, from the A6 roundabout to the Grange Road roundabout. Councillors Davison-Williams, Paxton and Day and the Clerk met the resident on site on 6th March to view the area and agreed to look at possible works in the Autumn to cut back the growth that has accumulated over the past 25yrs.

In addition, a resident has approached the Parish Council again regarding the area known as Baileys Piece, behind Ravensburgh Close, where the Groundsman cleared last year due to possible damage to her fence. The resident has now complained that the trees are overshadowing her garden and up against her fence.

It was agreed that the Clerk would seek quotes from contractors to cut back the hedges/trees in these areas, for consideration at the next Full Council meeting.

20/237 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

There was none.

Meeting closed at 9.18pm