

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON 4th JULY 2022 COMMENCING AT 7.41 PM

Present: Councillors Mrs B Thomas (Chair), Mrs G Gardner, Mr S Laycock, Mrs A Miller,
Mrs A Vale

Attending: Mrs S Cowie (Assistant Clerk)

Minutes Taken by: Mrs S Cowie

22/084 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillor Willowfield.

22/085 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Councillors Miller, Vale and Laycock declared an interest in agenda item 22/093 as allotment tenants.

22/086 MATTERS ARISING

The Groundsman has successfully filled the holes in the play surfacing at the Norman Road Play Area.

The Assistant Clerk has arranged to meet Central Bedfordshire Councils Drainage Engineer to look at the flooding problem in Arnold Recreation Ground play area.

22/087 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 7th MARCH 2022

There were no queries on the minutes. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the Leisure Committee meeting held on 7th March **SECONDED** by Councillor Gardner with 3 in favour and 2 abstentions. The minutes were approved.

22/088 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WEEKLY INSPECTIONS OF THE PLAYGROUND AND FITNESS EQUIPMENT

The inspections of the Norman Road and Arnold Recreation Ground Play Area and Fitness Equipment undertaken by the Groundsman on 13th, 20th and 27th June were acknowledged. Everything was in order.

22/089 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RoSPA INSPECTION REPORTS AND AGREE ANY ACTIONS

The report had not been received.

22/090 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A JUBILEE COMMEMORATIVE BENCH FOR ARNOLD RECREATION GROUND

Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the purchase of the Lowther Jubilee Commemorative bench, in lightwood timberpol at a cost of £668.54 and two Platinum Jubilee emblems at a cost of £130.00 from Glasdons. Councillor Miller **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

22/091 TO CONSIDER THE ARNOLD RECREATION GROUND SIGNAGE AND NOTICE BOARDS

Members reviewed the play area signage and the notice boards in the Recreation Ground.

It was noted that the notice board by Washbrook Close is not visible due to overgrowth from the hedgerow and it was agreed that this should be cut back as far as possible. Both notice boards are in need of refurbishment or replacement, the Groundsman would be asked to check their condition and report back. Members agreed that a small sign should be added to the bottom of each board to include information on the Recreation Grounds rules and contact details. Quotations for the signage to be sought

Members then considered the Play Area information board and it was noted that some of the information is out of date. Following discussion, it was agreed that a quote for a new sign should be sought, to include information as agreed, to be mounted on the existing posts, or new posts if they are in poor condition.

ACTION: Assistant Clerk to draft the signage and forward to Committee members for approval. Quotation for new signage to be sought once the wording has been agreed.

22/092 TO CONSIDER THE POLICE VISUAL AUDIT OF THE RECREATION GROUND AND CONSIDER ANY ACTIONS

The Visual Audit of the Recreation Ground, undertaken by the Police was reviewed. One suggestion to make surveillance easier was that the boundary hedgerow should be lowered. Members were very concerned that lowering the hedgerow and removing lower branches on the trees could have a negative impact to surrounding properties who may suffer from additional noise, there were also concerns over the protection of users of the recreation ground. On this basis it was agreed that this recommendation should not be pursued.

The existing benches in the Recreation Ground are wooden and are prone to vandalism. The Audit recommended that the Council should look to install eco-benches rather wood, to address the problem. Members were happy with the suggestion and would look to use eco benches in the future.

The committee discussed the need for additional benches in the Recreation Ground and following discussion felt that offering memorial benches for residents to purchase for a set period would be worth looking into.

A Bench Policy and Package should be drafted for approval. Regarding repairs of the existing wooden benches, Councillor Miller will forward the details of a contractor who can provide replacement wooden slats.

ACTION: Councillor Miller and the Assistant Clerk to draft a suitable Bench Policy and Package for approval and adoption. Committee to agree the location of new memorial benches in the Rec.

Councillor Laycock left the meeting at 8.37pm.

22/093 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE WORK TO THE ALLOTMENT BANK AND TO RECEIE AN UPDATE ON FENCING AND ENTRANCE GATES

The quotation for works was not available, however members were briefed with the proposed scheme. The quotation for work will be forwarded to members once it is available.

The Assistant Clerk provided an update on the fencing and gates installation at the entrance to the allotment site. A revised quote for the work has been requested and will be provided for discussion once it is available. It is hoped that a grant can be gained for this work.

22/094 TO CONSIDER MAINTENANCE OF THE NORMAN ROAD PLAY AREA

The office has received a complaint from a resident regarding overgrowth from the Play Area's hedgerow. Other residents whose properties back onto the park have been cutting back the hedgerow and leaving the cuttings in the Play Area. The maintenance of the hedgerow has historically been carried out by the Conservation Group rather than by a contractor however the group have now disbanded. The Assistant Clerk is organising a meeting with a specialist to review what work should be undertaken to the hedgerow so it can be budgeted for. The Groundsman is due to treat the wooden benches with wood preserver and the Assistant Clerk will look at options to refurb the entrance gates.

22/095 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – for information only

Details of Keep Britain Tidy's Love Parks campaign which is taking place between 29th July and 5th August was shared with Councillors. Green spaces have been so important during the pandemic and the scheme encourages residents to love their green spaces and to carry out litter picks to keep them clean and tidy. It was agreed that the scheme should be advertised on the Parish Council notice boards and social media.

The office purchased some table tennis bats and balls for use at the jubilee event, it was suggested that these could be rented out to encourage use of the table tennis table.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm