

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON 30th JANUARY 2023 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM**

Present: Councillors Mrs B Thomas (Chair), Mrs A Fletcher, Mr S Laycock, Mrs J Mikkelson,
Mrs A Vale

Attending: Mrs S Cowie (Assistant Clerk), 1 member of public

Minutes Taken by: Mrs S Cowie

22/427 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - were received from Councillors Gardner and Widdowfield.

22/428 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Councillor Fletcher declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 22/435 as a member of Blooming Barton.

22/429 MATTERS ARISING

The bi-monthly pest control check of the allotment site was carried out on 12th January. Mouse activity was noted, and all bait replenished.

The Allotment hedge planting event organised by Barton Countryside Conservation and the Parish Council took place on 14th January. Despite the heavy rainfall over 100 hedge whips were planted by the volunteers. A second planting will be arranged in February, to plant the remaining whips.

The response from Central Bedfordshire Councils Flooding Adviser has been received and will be discussed at a later date.

22/430 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 28th NOVEMBER 2022

There were no queries on the minutes. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the Leisure Committee meeting held on 28th November 2022 **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock with **4 in favour and 1 abstention**. The minutes were approved.

22/431 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WEEKLY INSPECTIONS OF THE PLAYGROUND AND FITNESS EQUIPMENT

The inspections of the Norman Road and Arnold Recreation Ground Play Areas and Fitness Equipment undertaken by the Groundsman on 9th, 16th and 23rd January were acknowledged. Everything was in order.

21/432 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE QUOTATION FOR WORK TO TREES OVERHANGING THE TENNIS COURTS

Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the quotation from Jempson Tree Services to cut back overhanging branches and to remove one tree at a cost of £450.00 + VAT. Councillor Mikkelson **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Councillor Laycock left the room at 7.37pm and returned at 7.38pm

22/433 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE QUOTATION FOR SIGNAGE AND LOCKS FOR THE ALLOTMENT ENTRANCES

Members reviewed the signage needs for the new allotment gates. The Assistant Clerk will seek a quote to be discussed at the next meeting.

The quotation to purchase two combination padlocks and weld to the Allotment gates was considered. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the cost of £230.00 + VAT for Project Metalcraft to provide two combination padlocks and weld securely to the gates. Councillor Vale **SECONDED** the proposal and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

22/434 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT BENCH POLICY AND BENCH PACKAGE FOR PARISH COUNCIL OWNED GREEN SPACES

The draft Policy and Application Form were reviewed, there were no further changes. Councillor Fletcher **PROPOSED** approval of the Parish Council Bench Policy (Version 1), and the Application Form, **SECONDED** by Councillor Vale and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

The suggested location and style of benches were considered. Following discussion Councillor Laycock **PROPOSED** that the Lowther Bench in light brown and Pembridge or Clifton Picnic Table from Glasdons should be offered within the Bench Package at the approved locations. Councillor Fletcher **SECONDED** the proposal and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

22/435 TO CONSIDER THE HERITAGE GARDEN

Barton Rotary Club and Blooming Barton expressed an interest in creating a Community Garden within the Parish Council's Heritage Garden area. There could be several sources of funding for such a project which could offer a new wellbeing area for the village. The Committee had previously discussed the area but were unable to progress it further due to the uncertainty of the Village Halls expansion and potential use of the land. Members were in favour of progressing the project but felt more information would be needed.

Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** that a Community Garden Project should be explored further, **SECONDED** by Councillor Vale with **4 in favour and 1 abstention**. A meeting will be arranged with Barton Rotary Club, Blooming Barton, BRCC and the Parish Council to discuss the idea.

The member of public left the meeting at 8.26pm

22/436 TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE PARISH COUNCIL'S ACTION PLAN 2023/25 FOR THE LEISURE COMMITTEE

Members reviewed and agreed the Committees Action Plan for 2023/2024. In addition to routine hedge and grass cutting and the weekly inspections the projects agreed were as follows. To organise the annual Horticultural Show, review and obtain quotations for new safety surfacing in the Norman Road Play Area, annual RoSPA inspection, to draw up a strategy for the Heritage Garden and to review the annual grounds maintenance contract. Two further projects were added to the Action Plan. To review the Arnold Recreation Ground perimeter fencing and to explore the flooding problem in Arnold Recreation Ground Play Area.

Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the Action Plan 2023/2024 for the Leisure Committee, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mikkelson and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

22/437 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – for information only

The table tennis table is regularly being used to clean off mud from footwear. Members were asked to investigate this so that the person(s) could be written to.

The Horticultural Show Sub-Committee meeting scheduled to take place would be inquorate with two apologies having been received. The meeting would go ahead, with discussion only. The number of Sub-Committee members will be discussed at the February Full Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm