

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE  
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL  
ON 27<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 COMMENCING AT 7.34 PM**

**Present:** Councillors Mrs B Thomas (Chair), Miss G Widdowfield (Vice-chair), Mrs G Gardner, Mr S Laycock, Mrs J Mikkelson, Mrs A Vale

**Attending:** Mrs S Cowie (Assistant Clerk), Councillor J Paxton

**Minutes Taken by:** Mrs S Cowie

**22/491 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - were received from Councillor Fletcher.

**22/492 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Members were reminded of the procedures, there were no declarations of interest made.

**22/493 MATTERS ARISING**

The approved tree work at the Tennis Courts will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> March. A letter was sent to residents affected and a subsequent meeting took place with one to discuss the work and allay the concerns raised.

Notification has been received that the grant application to plant 5 trees in the Recreation Ground, in celebration of the Queens Green Canopy had been successful. Once the trees have been planted, the Jubilee bench will be installed.

The second hedge planting event took place at the allotments on 18<sup>th</sup> February. Just over 100 native British grown hedge whips were planted, taking the total number planted to around 250. Barton Countryside Conservation will submit a further grant application to the Woodland Trust for hedge whips on the Parish Councils behalf.

**22/494 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023**

There were no queries on the minutes. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the Leisure Committee meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023 **SECONDED** by Councillor Mikkelson with **4 in favour and 2 abstentions**. The minutes were approved.

**22/495 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 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February were acknowledged. Everything was in order.

**21/496 TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON FLOODING IN ARNOLD RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA AND AGREE THE WAY FORWARD**

Members reviewed the suggestions from Central Bedfordshire Councils Senior Drainage Engineer on ways to tackle the flooding in the play area. Although the report did not offer a solution, members were grateful for the Officers time investigating the issue.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the following options should be explored further:

- relocate the bench
- add additional planting to soak up the water
- make a bog garden area

The item will be discussed once more information is available.

**22/497 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE THE ANNUAL CONTRACT COST FOR FIELD TOPPING**

The quotation for the annual topping of the field contract was considered. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the quotation from Mr Horner, cost £170.00 + VAT to include a minimum of two cuts with no cuts taking place during May (No Mow May) and avoidance of the orchid flowering season. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Widdowfield and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

It was noted that the machinery used for the topping is adjustable and the height can be raised to avoid the orchids, should a cut be necessary in the growing season.

Councillor Paxton arrived at 7.53pm

**22/498 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE COST FOR THE 2023 ROSPA INSPECTIONS**

Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the cost for RoSPA Play Safety to carry out the annual inspections of the Arnold Recreation Ground Play Area, Norman Road Play Area, Fitness Equipment, Zip Wire and Table Tennis Table at a cost of £256.50 + VAT. Councillor Widdowfield **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

**22/499 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE SURFACING FOR THE ALLOTMENT BANK AND ACCESS POINTS**

The two surfacing options (turf or net seed) were reviewed. Following discussion Councillor Laycock **PROPOSED** the quotation from Barton Countryside Conservation to net seed the area using hessian, soil and seed at a cost £182.97 should be accepted. Cost to include materials and labour. Councillor Widdowfield **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

**22/500 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE COST FOR ALLOTMENT GATE SIGNAGE**

Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the quotation from Signs Express to provide three 297mmx 210mm aluminium composite signs, artwork as Option 1 at a cost of £103.65 + VAT. Councillor Mikkelson **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

It was reported that the main gates drop bolt is occasionally being left down, causing an access issue. The Assistant Clerk advised that she would investigate the options.

**22/501 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – for information only**

The Barton Village Show sub-committee meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February had not been able to cover all agenda items due to time constraints and councillors' availability. Due to the short timescale before the Show, items must be covered ready for approval at the March Full Council meeting.

The next meeting date was agreed as Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 2.15pm in the Parish Office, to cover all outstanding items.

A copy of the draft Show Schedule discussed at the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February was provided.

Members were asked to read it through and advise the Assistant Clerk of any amendments, ready for approval by the Full Council.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm