

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON 27th NOVEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 8.24 PM**

Present: Councillors B Thomas (Chair), J Mikkelson, S Laycock
Attending: S Cowie (Assistant Clerk), C Callen (Clerk)
Minutes Taken by: S Cowie

- 23/315 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - were received from Councillors G Gardner, A Vale, J Paxton and N Day.
- 23/316 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Members were reminded of the procedures, there were no declarations of interest made.
- 23/317 MATTERS ARISING**
The repairs to the hip hop in Arnold Recreation Ground Play Area were completed on 24th November and the equipment is now in full working order.
- 23/318 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 4th SEPTEMBER 2023**
There were no queries on the minutes. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the Leisure Committee meeting held on 4th September 2023 **SECONDED** by Councillor Mikkelson with 2 in favour and 1 abstention. The minutes were approved.
- 23/319 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 13th and 21st November were acknowledged.
Arnold Recreation Ground - 21st November the surfacing under the hip hop was noted as damaged and the goal post foundation was noted as needing resetting.
Norman Road Play Area - everything was in order.
Fitness Equipment - the dent in the table tennis table was noted. Everything else was in order.
- 23/320 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE QUOTE FOR HEDGE CUTTING AT THE COMMUNITY GARDEN AND ALLOTMENTS**
Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the quotation from Reynolds Landscaping for hedge cutting in the Community Garden and allotments, at a cost of £125 + VAT. Councillor Laycock **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.
- 23/321 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE THE COST FOR A BENCH IN THE ARNOLD RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA**
During the summer walkabout meeting, and advice from the Police regarding antisocial behaviour in the Recreation Ground, it was agreed that the bench in the Childrens Play Area should be removed from its current position and re-sited elsewhere within the play area. Due to the construction of the bench, it is likely to break during removal and members were asked to consider purchasing a new bench. Following discussion, Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** a maximum budget of £800.00 to purchase of a Lowther seat from Glasdons with Parish Council logo emblems on the side panels. Councillor Laycock **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.
ACTION: Assistant Clerk to confirm the cost for the seat, with personalisation, fixing kit and delivery cost at the December Full Council meeting.
- 23/322 TO APPROVE THE COST OF SPARE PART FOR THE TODDLER SWING SEAT**
The Assistant Clerk advised that there are two new toddler seats in storage which can be utilised on the swings. Should any additional parts be needed, the costs will be agreed at the December Full Council meeting.

23/323 TO ACKNOWLEDGE REQUEST FOR AN EXCESS PRODUCE COLLECTION POINT AT THE ALLOTMENTS

A tenant has asked whether the Council would consider setting up an excess produce collection point at the allotments, so that excess produce can be made available for the community, rather than it go to waste. Members were in favour of the idea but agreed that a suitable, accessible location should be agreed. Item to be discussed further at a later date.

23/324 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE FOR 2023/24 AND TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE DRAFT BUDGETS FOR 2024/25

The expenditure for 2023/24 was reviewed. As highlighted in the Rospa inspection, repairs were needed to several pieces of play equipment in Arnold Recreation Ground and Norman Road Play Area. In addition, the main support leg of the zip wire had lifted due to ground movement and needed to be dug out and reset. Although considerable savings were made by using one contractor to carry out all the repair work, the cost for parts and labour was higher than expected. The Village Show went ahead in July, after a break of 3 years. Although the Show had been a success, it was noted that participant numbers had dropped and the Council are reviewing the future of the event.

Essential tree work will take place in the Arnold Recreation Ground shortly along with the annual hedge cutting of the allotments and Recreation Ground boundary.

Budgets for 2024/25 allow for a 5% increase in grounds maintenance costs, the Rospa inspection and annual check of the zip wire, as recommended. The new equipment fund and Allotment boundary fencing fund will also be topped up.

Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** the approval of the draft 2024/25 Leisure Income and Expenditure budgets, with a £16,540 committee precept, an increase of £749 which represents a 4.74% increase on last year. Councillor Laycock **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Councillor Selley arrived at 8.53pm

23/325 TO CONSIDER/AGREE THE WAY FORWARD FOR THE PLAY EQUIPMENT PROJECT

It was agreed that a Working Group, consisting of 3-4 members should be set up to explore a play equipment project for the village. Councillors Thomas and Mikkelson expressed an interest in being members of the Working Group but as not all members were present, the final membership was not agreed.

ACTION: Membership of the Working Group to be agreed.

23/326 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – for information only

The Assistant Clerk advised that she has a meeting with the grass and hedge cutting contractor to discuss hedge cutting requirements in the Allotments.

The meeting closed at 9.02pm