

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE, 1 WINDSOR PARADE
ON 15th JULY 2024 COMMENCING AT 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors A Vale (Chair), B Thomas (Vice-Chair), G Gardner, K Qureshi, J Mikkelson
Attending: S Cowie (Assistant Clerk)
Minutes Taken by: S Cowie

24/103 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - were received from Councillors J Paxton and Tebb.

24/104 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Members were reminded of the procedures.

24/105 MATTERS ARISING

The Assistant Clerk provided the following update on the vandalism and arson attack in the Recreation Ground, Community Garden and throughout the village during the weekend.

Earlier in the week, during the Groundsmen's check of the Recreation Ground, it was found that the concrete base for the Platinum Jubilee bench had been damaged beyond repair. It appears that the offender attempted to lift the bench from its base and all the fixing screws had been removed. It is unclear whether the incident was attempted metal theft or vandalism. On the same occasion one of the trees, planted to commemorate the Queens Green Canopy, was broken at the trunk and branches ripped off. It is unlikely that the tree will survive. The incident has been reported to the Police, and the bench has been removed for the time being, pending replacement of the base.

There were 2 further incidents over the weekend 13th-14th July. The first was noted on the morning of Saturday 13th July, when persons had entered the Coronation Community Garden and left the tap running causing flooding.

Sometime during Sunday 14th July there were several incidents recorded. These included extensive damage in the Coronation Community Garden, arson in the Recreation Ground and vandalism along Hexton Road/Bedford Road. All incidents and evidence were reported to the Police and multi-agencies for investigation.

Members were very concerned and disappointed to hear the news and the level of damage which has been caused. It is hoped that additional information will come forward from residents to help the Police with their investigations.

ACTION: appeal for information/CCTV to be posted on social media.

Re Minute point 24/084 Excess produce collection point at the allotments.

Councillor Vale advised that the pallets which had been set aside to build a table for excess produce had been taken and appear to have been used by a tenant. In light of the recent spate of vandalism and antisocial behaviour in the village and concerns that the table and produce could attract unwanted attention, it was agreed that the project should be put on hold at present.

24/106 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 1st JULY 2024

There were no queries on the minutes. Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the Leisure Committee meeting held on 1st July 2024 **SECONDED** by Councillor Qureshi and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The minutes were approved.

24/107 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 Groundsmen on 9th July were acknowledged. Everything was in order.

24/108 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE PLAY EQUIPMENT WORKING GROUP AND CONSIDER/ APPROVE ANY ACTIONS

Councillor Thomas declared a non-pecuniary interest as they are the Parish Councils representative to Barton Education Trust and a Trustee.

Councillor Mikkelson provided an update on the project, the grant application and recent meeting with Barton Education Trust, owners of the land. Although the Trust has supported the request for the play area to be extended and new equipment installed, they have raised concerns over the flooding issue on the Hexton Road boundary. A meeting is being arranged with the Trust to discuss the matter and an update will be requested from Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the gully clearance which is scheduled to take place.

Currently it is believed that there is no formal agreement with the Trust over the maintenance of the land. It was agreed that a formal agreement must be requested to ensure that each party is aware of their responsibilities.

The Assistant Clerk confirmed that grant application to extend the play area in the recreation ground is in progress and will be submitted in time for the deadline of Friday 19th July.

ACTION: Assistant Clerk to arrange meeting with the Educational Trust and seek an update on the gully clearance.

24/109 TO REVIEW THE ROSPA INSPECTION ACTION PLAN AND APPROVE ACTIONS AND COSTS

Members reviewed the summary of findings and Action Plan compiled by the Assistant Clerk. There were no queries. The Assistant Clerk and Groundsmen will work through the list of actions. It was noted that some of the work highlighted will not be able to be completed within the groundsmen normal working hours due to continuing high work levels. The Pay and Personnel sub-committee will discuss the matter at their next meeting.

The quote for replacement handles for the aeroskate and installation cost was considered. Following discussion, Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** approval of the purchase of new handles for the aeroskate from Proludic at a cost of £148.88 + VAT. Councillor Vale then **PROPOSED** approval of the cost of £55.00 + VAT for the installation by Kettering Play Safe. Councillor Mikkelson **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. Kettering Play Safe will fit the new handles when they are onsite to carry out the annual maintenance check of the zip wire.

ACTION: Groundsmen and Assistant Clerk to work through the Action Plan. Cost for replacement parts to be discussed once quotes have been sought.

24/110 TO CONSIDER FEEDBACK REGARDING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ALLOTMENT TENANCY AGREEMENT AND TO REVIEW THE AGREEMENT READY FOR ADOPTION BY FULL COUNCIL

Councillor Vale declared a non-pecuniary interest, as they are an allotment tenant.

The comments made at the July Full Council meeting regarding the proposed reworking of the Tenancy Agreement point 2.3 were considered. Following discussion the following amendments were agreed – the *amendments are highlighted in bold*.

2.3 Within the first three months of the tenancy 25% of the plot must be under cultivation with crops. This is discretionary on the condition of the plot at the time of tenancy agreement and time of year the plot is let. After three months it must be seen that the plot is regularly tended **and maintained** and showing signs of progress. The remainder of the plot must be under cultivation with crops within twelve months and **thereon**.

2.7 **Permission should be sought before any tree is planted** . Where approval has been granted, trees must be a dwarf variety or espaliered.

New clause:

2.10 **Glass is not permitted anywhere on the site.**

Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** approval of the Allotment Tenancy Version 7, with amendments as agreed and noted in these minutes, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mikkelson and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The document will be adopted at the Extra-ordinary meeting on 29th July.

24/111 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – for information only

None

The meeting closed at 9.30pm