

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE, 1 WINDSOR PARADE
ON 17th FEBRUARY 2025 COMMENCING AT 7.31pm

Present: Councillors A Vale (Chair), B Thomas (Vice-Chair), A Tebb, G Gardner, J Paxton (ex-officio), J Mikkelson (ex-officio).

Attending: S Cowie (Assistant Clerk), Councillors S Laycock, W Rudd & 1 member of public

Minutes Taken by: S Cowie

24/428 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from Councillor Qureshi.

24/429 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Members were reminded of the procedures. There were no declarations made.

24/430 MATTERS ARISING

Re: Minute Point 357.4 The tree surgeon has cut back branches, as per the planning approval.

A youth uniformed organisation is liaising with the Community Garden to plant sunflowers in the coming months. They asked whether a category could be included in the Village Show to judge the sunflowers. As the Show is no longer running it was agreed that the sunflowers can be judged in situ in the garden at the appropriate time. Details to be finalised nearer the time.

The date for cleaning the surfacing in the Norman Road Play Area has been arranged as week commencing 10th March. The play area will need to be closed during the work and dependent on the weather conditions, the play equipment will be painted.

24/431 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 27th JANUARY 2025

A copy of the minutes was provided to all members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 27th January 2025, **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas with **4 IN FAVOUR and 2 ABSENTIONS**. The minutes were approved.

24/432 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 11th February were acknowledged. Everything was in order.

24/433 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE COST FOR A FITNESS EQUIPMENT SIGN

Following discussion at the last committee meeting, the equipment manufacturer provided a specimen sign which they recommend is displayed. Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** approval of the quotation from Signs Express at a cost of £100.00 + VAT, **SECONDED** by Councillor Gardner and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The artwork for the sign with the amendments as agreed, should be circulated to members prior to final approval, sign to be mounted on wooden posts.

24/434 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE QUOTATION TO PURCHASE A PICNIC BENCH FOR THE ARNOLD RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA

Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** approval of the purchase of the Clifton picnic bench and fixing kit from Glasdons UK at a cost of £743.60 + VAT. Councillor Gardner **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. Funds to be taken from the Play Equipment EMR

24/435 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE THE ANNUAL CONTRACT TO TOP THE FIELD, OLD ROAD

Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** approval of the cost of £190 + VAT for Mr Horner to carry out the annual contract for topping of the field, as previous years. Councillor Mikkelson **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

24/436 TO CONSIDER THE RECREATION GROUND GATES AND AGREE THE NEXT STEP

Following research on the style of gates available it was agreed that quotes should be sought for bespoke gates for the entrance by the play area. The quote should include double lockable gates and a pedestrian gate, similar to the gates at the Washbrook Close entrance. As previously discussed, there should be a facility to include a commemorate plaque to acknowledge the years of service given to the village by the late Lyndon Davison-Williams (Parish Council Chairman).

Councillor S Laycock arrived at 7.55pm

Councillor W Rudd and a member of public arrived at 8.00pm

24/437 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON HEDGE PLANTING AND GRANT APPLICATION

As advised at the February Full Council meeting, the Clerk submitted a grant application to Central Bedfordshire Council for hedge plants. The grant was successful, and the plants have now been received. Volunteers are needed for the hedge planting, which will take place week commencing 27th February. Members were asked to check their diary and encourage others to join in.

24/438 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – for information only

Councillor Vale reported that she has been researching plot markers for the allotments. The Assistant Clerk has also researched, and both found very little on offer and very high costs. Having spoken to the Groundsman, they confirmed that they will continue with the current system which incurs low costs. No further action is required at this time.

There was nothing further and the meeting closed at 8.07pm