

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PAVILION, LUTON ROAD SPORTS FIELD
ON 7th JULY 2025 COMMENCING AT 7.58pm

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

Attending: S Cowie (Assistant Clerk)

Minutes Taken by: S Cowie

25/105 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from Councillors K Qureshi & J Mikkelsen.

25/106 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Members were reminded of the procedures. There were no declarations made.

25/107 MATTERS ARISING

The annual inspection of play and fitness equipment in the Recreation Ground and Norman Road Play Area is due to take place soon. The inspection will be carried out by Sovereign Play, as per the contract.

The contractor advised that the field on Old Road will be topped shortly. The field was left for no mow may and the orchid growing season.

25/108 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 17th FEBRUARY 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 17th February 2025, **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The minutes were approved.

25/109 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 10th, 16th, 23rd June and 1st July were acknowledged. Everything was in order in the Norman Road Play Area. In the recreation ground on 10th June the football posts were noted as loose due to the dry spell and on 16th June a bolt on the small rug rat multiplay was noted as needs tightening. Actioned by the groundsmen.

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

25/110 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE RECENT ALLOTMENT INSPECTIONS AND AGREE ANY ACTIONS

A plot inspection was carried out recently by Councillor Vale and the Assistant Clerk and letters were then sent to tenants as necessary. Members discussed a number of matters which arose from the inspection, including perimeter fencing on plots, the use of watering systems and the increase in large areas of wildflower planting. A request had been received to locate a beehive in the allotment site. The benefits of introducing bee hives to the site were acknowledge however the Allotment Tenancy Agreement states that bees, animals, livestock or birds/fowl are not permitted. It was agreed that the rules laid out in the tenancy agreement must be followed and the request denied.

Following discussion on all matters, it was agreed that Councillor Paxton will write to the tenant regarding their soaker system and the agreed decisions will be added to the Allotment Tenancy Agreement. The Assistant Clerk will prepare a letter, to be sent to all tenants, advising them of the decisions made and reminding them of the rules on the use of hosepipes. A follow up inspection to check on progress of plots will take place soon.

25/111 TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE ALLOTMENT TENANCY AGREEMENT

A review of the tenancy agreement was completed and amendments, as discussed in the previous item were added to the agreement. There are currently a large number of vacant plots, and despite advertising there has been little interest. Currently when a tenant moves away from the village, they have to give up their plot. Mostly, these plots have been worked for a considerable time and members discussed whether the rule should be relaxed to allow them to continue working their plot as a non-resident. It was suggested that plots could be opened up to non-residents, in times when there are more vacant plots than demand. Following much discussion, it was agreed that clause 1.5 of the

Tenancy Agreement should be amended to include non-residents. It was also agreed that the decisions agreed under agenda point number 110 earlier in the meeting should also be added to the Allotment Tenancy Agreement.

The amendments agreed are:

Point 1.5 The tenant shall reside within the boundary of the Parish of Barton-le-Clay. Applications from non-residents will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Allocation of a plot will be subject to the number of vacant plots available at the time and the availability of a plot within the non-resident's own parish.

Point 2.4. Not to cause or permit any nuisance or annoyance to the occupier of any other allotment garden and to correspond with the Parish Council and its officers in a respectful manner and not cause any distress.

Point 2.18 Not to connect a sprinkler system and/or makeshift sprinkler to the allotment water supply. Hosepipes should only be used whilst the tenant is on their plot and must not be left unattended or connected to standpipe. Soaker systems are permitted but must only be used when the tenant is on their plot. We ask that you are mindful of other users and do not use hosepipes or any soaker system for prolonged periods of time. At all times, please observe any restrictions placed upon the use of water by the water company and/or the Council.

Councillor Tebb **PROPOSED** the approval of the Allotment Tenancy Agreement Version 8, with amendments as discussed. Councillor Gardner **SECONDED** the proposal, with **4 IN FAVOUR AND 1 ABSTENTION**. The Agreement will be reviewed and adopted at the July Full Council meeting.

25/112 TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE ALLOTMENT TENANTS INFORMATION LEAFLET

The Information leaflet was reviewed and minor amendment agreed to the clause regarding watering of allotments which mirrors the Allotment Tenancy Agreement.

Councillor Tebb **PROPOSED** the approval of the Tenants Information Leaflet, with amendment as agreed, **SECONDED** by Councillor Gardner with **4 IN FAVOUR AND 1 ABSTENTION**.

25/113 TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE ALLOTMENT RENTAL FEE EFFECTIVE FROM 1ST OCTOBER 2026

Research on the fees charged at other local sites and nationally was provided for consideration. At present the annual rental fee is low in comparison with other sites and the fee is being held at last year's rate for the period 1st October 2025 – 30th September 2026 with no increase. Grounds maintenance and increases in water costs were taken into consideration with the decision making.

Following discussion, Councillor Gardner **PROPOSED** the annual fee for a 5 pole plot should be raised from £22.50 to £25.00 and 10 pole plot from £45.00 to £50.00 (£5 per pole) for the allotment year 1st October 2026 – 30th September 2027. Councillor Tebb **SECONDED** the proposal, with **4 IN FAVOUR AND 1 ABSTENTION**.

25/114 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – for information only.

A review and costs for gates at the Recreation Ground will be progressed.

There was nothing further and the meeting closed at 9.43pm