

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE
ON 15TH SEPTEMBER 2025 COMMENCING AT 8.23pm**

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

Attending: S Cowie (Assistant Clerk)

Minutes Taken by: S Cowie

25/170 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from Councillors A Vale, K Qureshi and G Gardner.

25/171 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations made.

25/172 MATTERS ARISING

The Assistant Clerk provided an update on the ditch clearance along Hexton Road which has not yet been completed by Central Bedfordshire Council. The project has been delayed due to issues with the haulier who will take away the waste but Central Bedfordshire Council hope to have this resolved soon. There have been no further updates from the Charitable Trust (owner of the land) regarding reinstating the broken field drains in the play area. **ACTION: Councillor Thomas and the Assistant Clerk to liaise with the Charitable Trust and Central Bedfordshire Council.**

25/173 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 7TH JULY 2025

A copy of the minutes was provided ahead of the meeting. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2025, **SECONDED** by Councillor Paxton with **3 IN FAVOUR AND 1 ABSTENTION** as they were not present. The minutes were approved.

25/174 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 part time Ranger on 10th September were acknowledged.

Everything was in order in the Norman Road Play Area.

Fitness equipment - The condition of one of the plates of the body twist was noted as poor. It was agreed that it should be removed and advice sought from the manufacturers as to whether the remaining 2 plates should also be removed. The Assistant Clerk will look into this and report back.

In the Recreation Ground, damage to the grass mats around the gyrospring/hip was noted. These mats were replaced recently but they have split. Due to flooding in this area, it is not possible to install wet pour and it was agreed that the Groundsmen should build up the surface level, lay new mats and then monitor.

25/175 TO CONSIDER WAYS TO ATTRACT NEW ALLOTMENT TENANTS TO FILL VACANT PLOTS AND AGREE ACTIONS

Posters have been displayed within the village, on social media and on the website but to date there has been no interest from people wishing to take on a plot. The number of vacant plots, looking for tenants, is significant and ways to attract new tenants were discussed.

One suggestion is to hold an Open Weekend however it was agreed that this should be put on hold until the spring. During the last review of the Tenancy Agreement, it was agreed that non-residents can apply for a plot, providing that they can work it in line with the Tenancy Agreement. The Assistant Clerk will speak to neighbouring parishes to ask if they have anyone on their waiting list who may like to consider a plot in Barton. It was also suggested that the schools and youth organisations may be interested in having a group plot. The Assistant Clerk will take this forward. In the meantime, plots will be maintained by the Groundsmen/Rangers until new tenants can be found.

25/176 TO REVIEW THE 6 MONTHLY INSPECTION OF THE NORMAN ROAD PLAY AREA AND AGREE ACTIONS AND ANY COST

The Inspection Report and Action Plan were reviewed. The equipment is in good overall condition and there are recommendations relating to the wet pour surfacing and wear and tear of the climbing net on the multipurpose unit.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the wet pour by the hopscotch should be painted as a temporary measure, and the surfacing should be discussed in the Spring.

25/177 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE COST TO PURCHASE REPLACEMENT NET FOR THE MULTIPLAY UNIT AT THE NORMAN ROAD PLAY AREA

Councillor Mikkelson **PROPOSED** approval to purchase a new net from Online Playgrounds, pending clarification of size. The maximum budget was agreed as £750.00 + VAT. Councillor Tebb **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

25/178 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE REPORT OF FINDINGS FOLLOWING ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF THE ZIP WIRE

A copy of the Report was circulated prior to the meeting. During the annual inspection, worn parts were replaced. It was noted that there is a fault on the buffer spring and the order for repair has been placed with Proludic.

25/179 RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL OF THE COST TO SUPPLY AND FIT REPLACEMENT PARTS TO THE ZIP WIRE

Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** retrospective approval of the cost of £1,082.45 + VAT for Proludic to supply replacement part and labour to fix the faulty buffer spring. Councillor Paxton **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

25/180 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON HEDGE CUTTING IN THE RECREATION GROUND AND APPROVAL ANY ACTIONS/COST

The Assistant Clerk has arranged to meet the contractor to discuss hedge cutting in the Recreation Ground. The current contract does not include all boundaries or the top field, and it is hoped that they can be included in the annual contract going forward. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

25/181 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – for information only.

Clarification has been received from Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the use of S106 fund for outdoor sport. It has been identified that smaller goal posts are needed on the Recreation Ground, and Central Bedfordshire Council have confirmed that the S106 fund can be used towards the cost. Barton Rovers Youth FC have been asked to confirm the preferred size of goals and if they have any funds to contribute to the cost.

Outstanding item for the next Agenda is to progress the project to replace and refurbish entrance gates in the Recreation Ground.

There was nothing further and the meeting closed at 9.07pm