

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON 24TH NOVEMBER 2025 COMMENCING AT 7.26pm**

Present: Councillors A Vale (Chair), B Thomas (Vice-Chair), K Qureshi, A Tebb, J Mikkelson (ex-officio)

Attending: S Cowie (Assistant Clerk), C Callen (Clerk), J Selley, S Laycock 1 member of public

Minutes Taken by: S Cowie

25/293 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from Councillor J Paxton.

25/294 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations made.

25/295 MATTERS ARISING

Members acknowledged the complaint regarding parking on Old Road during football training sessions.

The bi-monthly pest control check of the Allotments was carried out by PPM on 20th November. Minor rodent activity was observed in all stations and bait refreshed. PPM have recommended that pest control checks are increased to monthly going forward.

25/296 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 15TH SEPTEMBER 2025

A copy of the minutes was provided ahead of the meeting. Councillor Tebb **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2025, **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas with **3 IN FAVOUR** and **2 ABSTENTIONS** as they were not present. The minutes were approved.

25/297 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 on 10th and 19th November were acknowledged.

- Norman Road Play Area – the benches were noted as need retreating. Everything else was in order.
- Fitness equipment – everything was in order
- Arnold Recreation Ground – damage to the roundabout surfacing was noted on 19th November. Everything else was in order.

A member of public arrived at 7.31pm

25/298 TO CONSIDER QUOTE TO REPLACE A PIECE OF FITNESS EQUIPMENT AND AGREE THE WAY FORWARD

Members reviewed the quote to remove and replace one (of the three) body twist plates. The equipment has not fared well and been repaired and replaced in recent years. Following discussion, it was agreed that the damaged equipment should be removed, leaving two remaining twist plates for use. It is known that the fitness equipment is used by children as well as adults, on their own and as families and options for equipment suitable for use by children as well as additional equipment for adults should be explored so that families can exercise together in one area. The committee have limited funds for replacement/new equipment and the need to prioritise funds for updates to the Norman Road Play Area was acknowledged.

The committee then considered the quotation to replace two information signs for the fitness equipment. A general information sign for users of the equipment had been installed but was

vandalised beyond repair within days of the installation. Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** approval to purchase two information signs/plates at a cost of £73.00 + VAT from Caloo. Councillor Tebb **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

25/299 TO RECEIVE THE INSPECTION REPORT OF THE PLAY AREA GATES, ARNOLD RECREATION GROUND AND AGREE THE WAY FORWARD

The report from the inspection carried out by the external inspector on 20th October 2025 was acknowledged. The report recommends that the pedestrian gate closest to Old Road be replaced as it is showing signs of wear. Quotations for a supply and installation of a pedestrian gate for the Play Area will be sought for consideration.

25/300 REVIEW SEATING IN THE RECREATION GROUND AND CONSIDER ADDITIONAL BENCHES/ SEATS

The agreed plan for existing and new benches in the Recreation Ground was reviewed. It was suggested that a new bench and plaque be purchased to acknowledge the long service Councillor Gill Gardner gave to the community and Parish Council. Councillor Gardner recently passed away but had dedicated over 20 years to the community and Parish Council. It was agreed that any unspent funds at the end of the financial year should be used to purchase a new bench and plaque for the Recreation Ground.

Councillor S Laycock arrived at 7.58pm

25/301 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE FOR 2025/26 AND TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE DRAFT BUDGETS FOR 2026/27

The committee's expenditure for 2025/26 was reviewed. The largest increase in expenditure to date is the cost to carry out the annual inspection and repairs to the zip wire which was much higher than expected. Other additional expenditure this year includes hedge cutting in the Recreation Ground as additional internal hedges have been added to the contract. Income from Allotment rents is lower than forecasted due to the large number of plots given up by tenants which have yet to be relet. To date there has been little interest from residents wishing to work a plot despite regular advertising and the committee are planning an Allotment Open Day, to be held in the spring, which will promote the benefits of working a plot (health and mental wellbeing). Only a small budget will be needed for the open day and any funds required will be taken from the Community ear marked reserve.

Budgets for 2026/27 allow for a 4% increase in grounds maintenance costs, additional hedge works and annual inspection and maintenance of the zip wire. The remaining play and fitness equipment inspections are on a 5-year contract at no cost (1 year into the contract).

Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** the approval of the draft 2026/27 Leisure Income and Expenditure budgets, with a £17,215 committee precept, an increase of £1,325 which represents an 8.34% increase on last year. Councillor Qureshi **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

25/321 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – for information only.

The Assistant Clerk advised that she is progressing the project to replace the double gates at the Recreation Ground.

Councillor Tebb reported that she recently attended a meeting with Food Matters Charity who are keen to work with local authorities to reduce food poverty and food waste. The allotments may be an area which will work well with this project as tenants often have a glut of produce which could be passed on to people in need. Representatives from the Charity will be invited to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss the scheme.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.08pm