

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT
THE PARISH OFFICE, 1 WINDSOR PARADE
ON 26th JANUARY 2026 COMMENCING AT 8.01pm**

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

Attending: S Cowie (Assistant Clerk)

Minutes Taken by: S Cowie

25/413 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from Councillors J Paxton and J Mikkelson.

25/414 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Vale and Qureshi declared non-pecuniary interests to items 25/420 – 25/424 as they are allotment tenants.

25/415 MATTERS ARISING

At the Highways and Environment Committee meeting held on 19th January Councillor Tebb reported that the Leisure Committee have discussed having a food glut point in the allotments for use by its tenants. Following concerns regarding vandalism and antisocial behaviour it was agreed that a collection point for the wider community to utilise would not be possible. Food Waste and redistribution of excess food is an important issue, and although a collection point is not suitable outside the allotments the committee are keen to liaise with local schemes so that residents have the opportunity to donate excess produce locally. It was suggested that Food Matters be asked to attend the annual meeting, or other suitable Council meeting to provide more information so it can be shared with residents.

The routine pest control check of the allotments was carried out on 15th January. There were minor traces of mice activity and all bait was replenished. There were no recommendations made.

Details of a special offer for play and fitness equipment was shared with members. There are insufficient funds available at present to take this further, but the committee are keen to improve the equipment offering going forward. The need to include inclusive equipment was briefly discussed and will be explored in the future.

25/416 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 24th NOVEMBER 2025

A copy of the minutes was provided ahead of the meeting. Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2025, **SECONDED** by Councillor Qureshi and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The minutes were approved.

25/417 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 12th and 19th January 2026 were acknowledged.

- Norman Road Play Area – Flaking paint on the multiplay unit was noted and was cleared away. Everything else was in order.
- Fitness equipment – everything was in order.
- Arnold Recreation Ground –the aeroskate was noted as waiting for new parts. The repair was completed on 23rd January. The boot scrapers were noted as need cleaning.

- 25/418 RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL OF COST TO PURCHASE REPLACEMENT BOLT COVERS FOR BENCHES**
Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** the retrospective approval of the cost of £16.77 + VAT to purchase spare bolt covers for Parish Council owned benches from Glasdons UK. Councillor Qureshi **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.
- 25/419 TO REVIEW THE SURFACING AROUND THE ENTRANCE INTO THE RECREATION GROUND FROM CHURCH ROAD AND AGREE ACTIONS**
Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** approval of the purchase of two bulk bags of Type 1 from Jewsons, at a cost of £103.98 + VAT. Councillor Tebb **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.
- 25/420 TO CONSIDER REQUEST TO ERECT A STORAGE STRUCTURE ON AN ALLOTMENT PLOT**
The application meets the terms and conditions relating to storage structures, and a deposit will be taken from the tenant. Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** approval of the request to erect a storage structure, as detailed in the application form, within the boundary of plot number 23. Councillor Qureshi **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.
- 25/421 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON VACANT ALLOTMENT PLOTS AND AGREE DATE FOR THE OPEN DAY EVENT AND ACTIONS**
There are currently 13 vacant plots with no one on the waiting list. The Assistant Clerk has yet to speak to neighbouring parishes to offer plots to non-residents but will progress this.
- A youth community group asked whether they could use an area in the Community Garden for planting produced. Although the Community Garden is not suitable, the allotments could be and it was agreed that interested youth groups and schools should be invited to attend the Allotment Open Day event to find out more.
- The date for the Open Day events was agreed as the weekends of 19th/20th April and 25th/26th April. Saturday sessions between 10am – 12 noon and Sundays between 2pm – 4pm. The Open Days will need as many volunteers as possible to promote the site, show prospective tenants around and be on hand to answer any questions. The Assistant Clerk will contact tenants to advise them of the Open Day event.
- 25/422 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE HEXTON ROAD DITCH CLEARANCE**
As discussed at the Highways and Environment committee meeting on 19th January, the Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Councillor Paxton met with the River Ivel Drainage Board to discuss the upcoming ditch clearance on Hexton Road. It was agreed that the allotment site is not suitable to store the silt from the ditch and the field beyond the Recreation Ground was offered as an alternative location. Full details of the work have not yet been received but members were happy with the suggested location and keen that the project is progressed as soon as possible.
- 25/423 TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE PARISH COUNCILS ACTION PLAN 2026/27 FOR THE LEISURE COMMITTEE**
Members reviewed the Committees Action Plan for 2026/27. In addition to general maintenance and the weekly and annual inspections of the play and fitness equipment, the following projects were added to the Action Plan. In the allotments, to consider an area for food glut and to organise the Allotment Open Day. In the play areas, to review the equipment and surfacing and explore inclusive equipment. In the Norman Road Play Area, to refurbish the multiplay unit, review the safety surfacing and replace perimeter fencing as necessary. The flooding issues in the Recreation ground play area are ongoing and the annual hedge cutting contract has been renegotiated to include internal and external hedges.

Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** approval of the Leisure Committee Action Plan for 2026/27, **SECONDED** by Councillor Qureshi and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

25/424 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – for information only.

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

Councillor Vale suggested that the committee hold an onsite walkabout meeting to review the areas the committee is responsible for in the coming months.

Following a recent request to plant two fruit trees on an allotment plot, members discussed the way forward. There are concerns regarding the number of trees already planted on plots, some of which are large and will require maintenance which could fall to the Parish Council when plots are vacated, or if the tenant fails to maintain them. When a tenancy is ended it is unlikely that the tenant will remove the tree, and the new tenant taking on the plot, may not wish to inherit the trees. It was agreed that the policy and procedures must be tightened going forward. Councillor Vale volunteered to undertake an audit of the existing trees planted on plots. The tenancy agreement already states that tenants should seek approval before planting any trees and it was agreed that this should be formalised with an application form process. In order to eliminate the need for tenants to plant their own fruit trees it was suggested that the committee consider planting an orchard, in a suitable area of the site. The orchard would be available for all to use and could reduce issues and maintenance costs going forward.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.18pm