

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE  
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT  
THE PARISH OFFICE, 1 WINDSOR PARADE  
ON 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2026 COMMENCING AT 7.47pm**

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

**Attending:** S Cowie (Assistant Clerk)

**Minutes Taken by:** S Cowie

**25/460 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – were received from Councillor K Qureshi.

**25/461 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – there were none.

**25/462 MATTERS ARISING**

Minute point 25/419: Following the approval of the purchase of materials to resurface the Church Road entrance into the Recreation Ground, St Nicholas Church have been asked if materials can be delivered to the church. If the Church agree, the ground staff will carry out work on the day of the delivery, and any unused materials will be removed off site.

The IDBS (Drainage Board) provided their plan to clear the ditch on Hexton Road. As agreed, the top field on Old Road will be used for temporary storage of the silt, which will be removed off site once dried, and the ground will then be made good. Work is scheduled to take place between Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April between 9.00am and 4.30pm and a lane closure with traffic lights will be in operation. The diversion route for pedestrians will be through the Recreation Ground. Members were happy with the proposal and had no objections to the proposed pedestrian diversion through the Recreation Ground.

The Grounds Maintenance contractor will be hedge cutting at the allotments, and other areas included on the contract on 19<sup>th</sup> February. Hedges in the Recreation Ground were due to be flailed, but it has not been possible due to the prolonged wet weather.

Sovereign Play confirmed that they are due to carry out their six-monthly inspection of the Norman Road Play Area and Arnold Recreation Ground in March. A report of any findings will be provided, for discussion and action by the Committee once available.

Central Bedfordshire Council are holding a 2<sup>nd</sup> food summit on 24<sup>th</sup> February at the Rufus Centre from 9.30am – 12.30pm. Councillor Tebb attended the last session but is unable to attend this time. A brief discussion regarding progressing the food glut point for the allotments and how it can tie in with local food collection/donation points took place. Members were asked to check their diary and let the office know if they are available to attend the summit.

**25/463 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026**

A copy of the minutes was provided ahead of the meeting. Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** the approval of the minutes of the committee meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January, **SECONDED** by Councillor Tebb with **3 IN FAVOUR AND 2 ABSTENTIONS** as they were not present. The minutes were approved.

**25/464 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 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 were acknowledged.

- Norman Road Play Area – the surfacing by the hopscotch has not been able to be painted but is being monitored. A more permanent solution will be needed once the weather improves.
- Fitness equipment – everything was in order.
- Arnold Recreation Ground –the swing seat was noted; parts are on order. On 16<sup>th</sup> February the surfacing around the rota rider were noted as need filling. This cannot be actioned until the weather improves. Everything else was in order.

**25/465 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE THE ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR FIELD TOPPING ON OLD ROAD**  
Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** the quotation for the 2026 field topping by Mr Horner at a cost of £200 + VAT should be accepted. Councillor Mikkelson **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. Mr Horner has been advised about the upcoming ditch work and cuts will not take place during No Mow May, as previous years.

**25/466 TO REVIEW AVAILABLE S106 MONEY AND AGREE A SUITABLE PROJECT FOR ITS USE**  
Potential projects which meet the criteria of outdoor sport were discussed including, additional fitness equipment or new smaller goal posts in the Recreation Ground. The funding available from Section 106 is limited and it was noted that funds from the Parish Council's play equipment ear marked reserve will be needed to cover the shortfall. A quotation to supply and fit a piece of fitness equipment was provided and a second quote is being sought. The need to replace the goal posts in the Recreation Ground was highlighted in the 2024 village consultation and is outstanding. This may be a more affordable option as well as offering the best value to the community.

**25/467 TO REVIEW AND ADOPT THE TREE POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR ALLOTMENT TENANTS**  
Councillor Vale declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda items 25/467 – 25/460 as an allotment tenant.

A copy of the draft Application Form and Terms and Conditions, provided by the Assistant Clerk was reviewed. There were no amendments proposed. An audit of trees which are already on allotment plots is in progress and the new procedures will come into force, once they have been adopted by the Full Council. Looking forward the committee agreed to explore options to plant a communal orchard within the site. This will remove the need for tenants to plant their own fruit trees on their plots and will be beneficial in the long term. Councillor Tebb **PROPOSED** the approval of the Allotment Tenants Tree Planting Application Form and Terms and Conditions, **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

**25/468 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE ALLOTMENTS INSPECTION**  
An update on the inspections was provided. A number of issues had been noted on various plots including - glass on the site, items outside of the plot boundary, perimeter fencing and make-shift sprinkler systems. The Assistant Clerk is contacting those tenants affected regarding the action they should take.

**25/469 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE ALLOTMENT OPEN DAY AND AGREE ACTIONS**  
The draft poster to advertise the events was provided. A copy will be included in the Parish Councils February Newsletter and shared in the normal way. The Assistant Clerk is compiling a letter to be sent to allotment tenants advising them of the event and encouraging them to come along. A number of volunteers will be needed on the day, and members were asked to check their diary. The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners have announced the date for National Allotments Week which is running from 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> August. The committee will consider a further Open Day, or event for allotment tenants, nearer the time.

**25/424 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – for information only.**  
A meeting with a supplier of gates is being arranged.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.36pm