

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT
THE PARISH OFFICE, 1 WINDSOR PARADE
ON 20th APRIL 2026 COMMENCING AT 8.20pm

Present: Councillors A Vale (Chair), J Paxton (ex-officio), J Mikkelson (ex-officio)

Attending: S Cowie (Assistant Clerk), 1 member of public

Minutes Taken by: S Cowie

25/612 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from Councillors K Qureshi and A Tebb.

25/613 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none declared.

25/614 MATTERS ARISING

None.

25/615 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 16th MARCH 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 16th March, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mikkelson with **2 IN FAVOUR AND 1 ABSTENTION** as they were not present. The minutes were approved.

25/616 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WEEKLY INSPECTIONS OF THE PLAYGROUND AND FITNESS EQUIPMENT

The inspections of the Norman Road, Arnold Recreation Ground and Fitness Equipment undertaken on 13th April were acknowledged. Everything was in order in the Norman Road Play Area and Recreation Ground. Damage to the table tennis table leg was noted with the Fitness Equipment inspection and advice is being sought on what action should be taken.

25/617 TO REVIEW THE COMMITTEES RISK ASSESSMENTS

Members reviewed the Committees Risk Assessments - Open Spaces, Play Areas and Allotments. There were no queries or amendments to the Open Spaces or Play Areas Risk Assessments. A query was raised with the Risk Assessment for the Allotments, to be discussed with the Clerk.

Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** the approval of the Open Spaces and Play Areas Risk Assessments and the approval of the Allotments Risk Assessment with query as raised, to be clarified with the Clerk. Councillor Mikkelson **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

25/618 TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK FOLLOWING THE ALLOTMENT OPEN DAY EVENT ON 18TH & 19TH APRIL 2026

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

Councillor Vale provided an update on the Open Days which were held that weekend. There were several visitors on Saturday, and three new tenants have been allocated plots. Sunday was quieter and no plots were allocated. The site was very busy on both days with existing tenants working their plots and the event provided a good opportunity to touch base with them. Thanks were expressed to the tenant who had taken the time to speak to visitors and show how great the allotment community is. The Assistant Clerk will continue to advertise the vacant plots, and the grounds staff will keep vacant plots tidy until tenants can be found. It was agreed that the event was very worthwhile and should be repeated in the future.

25/619 TO REVIEW THE INDEPENDENT INSPECTION REPORTS FOR THE NORMAN ROAD PLAY AREA AND RECREATION GROUND AND AGREE THE ACTION PLAN AND ANY COST

A copy of the Inspectors Reports and the Summary and Action Plan, compiled by the Assistant Clerk was provided ahead of the meeting. Most of the findings noted were ranked as low risk and require ongoing monitoring during the Grounds Staff weekly inspections. Damage to the waste bin in the Play Area at the Recreation Ground was noted, to be discussed in the next Agenda Item. The Assistant Clerk will seek advice regarding the grass mats surfacing in the Recreation Ground. Due to the nature of the equipment, the zip wire is not included in the Inspectors Report, and a separate inspection and annual maintenance will take place later in the year.

The Assistant Clerk was thanked for providing the Summary of Findings and draft Action Plan. Once the Committee membership has been agreed for the forthcoming year the committee will work through the Action Plan.

25/620 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE COST TO PURCHASE A NEW LITTER BIN FOR THE RECREATION GROUND

As highlighted in the Independent Inspectors Report, the litter bin in the Recreation Ground Play Area, is in poor condition. Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** the approval to purchase one Derby Litter Bin with fixing kit at a cost of £360.95 from Broxap Councillor Paxton **SECONDED** the proposal and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

25/621 TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF A NEW BENCH FOR THE RECREATION GROUND

Following discussion at the Committee and Full Council meetings in March, members agreed to purchase a bench in memory of the late Councillor Gill Gardner, to commemorate the years of service she gave to the Village and Parish Council. They also agreed to purchase a tree which will be planted in the Recreation Ground, to commemorate the many years of service and dedication Councillor Barbara Thomas has given to the Village and Parish Council. Councillor Thomas recently stepped down as a Parish Council, a role she held for over 30 years.

Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** the approval of a cost of £762.50 to purchase one Lowther Seat with plaque from Glasdon UK. Councillor Mikkelson **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. **ACTION: Assistant Clerk to confirm how many characters are permitted on a bench plaque and speak to the family before placing an order. Cost to purchase a tree and plaque to be approved at a later date.**

25/622 TO CONSIDER THE QUOTATIONS TO SUPPLY AND FIT NEW GATES AND THE REFURBISHMENT OF EXISTING GATES AT THE RECREATION GROUND AND AGREE THE WAY FORWARD

The revised quotation and comparison of quotations was provided ahead of the meeting. It was agreed this item should be deferred and a meeting organised on site to discuss the proposal. **ACTION: Assistant Clerk to arrange onsite meeting.**

25/623 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM ARNOLD ACADEMY PTA TO HOLD A POP-UP SHOP IN THE RECREATION GROUND

Councillor A Vale declared a non-pecuniary interest as they are a member of staff. Councillor J Paxton and J Mikkelson declared non-pecuniary interests as a parent/grandparent of a pupil attending the school.

The request was considered however several concerns were raised including restrictions with the covenant, trading licences and similar requests from other groups or individual traders which would leave the Parish Council in a difficult position. Following discussion, Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** that the request be declined, **SECONDED** by Councillor Paxton and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

25/624 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – for information only.

Due to the passing of Councillor Gardner and resignation of Councillor Thomas the committee membership is currently very low. The next meeting is the Annual Parish Meeting, and it is hoped that residents will come along to find out more about the Parish Council and be encouraged to consider joining and becoming a Parish Councillor.

The meeting closed at 9.17pm