

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT
THE PARISH OFFICE, 1 WINDSOR PARADE
ON 29th JUNE 2026 COMMENCING AT 8.20pm

Present: Councillors A Vale (Chair), W Rudd, H Beckett, K Qureshi J Paxton (ex-officio)
Attending: S Cowie (Assistant Clerk)
Minutes Taken by: S Cowie

26/102 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from Councillors A Tebb, J Mikkelson & S Lupata

26/103 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none declared.

26/104 MATTERS ARISING

The monthly pest control check of the allotments was carried out by PPM on 17th June. There was evidence of bait being taken and all bait stations were replenished in accordance with guidelines.

The memorial bench to Councillor Gill Gardner has arrived. An onsite meeting will be arranged to agree the location within the Recreation Ground.

The Clerk and Assistant Clerk attended an online allotment training session on 24th June. The course which was run by the Allotment Society covered tenancy agreements and policies. The Assistant Clerk will attend the second online session which covers site facilities and health and safety.

The Allotment Competition judging took place on 29th June. The winners will be notified and invited to attend the September Full Council meeting for the presentation of prize gift vouchers and trophies.

Over the weekend the zip wire was vandalised, and the seat has had to be removed until new parts arrive. The quote for replacement parts had been received from the supplier, and the cost will be retrospectively approved at the July Full Council meeting. There was also damage to the Queens Jubilee bench over the weekend. Advice on the options available to repair will be sought from the manufacturer.

In addition to the latest incidents, the Grounds staff report that are having to clear up broken glass in the Recreation Ground on a daily basis which is taking them away from their other duties within the Village. Members discussed the welfare concerns raised by a resident at the Full Council meeting and agreed that this and the other issues discussed, should be reported to the Police. The Police have a drop-in session scheduled on Wednesday 8th July 11am – 12 noon in Vanilla & Pepper, Windsor Parade. The Assistant Clerk will speak to them regarding the various issues and publicise the vandalism issue on social media.

26/105 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 20th APRIL 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 20th April, **SECONDED** by Councillor Paxton with **2 IN FAVOUR AND 3 ABSTENTIONS** as they were not present. The minutes were approved.

26/106 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WEEKLY INSPECTIONS OF THE PLAYGROUND AND FITNESS EQUIPMENT

The inspections of the Norman Road Play Area, Arnold Recreation Ground and Fitness Equipment undertaken on 15th and 22nd June were acknowledged.

In the Norman Road Play Area, there was bird mess on the slide, which was cleaned the same day. Everything else was in order.

Everything was in order with the Fitness Equipment.

In Arnold Recreation Ground, damage to the surfacing around the roundabout was noted and the replacement pod swing chains have not yet been able to be replaced due to a query which the Assistant Clerk is following up with the supplier. Bird mess was also noted on the pod swing (cleaned) and a panel on the multiplay unit was repaired.

26/107 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE THE COST OF THE ANNUAL ZIP WIRE INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** the approval of the cost of £994.18 + VAT for Proludic to carry out the annual inspection and maintenance of the zip wire. Councillor Qureshi **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

26/108 TO APPROVE THE COST TO PURCHASE MATERIALS TO REPAIR SAFETY SURFACING

Following discussion, it was agreed that a revised quote should be sought and circulated to members via email for approval. Retrospective approval of the overall cost will be included in the July Full Council Agenda.

26/109 TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE ALLOTMENT TENANCY AGREEMENT FOR 2026/27

Councillors A Vale, H Beckett and K Qureshi declared non-pecuniary interests in Agenda Items 26/109 – 26/111 as they are allotment tenants.

The Tenancy Agreement was reviewed and minor amendments made. It was agreed that the up-to-date Tenancy Agreement should be issued to all tenants (existing and new) due to the number of amendments since it was last issued to everyone in 2020.

Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** the approval of the Tenancy Agreement for 2026/27, with amendments as discussed. Councillor Rudd **SECONDED** the proposal, with **2 IN FAVOUR AND 3 ABSTENTIONS**.

26/110 TO REVIEW THE ALLOTMENT TENANTS INFORMATION LEAFLET AND APPLICATION FORMS

A full review of the Information leaflet was undertaken and amendments agreed. The application to erect a storage structure form was also reviewed, there were no amendments made.

It was agreed that a copy of the up-to-date leaflet should be provided to all tenants together with the Tenancy Agreement when the invoice for the annual rental fee is sent out later in the year.

Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** the approval of the revised Allotment Tenants Information Leaflet, with amendments as discussed, **SECONDED** by Councillor Rudd with **2 IN FAVOUR AND 3 ABSTENTIONS**.

26/111 TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE ALLOTMENT RENTAL FEE EFFECTIVE 1ST OCTOBER 2027

A review of the current fees was undertaken. Water usage and cost was briefly discussed, and it was suggested that a separate water charge should be considered once the cost for this years water usage is known, together with a comparison of previous years bills.

Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** the allotment rental fee from 1st October 2027 as below, **SECONDED** by Councillor Rudd with **2 IN FAVOUR AND 3 ABSTENTIONS**.

- 5-pole plot - £30.00
- 10 pole plot - £60.00

- £6.00 per pole

The deposit of £50 for new plots remains at £50.00.

A review of the water usage and bills will take place at the end of the season.

26/112 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE THE COST OF A VOUCHER FOR THE ALLOTMENT COMPETITION JUDGE

Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** the approval to purchase a gardening gift voucher to the value of £20 for the allotment competition judge. Councillor Rudd **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

26/113 TO CONSIDER THE QUOTATIONS TO SUPPLY AND FIT NEW GATES AND THE REFURBISHMENT OF EXISTING GATES AT THEIR RECREATION GROUND AND AGREE THE WAY FORWARD

Two quotations were provided for consideration. Each quote includes the supply and installation of new double gates and pedestrian gate with self-closing mechanism at the Play Area end of the Recreation Ground and to install new panels at the entrance. At the Washbrook Close entrance; refurbish the existing gates and railings and install additional panels to the pedestrian entrance to deter motorbikes, quad bikes etc. from entering the Recreation Ground.

Following review of the two quotations, Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** the approval of the quote from Aegis Gates for the sum of £7,063.00 + VAT. Councillor Qureshi **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

26/114 TO REVIEW THE SIGNAGE FOR THE RECREATION GROUND

Following complaints regarding motorised vehicles such as quad bikes, electric motorbikes, scooters etc. using the Recreation Ground (which are not permitted) the signage was reviewed. It was agreed that additional signs should be displayed at the entrances as a reminder for visitors. In recent months there has been an increase in the level of litter being fly tipped in the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that separate signs should be displayed on the litter bins, asking visitors to take their rubbish home with them if the bins are full. **ACTION: Assistant Clerk to provide details of suitable signs and costs for discussion at the next meeting.**

26/115 TO REVIEW WASTE BINS IN THE RECREATION GROUND AND AGREE ANY ACTIONS

Following recent vandalism to a waste bin in the Recreation Ground members considered suitable replacements. Vandalism is becoming more frequent, particularly to waste bins and alternative styles of waste bins were considered. It was noted that Central Bedfordshire Council will need to be consulted to ensure that they will empty the bin if a different style is chosen and the Assistant Clerk will discuss this with them. **ACTION: Assistant Clerk to discuss with Central Beds Council.**

26/116 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE DESIGN IDEA FOR REFURBISHMENT OF THE NORMAN ROAD PLAY AREA

The design idea and quote provided by Wicksteed Leisure was acknowledged. There are currently insufficient funds to proceed with the refurbishment however, the design ideas will be useful for future cost planning, equipment choices and potential grant opportunities.

26/117 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – for information only. None.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm