

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE  
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE  
ON MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2020 COMMENCING AT 8.45 PM**

**Present:** Councillors Mrs B Thomas (Chair), Mr A Channon (Vice-chair), Mrs G Gardner, Mrs V Jones, Mr N Day, Mr L Davison-Williams (ex-officio)

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

**Minutes Taken by:** Mrs S Cowie

**19/554 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Councillor Mr J Paxton

**19/555 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None

**19/556 MATTERS ARISING**

Work to flail a section of hedge in Old Road has now been completed.

The Parish Council has an ongoing contract to top the field on Old Road at a fixed cost of £150.00 + VAT. Last year the field was topped four times. The contractor has confirmed the cost for 2020 will be as last year, fixed at £150.00, topping to take place as necessary.

PPM Pest Management carried out their routine check on 30<sup>th</sup> January. They reported that mouse activity was found and have replenished bait stations as necessary. The next check will take place in March.

Councillor Thomas referred to minute point 19/416, request to Central Bedfordshire Highways to consider installing an additional gate or barriers in the alley way which leads to the Norman Road play area. Highways have confirmed that they will look at this in the next financial year, Assistant Clerk to continue to liaise with Highways on this matter.

**19/557 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

There were no queries on the minutes therefore Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the Leisure committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019, **SECONDED** by Councillor Channon with 5 in favour and 1 abstention. The minutes were approved.

**19/558 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WEEKLY INSPECTIONS OF THE PLAYGROUND AND FITNESS EQUIPMENT**

The inspections of the Norman Road play area undertaken on 11<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January were acknowledged, everything was in order

The inspections of Arnold Recreation Ground on 14<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January were acknowledged. Everything was in order.

The Fitness Equipment inspections of 14<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> January were acknowledged. Councillor Channon reported that the cross trainer was loose in the ground. **ACTION: Groundsman to tighten bolts.** Everything else was in order.

**19/559 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE QUOTATION FOR POLLARDING OF WILLOW, REMOVAL/RELOCATION OF FENCE AND CLEARANCE OF SHRUBS IN THE NORMAN ROAD PLAY AREA**

Quotations for each element of the works were considered. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** the quotation from Barton Countryside Conservation to remove and relocate fence and clear vegetation around willow tree at a cost of £388.08 be accepted. The proposal was **SECONDED** by Councillor Gardner and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

Councillor Thomas then **PROPOSED** the quotation from Jempson's Tree Services to pollard willow and reduce limb over residents garden and remove arisings from site at a cost of £450.00 be accepted. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Day and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

**19/560 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE QUOTATIONS FOR CABLE WAY AND UPDATE ON GRANT APPLICATION**

Three quotations for steel cable ways were circulated to members prior to the meeting. Members considered whether a wooden cable way would be more appropriate, the majority felt that although the appearance is more pleasing the ongoing maintenance of a wooden structure would not be sustainable. In order to ascertain whether quotes for a wood cable way should be sought members agreed to vote.

Councillor Day **PROPOSED** that a steel cable way/structure as opposed to a wooden structure should be pursued. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas.

Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** to seek quotations for a wooden cableway structure. There was no seconder for this proposal, it was therefore agreed to consider steel cable ways only.

Following consideration of each structure and quotation, members agreed that more information was needed and the item should be deferred to the Full Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February. **ACTION: Assistant Clerk to consult with other Local Authorities who have installed the same cable ways and provide feedback at the Full Council meeting.**

**19/561 TO CONSIDER THE FORMATION OF A SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE SKATE PARK PROJECT**

Members considered whether a sub-committee should be set up to discuss the recent request for a skate park in Barton. Following much discussion it was agreed that a skate park sub-committee should not be formed at this time due to the uncertainty of Central Bedfordshire's Local Plan which will impact on infrastructure and facilities within the village.

**19/562 TO AGREE THE FUTURE STRATEGY AND MAINTENANCE OF THE ALLOTMENT WILD AREA AND CONSIDER FENCING REQUIREMENTS**

Councillors Thomas and Davison-Williams visited the area and concluded that a strategy for ongoing maintenance is needed. A small pathway is currently maintained however the wooded area and boundaries need attention. In addition there are frequent incidents of fly tipping. In order for the Council to maintain it's boundaries it will be necessary to clear overgrowth, remove saplings and install fencing. **ACTION: Assistant Clerk to obtain quotes for the work and take back to the committee.**

**19/563 TO CONSIDER ATTENDANCE AT OUTDOOR LANDSCAPING DESIGN FOR COUNCILS ON 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020**

The event, hosted by Groundwork East is being held at Birchwood Leisure Centre, Hatfield on 19<sup>th</sup> March. Councillors Day and Channon expressed an interest in attending.

**19/564 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA**

None

The meeting closed at 10.13 pm