

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE  
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL  
ON 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM**

**Present:** Councillors Mrs B Thomas (Chair), Mr S Laycock, Mrs A Miller, Mr J Paxton  
**Attending:** Mrs S Cowie (Assistant Clerk)  
**Minutes Taken by:** Mrs S Cowie

**21/149 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Councillors Channon and Gardner.

**21/150 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Councillors Laycock and Miller declared an interest in items 21/157 – 21/164 as they are allotment tenants.

**21/151 MATTERS ARISING**

The engineer from Caloo Ltd attended site to carry out repairs to the fitness equipment. He was not able to complete all tasks and the Assistant Clerk has requested a report of what work was completed. The fault with the cross trainer which was causing noise issues was rectified.

Wicksteed Leisure inspected the faults with the rotator and tea cup. They were able to repair the rotator whilst on site but the tea cup is outstanding. A quote for its repair will be discussed at the Full Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

One of the seats of the gyro spiral/hip hop in Arnold Recreation Ground has been vandalised and chunks of the seat have been dug out. Repair is not possible so a complete new seat will be required. A quote for replacement parts has been requested and will be discussed at the Full Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

Members voiced concern over recent incidents of vandalism to play equipment and the bus shelter which was sprayed with shaving foam. The costs for replacement parts and the groundsman's time to clean off graffiti and fix equipment is adding pressure to the budget. Members felt that the village should be made aware of the issues to raise awareness. Councillor Miler agreed to write a suitable piece to be posted on social media.

Online Playgrounds advised that they are unable to fulfil our order for an outdoor table tennis table due to long term supply issues with their usual supplier. They have provided details of an alternative table, similar to the original, and is in stock. Details of the new table tennis table were forwarded via email to Councillors who agreed that the order should go ahead.

**21/152 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 21<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2021**

Councillor Thomas noted that there was an error on page one of the minutes - Item 21/084 Action.

The word 'approval' should have read 'approved'.

Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June, with the amendment as listed, **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The minutes were approved.

**21/153 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WEEKLY INSPECTIONS OF THE PLAYGROUND AND FITNESS EQUIPMENT**

The inspections of the Norman Road Play Area, Arnold Recreation Ground Play Area and Fitness Equipment undertaken by the Groundsman on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> August were acknowledged. In Arnold Recreation Ground the repair to the cross trainer had been completed, one of the gyro spiral seats had been damaged and in the Norman Road Play Area the tea cup repair is outstanding. Everything else was in order.

**21/154 APPROVAL OF COST FOR REPAIRS TO SAFETY SURFACING IN THE PLAY AREAS**

Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the cost of £287.00 + VAT for the materials needed to carry out repairs to safety surfacing. Materials to be purchased from Online Playgrounds. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Paxton and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

- 21/155 RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL OF COST FOR A REPLACEMENT SEAT AND CHAIN FOR THE ZIP WIRE**  
 The protective covering on the zip wire seat chain was damaged beyond repair. Following advice from the manufacturer the equipment was temporarily taped up rather than take it out of use during the school holidays and a replacement seat and chain has been ordered. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** retrospective approval of the cost of £317.28 + VAT for the new seat and chain from Proludic Ltd. Councillor Paxton **SECONDED** the proposal and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.
- 21/156 TO CONSIDER QUOTATION FOR PERIMETER FENCING AND ENTRANCE GATE REPAIRS AT THE ARNOLD RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA**  
 During the annual RoSPA inspection a small area of the perimeter fencing was found to have corroded. The inspector also found that the entrance gate was catching on the surface. Quotes for repair had been requested but were not available at the time of the meeting. The Groundsman had checked both items and found that the gate was opening and closing well with no issues currently. He will monitor this. The erosion to the fencing should be able to be dealt with by the Groundsman also.
- 21/157 TO APPROVE THE COST OF ENGRAVING ON THE ALLOTMENT WINNERS CUP**  
 Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the cost of £20.00 to engrave the allotment winners name on the Winners Trophy. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. Engraving to be carried out by TrophyToo.
- 21/158 TO APPROVE THE COST OF THE ALLOTMENT COMPETITION WINNERS GIFT VOUCHERS**  
 Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the cost for National Gardening gift vouchers for the allotment competition 1<sup>st</sup> place and newcomer winners'. Total cost of £45.00. Councillor Paxton **SECONDED** the proposal and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.
- 21/159 TO CONSIDER ACCESS TO ALLOTMENT PLOTS**  
 Options to provide access to allotment plot numbers 7 to 11 were considered. Following discussion it was agreed that an onsite meeting should be arranged to agree the best course of action. **ACTION: onsite meeting to be arranged for Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm, members to meet at the allotments.**
- 21/160 TO CONSIDER THE ALLOTMENT CENTRAL ROADWAY AND AGREE THE WAY FORWARD**  
 Members considered a number of options to provide good access for vehicles using the central roadway including applying road planings to provide a surface. Concerns were raised regarding the appearance of road planings and it was felt the subject needed further investigation. **ACTION: Assistant Clerk to seek quotations for levelling off the surface and to seek advice on the suitability of using road planings as a surface.**
- 21/161 TO CONSIDER QUOTATION FOR THE HEDGE CUTTING IN THE ALLOTMENTS**  
 The allotment hedge/boundary with Dunstall Road properties was cut back heavily last winter to bring it back to the boundary line and good height for maintenance purposes. Although it was initially thought that the hedge would not need cutting again this winter, the regrowth has been more than expected and it will need to be cut taking into consideration the previous cut and new growth shoots. In addition the hedge requires further planting to fill in the thin areas, Barton Countryside Conservation are assisting with this. This item was deferred as the quote for the hedge works was not available at the time of the meeting.
- 21/162 TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE ALLOTMENT TENANCY AGREEMENT AND TO CONSIDER TAKING DEPOSITS FOR NEW TENANTS**  
 The tenancy agreement was reviewed. Following discussion the following amendments were agreed, exact wording to be approved at the full council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September.  
 Clause 2.17 add - BBQ or naked flames are not permitted.  
 Add a clause - no carpet should be put on the ground.
- Following concerns regarding the condition plots are left in when they are vacated and the costs incurred by the Council to clear them, members considered whether deposits should be taken from new tenants. Following discussion all agreed that deposits would be a good idea and that a fee of £50 should be applied for new tenants only. A clause should be added to the tenancy agreement advising that deposit monies will be ring fenced and be returned if the allotment is vacated in an acceptable condition.

**ACTION: tenancy agreement to be updated as discussed, for approval and adoption at the Full Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September.**

**21/163 TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE FEES FOR THE ANNUAL ALLOTMENT RENTAL CHARGE EFFECTIVE FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2022 AND ONWARDS**

The current fees and comparison of fees and facilities of neighbouring allotment sites was reviewed. The costs of hedge works and the proposed work to the central roadway were considered when agreeing the fee structure. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** that the fee for a 5 pole plot should be £20.00 and £40.00 for a 10 pole plot effective from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022. This fee should be held for 2 years with a review of fees to take place in 2023. Councillor Miller **SECONDED** the proposal and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

**21/164 TO CONSIDER AND AGREE THE WAY FORWARD REGARDING ALLOTMENT SECURITY AND BOUNDARY FENCING**

Members reviewed the two schemes previously considered by the committee. Following a consultation with allotment tenants, concerns over the potential loss of parking spaces in scheme two were raised. This scheme was then dropped. The installation of parking signage appeared to have been successful with no further reports of parking issues from allotment tenants.

Following discussion members agreed that scheme one which was to erect fencing and install an vehicle entrance gate with no loss of parking spaces should be revisited. In order to provide pedestrian access as well as vehicle access the costs for a 'gate within a gate' should be explored. **ACTION: Assistant Clerk to request quotes for consideration.**

**21/086 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – for information only**

There was no further business.

The meeting closed at 9.37 pm.