

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ONLINE
ON 15th FEBRUARY 2021 COMMENCING AT 7.35 PM**

Present: Councillors Mrs B Thomas (Chair), Mr A Channon (Vice-chair), Mrs G Gardner, Mr J Paxton

Attending: Mrs S Cowie (Assistant Clerk)

Minutes Taken by: Mrs S Cowie

20/538 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors Mr L Davison-Williams, Mr N Day, Mrs V Jones

20/539 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

20/540 MATTERS ARISING

The office received a report of two missing compost bins from an allotment. The Council have not removed the bins and it was unknown when they were removed. The allotment plot holder was advised they should report the theft to the Police and advice regarding security on the site was offered.

20/541 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 18th JANUARY 2021

There were no queries on the minutes. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the Leisure committee held on 18th January 2021, **SECONDED** by Councillor Gardner and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The minutes were approved.

20/542 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 on 8th February was acknowledged. In the Arnold Recreation Ground playground, much of the area was under water. This would be discussed later during the meeting. The zip wire is now in full working order and the fitness equipment has been cordoned off, as per government advice. Everything else was in order.

Councillor Channon joined the meeting at 7.43 pm

20/543 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE COST TO REMOVE SOIL HEAP FROM THE ALLOTMENTS

During the hedge works it was found that a large soil heap has been fly tipped in the allotments. Members considered options; 1. to remove from site or 2. re-distribution within the site. Following discussion Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** that option 2, to reuse the soil within the allotment site should be accepted at a cost of £155.00. Work to be undertaken by Barton Countryside Conservation. The proposal was **SECONDED** by Councillor Paxton with **3 in favour and 1 abstention**.

20/544 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE REPLANTING SECTIONS OF THE ARNOLD RECREATION GROUND HEDGE

Members discussed the replanting of the Arnold Recreation Ground and Allotment hedgerow. It was noted that there is no water supply in the Recreation Ground and this should be considered when making the decision on when the planting should take place.

Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** the Arnold Recreation Ground hedge planting should be held off until the Autumn when watering would not be such an issue. A planting scheme should be agreed and grant submitted to Central Bedfordshire Councils Tree Grant Scheme to help fund the project. The proposal was **SECONDED** by Councillor Channon and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

20/545 UPDATE ON THE REPLANTING OF THE ALLOTMENT HEDGE (DUNSTALL ROAD BOUNDARY) AND TO AGREE THE WAY FORWARD

The allotment hedge replanting was discussed. Once the hedge cutting has been completed, a planting scheme advising the varieties, sizes and area to be covered will be put together. In the meantime Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** that Barton Countryside Conservation should be asked to dig up and replant the 6 blackthorn bushes (already onsite) within the allotment hedgerow and their offer of 20 additional field grown blackthorn bushes should be taken up. Planting to take place when the digger is available. Councillor Thomas then proposed that an application should be submitted to The Woodland

Trust for hedging whips which will be used to infill the Allotment and Arnold Recreation Ground hedges. A further grant application should be submitted to Central Bedfordshire Tree Grant Scheme for larger shrubs. The proposals were **SECONDED** by Councillor Channon and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

20/546 TO CONSIDER FLOODING IN ARNOLD RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA

Councillor Thomas advised that following extensive flooding in Hexton Road, Central Bedfordshire Council are investigating the drainage which runs along the bank by the Arnold Recreation Ground. It appears that there is a drain/pipe running from the play area out to the bank and this should be investigated further, additional planting or water run off area could be required to alleviate the flooding situation. **ACTION: Assistant Clerk to seek advice from Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the flooding and what action the Parish Council should take to help.**

20/547 TO CONSIDER THE UNSPENT S106 AVAILABLE FUND

There is £4,150.34 uncommitted fund available for use for the provision of outdoor sport. Members considered suggestions on projects which would offer a wider range of outdoor sport for the village. The Assistant Clerk was asked to provide more information on suitable projects, members were asked to bring forward their own ideas to the next committee meeting. **ACTION: Councillor Channon to circulate template for outdoor sport ideas to all committee members ready for the next meeting.**

20/548 TO CONSIDER THE 2021 HORTICULTURAL SHOW

Members discussed the probability that the show could be held this year on the planned date of 11th September. Since the last show the committee has lost two valuable members who offered help with the arrangements, set up and gave considerable time on the day. The Council has historically struggled to staff the event.

There is uncertainty over Covid and the timescales when residents will have received their Coronavirus jabs and when social distancing restrictions will be lifted. Concerns were voiced regarding the time the office staff would spend organising the show which could potentially be cancelled at a later date. It was generally felt that it would be wiser not to go ahead this year. Members agreed that the opinions of all Parish Councillors should be heard before the final decision is made and that the committee should bring their own ideas for the 2022 Show for discussion at the next committee meeting.

ACTION: item to be included on the March Full Council agenda for discussion by all Councillors. Councillor Channon to circulate template for show ideas ready for the next committee meeting.

20/549 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – for information only - None

There was no further business.

The meeting closed at 8.37 pm.