

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE  
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ONLINE  
ON 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021 COMMENCING AT 8.08 PM**

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

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

**Minutes Taken by:** Mrs S Cowie

**20/472 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Councillors Mr J Paxton, Mr Davison-Williams

**20/473 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None.

Councillor Channon joined the meeting at 8.09 pm.

**20/474 MATTERS ARISING**

The Groundsman have made good progress clearing vacant allotment plots ready to be let to new tenants. They were thanked for their excellent work.

Allotment holders have placed 'crazy paving' surface on a section of the allotment central roadway to raise the ground level as it has compacted and eroded over time. The committee agreed that the roadway surfacing needs should be reviewed and this item should be included on the Committees Action Plan for 2021/22.

**20/475 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**

There were no queries on the minutes. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the Leisure committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020, **SECONDED** by Councillor Channon and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The minutes were approved.

**20/476 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WEEKLY INSPECTIONS OF THE PLAYGROUND AND FITNESS EQUIPMENT**

The inspection of the Norman Road Play Area, Arnold Recreation Ground Play Area and Fitness Equipment undertaken on 11<sup>th</sup> January was acknowledged. Councillor Thomas queried whether the missing bolt on the multi-play equipment at Norman Road had been replaced, the Assistant Clerk was asked to check this. The noise from the zip wire would be investigated by the manufacturer later that week. Everything else was in order.

**20/477 UPDATE ON ZIP WIRE COMPLAINT AND TO AGREE ANY ACTIONS NECESSARY**

An update on the zip wire complaint was received. The manufacturer is due to attend site this week to investigate and resolve the noise issue, the Groundsman will be present.

Prior to the equipment being purchased Councillors visited another site to view the zip wire in operation. It was found to be very quiet and on this basis the decision to use Proludic was approved. Members were concerned that there is a fault with the zip wire and that it should be resolved as a priority.

**20/478 TO CONSIDER APPLICATION FOR CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILS TREE GRANT SCHEME**

Two areas of the hedgerow in Arnold Recreation Ground (Hexton Road boundary) are very thin as the planting has died off. The hedgerow acts as a sound buffer as well as habitat for wildlife and members agreed that it should be replanted with suitable, evergreen shrubs. Central Bedfordshire Council have launched a Tree Grant Scheme and initial enquiries with them indicated that the replanting of this hedgerow and sections of allotment hedge would be applicable to the Grant Scheme. Laurel bushes could offer good evergreen coverage however due to the Recreation Grounds location within the conservation area laurel may not be suitable. The deadline for the first round of grant applications is 28<sup>th</sup> February, a second round will run from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021 to 28 February 2022.

**ACTION: Assistant Clerk to establish which species of evergreen hedge are suitable for planting within the conservation area and report back to Council. Costs of planting and Grant application to be submitted once information is available.**

Councillor Mrs V Jones arrived 8.28 pm.

**20/479 UPDATE ON HEDGE CUTTING IN THE ALLOTMENTS**

The majority of allotment tenants have moved personal items and planting back to within their plot boundary, clearing a two metre access pathway between the end of allotment plots and the hedgerow. One tenant has not yet acted and a chase letter has been sent. One further tenant has not been able to remove items due to illness however access for hedge cutting purposes is possible and the work required to clear the pathway will be completed as soon as possible. **ACTION: Assistant Clerk to liaise with contractor and agree date for the work to be carried out.**

**20/480 REVIEW AND AGREE THE PARISH COUNCIL'S ACTION PLAN 2021/22 FOR THE LEISURE COMMITTEE**

The Action Plan for the coming year for the Leisure committee was reviewed and minor amendments made. In addition to the weekly checks of equipment, litter picking and general maintenance of the open green spaces, members agreed the following priorities for 2021/22; review the security of the allotment site and surfacing of roadway, progress the Heritage Garden area, 2021 Horticultural Show and a review of play equipment and surfacing (to include annual ROSPA safety check). The priorities for 2021/22 were agreed.

**20/481 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – for information only**

A suggestion had been received that additional football goal posts should be installed in Arnold Recreation Ground. Examples of goal posts and their costs were provided to members for consideration. It was noted that the Recreation Ground has been used for football in the past however there were continuous problems with dog mess which had to be cleared before matches could begin. There are 2 goal posts already within the Recreation Ground which are available for use by all. Members agreed that the area should remain a multi-use open recreational area and the request for additional goal posts should not be pursued at this time as there is sufficient provision already.

There was no further business.

The meeting closed at 8.51 pm.