

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD VIA ZOOM
ON MONDAY 20th JULY 2020 COMMENCING AT 8,10 PM**

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

Attending: Mrs S Cowie (Assistant Clerk)

Minutes Taken by: Mrs S Cowie

20/128 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillors Mr J Paxton and Mr L Davison-Williams

20/129 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

20/130 MATTERS ARISING

Minutes point 20/059) The Groundsmen have been working through the RoSPA actions and have completed everything highlighted by the Inspector with the following exclusion. The fence around Arnold Recreation Ground is being monitored, it has become loose due to the dry weather which has caused the ground to crack. They are unable to access the aeroskate bearings, the supplier is due to be on site during August and will be asked to look at this. The toddler swing seats in the Norman Road play area were being discussed under agenda point 20/134.

The cable way is being installed at Arnold Recreation Ground on Monday 3rd August. The structure will be installed first, cable and seat to be installed once the structure is set. Councillor Channon queried whether it would be possible for our own cable way to be installed on a mound, similar to the cable way at Walsworth Common, Hitchin which also incorporates a slide. Unfortunately this was not possible as the cable way purchased is designed for flat ground only.

Minute point 19/559, Barton Countryside Conservation have advised that they have surveyed the area requiring fencing in the wild area of the allotments and will provide a CAD drawing and quotation for fencing and installation of drainage shortly.

Central Bedfordshire Council's Waste Services have confirmed that they are unable to collect waste from the play areas at weekends.

The Assistant Clerk had visited the allotments and noted that the clippings from our boundary hedge had not been disposed of by the resident who removed the hedge. A follow-up letter has been sent. The concrete which had been left on an allotment has been removed by the resident.

An email was received from a member of the Horticultural Show sub-committee advising his resignation from the committee as he is moving away from the area, A letter of thanks has been sent thanking him for his involvement and help with the horticultural show and conservation group.

20/131 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 15th JUNE 2020

There were no queries on the minutes. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the Leisure committee held on 15th June 2020, **SECONDED** by Councillor Gardner and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The minutes were approved.

20/132 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 13th July were acknowledged,

20/133 TO CONSIDER SIGNAGE AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR SAFE OPENING OF THE PLAY AREAS AND AGREE DATE FOR REOPENING

Copies of signage and the risk assessment were circulated to members prior to the meeting. Signage included a list of Do's and Don'ts to be displayed at the entrances to the play area and notice board, social distancing signage to be placed on benches and the picnic area in Arnold Recreation Ground play area, and notice boards.

A small number of amendments to the traffic light signage were suggested including that the council reserves the right to close the play area if rules are not being adhered to. **ACTION: amendments to be made to traffic light signage copy of amended version to be sent to all councillors**

It was noted that despite the areas being closed and gates to Arnold Recreation Ground play area locked, the facilities had been regularly used during the closure period. In addition there have been reports of antisocial behaviour in the Arnold Recreation Ground play area which caused much concern. It was suggested that the committee should look at relocating the bench in the play area as it's current

position is hidden and if relocated to a more visible area antisocial behaviour could be reduced. Item to be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Members queried whether it would be possible to open the park before approval at the Extra-ordinary meeting on 27th July and asked that an email vote be sent to all Councillors to gauge their opinion on when the parks and fitness equipment should be opened. In the meantime the Groundsman would be asked to clean the equipment to remove birds mess ready for the opening.

Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** that an email be sent to all Councillors (with a copy of the proposed signage) asking whether the park should open this week or wait until after the Extra-ordinary Council meeting on 27th July. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Channon and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The office was thanked for producing the signage.

20/134 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE PURCHASE OF TODDLER SWING SEATS FOR NORMAN ROAD PLAY AREA

During the recent RoSPA report the Inspector noted cracking on the rubber surround of the swing seat and recommended they should be monitored and replaced if the metal underneath is showing.

Two committee members had visited the play area earlier that day to assess the condition of the seats and found further cracking in other areas of the seat and that the dye was coming off onto their hands. It was also found that some areas of the chains were rusting, the Groundsman should be asked to clean these off.

Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the quotation from Online Playgrounds for two Wicksteed Cradle swing seats at a cost of £156.00 each plus a delivery charge of £12.00. Total cost £324.00 plus VAT. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Jones and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. Funds to be taken from the equipment replacement ear marked reserve.

20/135 TO CONSIDER FENCING AT ARNOLD RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA

During the lock down period all play areas were closed as per HM Government advice, however the play area has been regularly used despite the closure and locking of the gates. Earlier in the meeting members voiced concern over the misuse of the area and they considered whether they wished to look into installing higher fencing around the play area and also the fitness equipment. Some members were concerned that although high level fencing would allow the council to control the use of the area, it will urbanise the village and unlike the Norman Road Play Area which has strict opening and closing times, the locking and unlocking of Arnold Recreation Ground play area could be more of an issue. Following discussion it was agreed that hiring high level fencing could be an option and should be explored further.

ACTION: Assistant Clerk to look into hire options and report back to committee.

Councillor Gardner left the meeting at 9.05pm, returned at 9.11 pm

20/136 TO CONSIDER FEEDBACK AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BARTON COUNTRYSIDE CONSERVATION REGARDING THE COPPICING OF ALLOTMENT HEDGEROW AND AGREE THE WAY FORWARD

Members considered the response from Barton Countryside Conservation regarding the coppicing of the hedgerow (boundary with Dunstall Road) in the allotments. It had been suggested that a survey of the boundary should be considered before any work is undertaken to avoid any conflict with neighbouring properties. Members considered the response but felt the first action should be to contact all residents who back onto the allotments and to establish which properties have their own fencing on their boundary and which do not, as the coppicing of the hedge may cause security issues for some residents. Members were asked to visit the site to familiarise themselves with the hedgerow ready for the next committee meeting.

20/137 TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE ALLOTMENT TENANCY AGREEMENT

The allotment tenancy agreement was reviewed and a copy of the standard tenancy agreement from the National Society of Allotments was provided for members to consider. It was felt that all points were covered in the current tenancy agreement with the exception of visitors and children to the site which should be added. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** point 7.6 of the National Society of Allotments tenancy agreement should be added to the Parish Council's Allotment Tenancy Agreement, **SECONDED** by Councillor Day and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. **ACTION: Add point 7.6 of the National Society of Allotments tenancy agreement, revised Agreement to be approved and adopted at the Extra-ordinary Council meeting on 27th July.**

20/138 TO REVIEW AND AGREE FEES FOR THE ANNUAL ALLOTMENT RENTAL CHARGE, EFFECTIVE FROM 1ST OCTOBER 2021

The fees were reviewed. Following discussion Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** the fees for the allotment year beginning 1st October 2021, ending 30th September 2022 with an increase of 50p for a 2½ pole plot (rising to £8.50), £1.00 for a 5 pole plot (rising to £17.00) and £2.00 for a 10 pole plot (rising to £32.00). The proposal was **SECONDED** by Councillor Day and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

19/139 UPDATE ON ACTION TAKEN FOLLOWING THE DECISION TO CANCEL THE 2020 HORTICULTURAL SHOW AND TO AGREE THE DATE FOR THE 2021 SHOW

An update was provided by the Assistant Clerk. Posters advising of the cancellation have been displayed on the village notice boards and social media sites and all judges advised and thanked for their involvement with the show. The preferred date for the 2021 show was agreed as Saturday 11th September. The Assistant Clerk was thanked for her hard work producing the Show Schedule, posters and now cancelling the event. **ACTION: Assistant Clerk to check availability of the Village Hall, Councillor Gardner to advise the Women's Institute of next years show date.**

19/140 TO APPROVE THE SET UP OF EAR MARK RESERVE FOR UNSPENT HORTICULTURAL SHOW EXPENSES

Councillor Thomas asked that the committee consider a plan for the wild area at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.41 pm.