

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD VIA ZOOM
ON MONDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2020 COMMENCING AT 7.42 PM**

Present: Councillors Mrs B Thomas (Chair), Mrs G Gardner, Mrs V Jones, Mr N Day, Mr J Paxton, Mr L Davison-Williams (ex-officio)

Attending: Mrs S Cowie (Assistant Clerk), 1 member of public

Minutes Taken by: Mrs S Cowie

20/190 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillor Mr A Channon

20/191 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

20/192 MATTERS ARISING

In recent weeks there have been three incidents of fly tipping of manure at the allotments. The first incident was witnessed by the new Groundsman who challenged the offender but was told that an allotment plot holder had requested the delivery. Since that time there have been two further incidents, and other garden waste is now been fly tipped. These incidents have been reported to the Police and Central Bedfordshire Council's Fly Tipping team. As the land is owned by the Parish Council it is unlikely that Central Bedfordshire will assist with the clean-up, which will have to be undertaken by the Parish Council at considerable cost.

The Assistant Clerk has requested details and pricing for hire of herras type fencing and fixings for the Arnold Recreation Ground Play Area should a further national playground closure be enforced. Costs to follow.

Following the review of the annual allotment tenancy agreement it was agreed that it should be issued to all tenants as several amendments have been made since the first issue in 2010. Tenancy agreements and notification of the annual rental fee for 2021/22 to be delivered before the allotment year end date of 30th September.

Minute point 20/133: possible relocation of the bench in Arnold Recreation Ground Play Area to be added to the next agenda.

Minute point 20/134: two new toddler swing seats were installed in the Norman Road Play Area prior to the park being re-opened.

Minute point 20/139: The date for the 2021 Horticultural Show has been set as 11th September. The Village Hall has been booked and judges informed.

20/193 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 20th JULY 2020

There were no queries on the minutes. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the Leisure committee held on 20th July 2020, **SECONDED** by Councillor Gardner with 5 in favour and 1 abstention. The minutes were approved.

20/194 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 15th September were acknowledged, Everything was in order.

20/195 RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF GARDENING GIFT VOUCHERS FOR THE 2020 ALLOTMENT COMPETITION WINNERS

Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** retrospective approval for the cost of National Gardening Gift Vouchers for the annual allotment competition winners, **SECONDED** by Councillor Gardner and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. £30 voucher to be awarded to the First Prize Allotment Winner and £15.00 for the Allotment Newcomer winner. Second prize was not awarded this year.

20/196 RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL OF ENGRAVING COST FOR THE ALLOTMENT COMPETITION WINNERS CUP

Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** retrospective approval for the allotment competition first prize winners name to be engraved on the Cup at a cost of £30.00 + VAT. Work undertaken by MBS Trophies. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Day and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

20/197 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE RESPONSE TO LAND AGENT REGARDING ALLOTMENT NEED IN THE VILLAGE

Members considered their response to the land agent regarding the need for allocation of additional allotment plots on the proposed new housing development East of Barton-le-Clay.

The allotments at the current site are now full with a waiting list of 12 people, the addition of a further 498 houses would result in more demand for allotment plots which the Council is unable to meet. Following discussion it was agreed that the Council should look to compile and submit a list of all the services needed for the additional population, including allotment need. Councillor Davison-Williams **PROPOSED** a response to Turleys (land agent for Taylor Wimpey) advising that there will be a requirement to match the additional allotment need created by the proposed new development. Number of additional allotments required to be calculated and agreed. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. **ACTION: Councillor Davison-Williams to calculate additional allotment need, letter to be agreed at the October Full Council meeting**

20/198 TO CONSIDER FEEDBACK FROM RESIDENTS ON PROPOSED ALLOTMENT HEDGE WORK AND AGREE THE WAY FORWARD

A letter outlining the proposed coppicing of the hedgerow/Dunstall Road boundary at the allotment site was sent to all properties backing onto the allotments. Responses were received from six residents, three were in favour of coppicing the hedge, three were not.

Members discussed the previous hedgerow coppicing which was undertaken at the Recreation Ground, Old Road whereby the hedge was coppiced and metal post and wires installed to allow the new hedge to grow up. If coppiced the new growth would take some time to grow to a sufficient level, and although it was noted that residents would have the opportunity to install their own fence to make their property secure it was widely felt that any action the Parish Council takes should consider it's neighbours and not put them at a disadvantage. To move the project forward it was agreed that costs and options should be explored. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** that three quotations should be sought, **SECONDED** by Councillor Day and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**: Options as follows:

1. Cut back hedge to height and width to agreed level
2. To coppice hedge, install metal post/angle section and wires
3. To coppice hedge and install chain link fence

ACTION: quotations for the three options to discussed at the next committee meeting.

20/199 TO CONSIDER ANY FURTHER ACTION FOLLOWING COMPLAINT FROM RESIDENT REGARDING THE CABLE WAY

At the Full Council meeting on 14th September a resident complained about noise from users of the cable way which has reportedly increased since the cable way installation. One suggestion made was in look into installing acoustic fencing which could lower the noise levels. Examples of reflective wooden acoustic fencing and costs were considered by members, reflective style fencing was suggested as the better option however the costs proved unaffordable and members therefore felt they could not pursue this further.

Another option explored was to consult with the supplier to see if the ladder and platform could be relocated so that users initially travel in the opposite direction to the property. After checking with the supplier this was found not to be viable as the main supports would not allow the relocation and would have likely caused additional problems with access and further noise from users congregating closer to several properties.

Although sympathetic to the complaint members felt there was nothing reasonable or affordable that could be done. No other complaints have been received from residents. Councillor Davison-Williams **PROPOSED** that a letter be sent to the resident explaining the options the Council has explored but regretfully the Parish Council is unable to undertake works to eliminate noise, **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

20/200 TO CONSIDER INSTALLING INCLUSIVE FITNESS EQUIPMENT IN ARNOLD RECREATION GROUND

Examples of disabled use/inclusive use fitness equipment were considered by members. Members agreed that before taking this further it would be necessary to establish what demand there is in the village and a survey would need to be undertaken. Due to Covid-19 the Councils income and funds available are lower than usual and although a worthwhile project, it was agreed that a pathway to the fitness equipment would be more valuable at this time. It was therefore agreed that this project should not be pursued but be considered at a later date.

19/201 TO CONSIDER ACCESS PATHWAY INTO ARNOLD RECREATION GROUND

A resident made comment on social media that a pathway should be installed in Arnold Recreation Ground however no formal request had been received. Members felt a pathway would not be necessary as the park is unstructured and any path would cut through the green space used for football training and other activities. The area is also not so widely used in the winter time when the ground is wet. As per item 20/200 members agreed that a pathway from the Washbrook Close entrance to the fitness equipment would be more valuable. As no formal request had been received it was agreed that this item should be considered at a later date.

19/202 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – for information only

Items for inclusion on the next agenda –

The next stage of the heritage garden, to consider a request for a rugby goalpost in Arnold Recreation Ground and the relocation of the bench in Arnold Recreation Ground play area.

The meeting closed at 8.32 pm.