

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ONLINE
ON 22ND MARCH 2021 COMMENCING AT 7.33 PM**

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

Attending: Mrs S Cowie (Assistant Clerk)

Minutes Taken by: Mrs S Cowie

20/632 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors Jones and Paxton

20/633 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

20/634 MATTERS ARISING

It was reported that soil and potatoes have been dumped in the Councils skip at the allotments. The skip is kept locked so it was unknown how entry was gained and there did not appear to be any damage caused to the lock. The Assistant Clerk will speak to the waste contractor about the lock.

A section of the tennis courts perimeter fence had been damaged, the club were informed and the incident was reported to the relevant authorities.

During the evening of 17th March the bench by the basketball net in Arnold Recreation Ground was vandalised with several wooden slats broken. The bench had been repaired 18 months previously due to vandalism, the groundsman will try to repair it. In the meantime it has been cordoned off as it is not usable and the incident has been reported to the relevant authorities.

20/635 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 15TH FEBRUARY 2021

There were no queries on the minutes. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the Leisure committee held on 15th February 2021, **SECONDED** by Councillor Gardner and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The minutes were approved.

20/636 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 8th and 15th March were acknowledged. The Fitness Equipment is cordoned off as per government advice. Everything else was in order.

20/637 TO ACKNOWLEDGE COMPLAINT REGARDING THE LOCATION OF THE FITNESS EQUIPMENT AND CONSIDER RESPONSE

The complaint was acknowledged and the points and suggestions made by the resident on relocating the fitness equipment were considered.

It was suggested that the equipment is not well used and is prone to anti-social behaviour. For much of the past year the fitness equipment has been taped off due to the Governments restrictions on Covid and therefore usage was lower than usual. During this period the office had received positive feedback on the fitness equipment with residents keen to see it back in use. Members did not feel that moving the equipment would be financially appropriate and would not address the concerns raised by the resident. **ACTION: Assistant Clerk to respond to resident advising the committees decision regarding the suggested relocation of the fitness equipment.**

Councillor Channon joined the meeting at 7.42 pm

20/638 TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND REVIEW THE RISK ASSESSMENTS FOR THE LEISURE COMMITTEE

The annual risk assessments were acknowledged and reviewed by members. A spelling error was noted on all paperwork, Clerk to update if possible.

20/639 TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON FLOODING IN ARNOLD RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA AND TO AGREE THE NEXT STAGE

Following the last meeting, emails were sent by the Assistant Clerk and Central Bedfordshire Councillor Shingler to Highways seeking their advice on the flooding issue. No response had been received at the time of the meeting. The Assistant Clerk will follow this up.

20/640 TO CONSIDER THE PARKING ISSUES AT THE ALLOTMENTS AND AGREE THE WAY FORWARD

Members considered the complaints received regarding visitors to Barton who are parking at the allotments to visit the hills and springs resulting in a lack of parking for allotment tenants. The car park is private property, provided for allotment tenants use only.

Councillor Thomas proposed that the committee should consider installing fencing and gates at the entrance as a priority. The committee have funds available for this use. Currently there is no signage regarding parking restrictions and this should be considered also.

The Assistant Clerk was asked to provide a plan of the proposed fencing to all committee members, Councillors were invited to visit the site individually to familiarise themselves with the proposal.

ACTION: Assistant Clerk to provide plan of the proposed fencing/gates to members and obtain quotes for the work. Quotes for appropriate parking signage to be agreed at the April Full Council meeting.

20/641 TO REVIEW THE ALLOTMENT FENCING/SECURITY AND AGREE THE WAY FORWARD

This item was covered under minute point 20/640.

20/642 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE THE COST FOR THE ANNUAL RoSPA SAFETY INSPECTION OF THE PLAY AREAS, FITNESS EQUIPMENT AND ZIP WIRE AND TO APPROVE THE COST FOR THE GROUNDSMAN TO ATTEND

Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the annual RoSPA safety inspection costs for the play areas, fitness equipment and zip wire and for the groundsman to attend the inspection. Total cost of £275.50 + VAT from RoSPA Play Safety. The inspection would take place in May. The proposal was **SECONDED** by Councillor Gardner and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

20/643 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE THE ANNUAL CONTRACTOR FOR TOPPING THE FIELD

Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval of the annual cost of £150 + VAT for topping the field on Old Road. Cost to include a minimum of two cuts per year whilst protecting the orchids in the area. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Channon and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

20/644 TO CONSIDER PROJECT FOR THE UNSPENT S106 AVAILABLE FUND

The committee considered the feedback from Councillors regarding projects for the S106 available fund and agreed that provision of an outdoor table tennis table in Arnold Recreation Ground should be pursued. Toddington have two tables in their play areas, members were invited to visit the sites to view them. The Assistant Clerk will seek firm quotes for the installation of one table tennis table and appropriate surfacing ready for discussion at the next meeting. **ACTION: Quotations for supply and installation of one table tennis table and surfacing to be sought. Councillors invited to view the tables installed in Toddington.**

20/645 TO CONSIDER NEW FOOTBALL GOAL POSTS FOR ARNOLD RECREATION GROUND

Following ongoing issues at the Sports Field members considered whether new football goal posts should be installed in Arnold Recreation Ground. This item had been discussed previously but due to ongoing issues at the Sports Field the chairman felt it should be reconsidered. Following discussion it was agreed that additional goal posts should not be installed and the recreation ground should remain as open as possible, for use by all.

20/646 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – for information only –

Councillor Day reported that the waste bin by the village hall/telephone exchange is regularly overflowing. The office will speak to Waste Service about this.

Councillor Channon asked the committee to consider installing an additional waste bin by the bench situated close to the entrance of Arnold Recreation Ground. Consideration would need to be made on the regulations regarding the distance a bin should be sited from a bench, the office would look into this.

Item for inclusion on the next agenda. Committee to agree the consultation process with the village regarding what leisure facilities they would like to see. This will assist the Council with its decision making and future projects.

There was no further business.

The meeting closed at 8.48 pm.