

MINUTES OF AN EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL,
HELD ON MONDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2020
ONLINE AT 7.41PM

Present: Councillors Mr L Davison-Williams (Chair), Mrs B Thomas (Vice-Chair), Mrs G Gardner, Mr J Selley, Mr J Paxton, Mr N Day, Mr A Channon, Mr K Taylor and Mrs V Jones (audio only)

In attendance: Mrs C Callen (Clerk)

Minutes: Mrs C Callen

20/167 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Mr J Roberts and Mr S Laycock

20/168 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the procedures regarding declaration of interests. Councillor Gardner declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 20/169 as a member of the Bowls and Football Club. Councillor Paxton declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 20/169 as a member of the Football Club.

20/169 TO CONSIDER REQUEST TO RELOCATE THE ROYAL MAIL SORTING OFFICE TO BARTON ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB LAND AND AGREE THE WAY FORWARD

A request was received from the Chairman of Barton Rovers Football Club to approve in principle the relocation of the Royal Mail Sorting Office to their site, following the closure of the current Post Office and Sorting Office on Bedford Road in October. Councillor Davison-Williams had previously provided a briefing, outlining the request and items to be considered. Following questions raised by several councillors ahead of the meeting, the Clerk and Councillor Davison-Williams provided further information following their discussions with the Chairman of the Club and the current Post Master in the Village.

Councillors then held a lengthy discussion, covering the benefits to the Village, the Football Club and possible areas of concern if the request were to be agreed, at the end of which, Councillor Channon **PROPOSED** to decline the Agreement in Principle at this stage but to revisit the request, subject to further discussion to clarify areas of concern and subject to conditions being agreed. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas **with 7 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.**

ACTION – Clerk to contact the Chairman of the Football Club to outline the concerns of the Parish Council and arrange a further meeting to discuss the Heads of Terms.

Councillor Day left at 9.13pm

20/170 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM DOCTORS SURGERY TO PURCHASE THE FREEHOLD OF THE CURRENT LAND THEY LEASE

A request has been received from the Practice Manager on behalf of the Partners at the Doctors Surgery, to explore the possibility of purchasing the freehold to the area they occupy. At present they lease the land on a 'peppercorn' rent, with 89.5years remaining on the lease. The Doctors are looking for an investment and the potential sale could ensure the retention of the GP Practice in the Village and provide revenue for the Community. Councillor Davison-Williams provided a briefing document to all members ahead of the meeting, outlining the background to the current lease arrangements and issues to consider, including a valuation of the site in the first instance.

Following discussion, Councillor Davison-Williams **PROPOSED** to continue to debate the request and to consider the item again at a future meeting, keeping the Practice Manager informed at each stage, **SECONDED** by Councillor Paxton and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

20/171 ITEMS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

There were none.

The meeting closed at 9.31pm

I certify these minutes are a true and correct record of the Parish Council Extra-Ordinary meeting held on 7th September 2020

Dated this the 14th September 2020

**COUNCILLOR L DAVISON-WILLIAMS
CHAIRMAN**