

MINUTES OF AN EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL,
HELD ON MONDAY 18th MAY 2026
AT THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.32PM

Present: Councillors J Mikkelson (Vice-Chair), A Fletcher, J Selley, A Vale, A Tebb, S Lupata and H Beckett

In attendance: C Callen (Clerk) and S Cowie (Assistant Clerk)

Minutes: C Callen

Councillor Mikkelson welcomed everyone to the meeting. An Extra-ordinary meeting has been called by the Chairman following the Annual Meeting, to enable the appointment of Chair/Vice-chair of each committee. Councillors Paxton and Mikkelson are already on each committee as ex-officio members.

26/023 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors J Paxton, K Qureshi, S Laycock and W Rudd.

26/024 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR & SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF OFFICE

Mrs Beckett gave a brief overview of her background and what contribution she could make to add value to the Parish Council. Councillor Mikkelson **PROPOSED** that Mrs Beckett be co-opted Councillor for Barton-le-Clay Parish Council, this was **SECONDED** by Councillor Fletcher and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The newly co-opted Councillor Beckett then signed her Declaration of Office, which was witnessed by the Clerk. Councillor Beckett then joined the meeting and was welcomed by the Vice-chair.

Councillors Lupata and Beckett confirmed their committee membership for 2026/27, with Councillor Lupata on Sports Field and Leisure Committees and Councillor Beckett on Burial Grounds and Leisure Committees.

26/025 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the procedures regarding declaration of interests. There were none.

26/026 BURIAL GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT/UPDATE

026.1 Election of Chair and Vice-chair for ensuing year

Councillor Selley **PROPOSED** Councillor Laycock as Chair of the Burial Grounds Committee. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Fletcher and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. Councillor Vale then **PROPOSED** Councillor Rudd as Vice-chair, **SECONDED** by Councillor Fletcher and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

026.2 Matters arising from previous Burial Grounds committee not included within agenda - information only

The owner of a pre-purchased grave has raised a query that their grave has already been used for a burial. The Groundsman and Assistant Clerk have made initial investigations but it is unclear whether the land has been used from either visual or record details. The grave digger is due on-site next month for a funeral and has been asked to investigate further. If there is any uncertainty, the grave will need to be rodded and any cost covered by either the owner or Council.

026.3 To acknowledge the Burial Ground, Churchyard and War Memorial inspections

The inspections undertaken on 18th May were acknowledged.

Churchyard – It was noted that several areas of grass were uncut, following the scheduled contractor visit last week. This was due to a funeral taking place in the church when they were on site and also the bulbs which have now finished flowering. The Groundsman will trim the outstanding areas.

Burial Ground and War Memorial – Everything was in order.

26/027 LEISURE COMMITTEE REPORT/UPDATE

027.1 Election of Chair and Vice-chair for ensuing year

Councillor Fletcher **PROPOSED** Councillor Vale as Chair of the Leisure Committee, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mikkelson **with 6 in favour and 1 abstention**. Councillor Vale then **PROPOSED** Councillor Tebb as Vice-chair, **SECONDED** by Councillor Fletcher **with 6 in favour and 1 abstention**.

- 027.2 **Matters arising from previous Leisure Committee not included within agenda – information only**
PPM Ltd carried out the routine pest control check of the Allotments site on 12th May. Minor signs of mice activity were noted and bait was refreshed. They will monitor the situation at the next visit; no recommendations were made. Currently checks are done every 2 months, but the Committee budgeted for monthly visits from this year. The new contract will be set up shortly.

Re: **Minute no. 25/621** – The bench in memory of Gill Gardner is to be ordered. The proposed wording for the plaque is:

*In Memory of Councillor Gill Gardner
Who dedicated many years to serve the Parish
A friend to many and a voice for our community
Much Missed*

Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** the above wording be approved, **SECONDED** by Councillor Tebb and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

The Assistant Clerk provided an update from her discussions with the Clerk to Barton Educational Trust in respect of the flooding in Arnold Recreation Ground Play Area. A financial contribution to the works has been suggested, as well as establishing a sinking fund for any future expenditure. A review of the works required will now be taken forward.

- 027.3 **To acknowledge weekly playground inspections – Arnold Recreation Ground play area, Fitness Equipment and Norman Road play area**

The Arnold Recreation Ground playground, Fitness Equipment and Norman Road play area inspections for 12th and 18th May were acknowledged.

Fitness Equipment – everything was in order

Arnold Recreation Ground – stickers had been placed on the gyrospring/Hip Hop and there were bird droppings on the basket swing. Cable ties have been installed on the equipment to prevent birds sitting on the frame and the bird mess was cleaned.

Norman Road – bird mess was noted in various locations.

- 027.4 **To receive an update on the table tennis table and agree way forward**

Following the discussion at the last meeting, the supplier has advised that the table tennis table can be relocated but the leg will need to be replaced. They note that the tabletop is at risk of damage during the work. Two quotes have been requested:

1. To remove and dispose of;
2. To remove from the Recreation Ground and relocate to the school. A new leg would need to be purchased to enable the table to be installed at the new location.

The quotes are still awaited. This item will be deferred to the next meeting.

26/028 SPORTS FIELD COMMITTEE REPORT/UPDATE

- 028.1 **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for ensuing year**

Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** Councillor Selley as Chair of the Sports Field Committee, **SECONDED** by Councillor Fletcher **with 6 in favour and 1 abstention**. Councillor Selley then **PROPOSED** Councillor Vale as Vice-Chair, **SECONDED** by Councillor Fletcher **with 6 in favour and 1 abstention**.

- 028.2 **Matters arising from previous Sports Field committee not included within agenda – information only**

The last matches for the 2025/26 Season were played on Sunday 17th May. A further delivery of soil was made by Winton Haulage Ltd and a letter of thanks has been sent to them. In total, 6 lorry loads (120tonne) were donated. The grass seed arrived on 13th May with reseeding work to begin this week.

The Assistant Clerk advised that the annual Lightning Protection service will be undertaken on 19th May.

26/029 PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATE

029.1 Election of Chair and Vice-chair for ensuing year

Councillor Selley **PROPOSED** Councillor Fletcher as Chair of the Planning Committee, **SECONDED** by Councillor Vale **with 6 in favour and 1 abstention**. Councillor Fletcher then **PROPOSED** Councillor Qureshi as Vice-chair, **SECONDED** by Councillor Vale and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

029.2 Matters arising from previous Planning Committee not included within agenda – information only

The Clerk and Councillors Qureshi and Paxton attended a meeting on 15th May with Taylor Wimpey and the Art Work designer. Ideas such as Red Kite birds, wheat crops, water cress, etc. were put forward to represent the local wildlife and current/historic farming in the area. It was agreed that local schoolchildren will be asked for their ideas before the final artwork design is completed. A meeting has been arranged for 21st May at Arnold Academy.

Ward Councillor Childs and the Clerk attended a meeting with Taylor Wimpey on 15th May to discuss progress with the development, and particularly the infrastructure at this stage. These meetings will continue monthly going forward.

029.3 Update on planning applications refused/granted

A list of application decisions was circulated to members prior to the meeting. This was noted.

029.4 Update on Enforcement Notices

There were none.

029.5 To consider new planning applications or delegate authority to respond to committee:

CB/TRE/26/00143, 52 Washbrook Close: Works to Trees protected by Tree Preservation Order TPO/4/2001/G1: Crown reduction by 1m above previous pollard points to suitable lateral growth and reduce the lower length of the limbs by 50% to Sycamore (T1) and Plumb (T2).

Following review, Councillor Fletcher **PROPOSED** the following comment be submitted, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

- **COMMENT:** The Parish Council are happy to follow the advice and recommendation from the Central Beds Council Tree & Landscape Officer with regards to the application.

029.6 To acknowledge planning appeal in respect of application CB/25/03733/FULL, Hill Farm House, Old Road: Erection of a single storey garden room and associated landscaping

An appeal has been submitted by the property owners following refusal of planning.

The Parish Council's previous response was 'no comment'. This will be considered, unless it is withdrawn or amended. There is no opportunity to submit further comments. Members agreed that the original response of 'no comment' should stand.

029.7 To acknowledge CPRE new national campaign 'On the Edge' and consider joining the pledge

CPRE have launched a campaign inviting people across the Country to stand behind a shared ambition: *that every town and city should be surrounded by thriving and protected countryside – for nature, climate and wellbeing*.

Details were provided to members ahead of the meeting. As part of the campaign, a national map of local countryside is being put together. Councillor Fletcher **PROPOSED** that the Parish Council pledge to support the campaign, **SECONDED** by Councillor Tebb and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

029.8 Update regarding the Central Beds Council Scoping Consultation for the Local Plan

Councillors Fletcher and Qureshi attended a meeting on 13th May at CBC. Councillor Fletcher provided feedback. A timetable for the Central Beds Local Plan 2050 has been provided, starting from 26th March 2026 and running to adoption proposed by 28th December 2028. The Parish Council will be invited to comment on the sites submitted during the 'call for sites' in July 2026.

Also covered at the meeting on 13th May were details on a new scheme being proposed by CBC for low-cost highways improvements which would be funded by the local Parish Councils. This could include planters, village gates, bollards, speed signs, etc. Requests will be sought during June/July 2026 and CBC Highways will respond within 3months.

CBC are also considering hardship grants, funded by the Government. An online form is available for residents to apply. Some Grants have already been given to residents impacted due to the rise in oil heating fuel costs caused by the war in the Middle East.

26/030 HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT/UPDATE

030.1 Election of Chair and Vice-chair for ensuing year

Councillor Mikkelson **PROPOSED** Councillor Paxton as Chair of the Highways & Environment Committee, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. Councillor Mikkelson then **PROPOSED** Councillor Laycock as Vice-chair, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

030.2 Matters arising from previous Highways & Environment committee not included within agenda - information only

Central Beds Council have provided an update regarding the remaining bus shelter improvement works along Bedford Road, northbound. Traffic management is required to complete these works and so the contractors are awaiting CBC Streetworks to confirm a date in June to undertake the works.

Graffiti was reported on the bus shelter Luton Road Northbound during the inspections on 18th May. This will be removed. Further issues with graffiti were reported by a resident over the weekend at Lovers Walk. This has damaged a tree at the entrance to the woodland, as well as being sprayed on the gates and concrete block. The metal gates have been cleaned with graffiti remover but the other areas will need further investigation.

26/031 POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT/UPDATE

031.1 To formally approve Policies & Resources committee members as being the elected Chairs of the aforementioned committees.

Councillor Mikkelson **PROPOSED** that the Policies & Resources committee be made up of the Chair of each committee: Councillors Mikkelson, Fletcher, Laycock, Paxton, Vale and Selley, **SECONDED** by Councillor Fletcher and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

031.2 To acknowledge Chair and Vice-chair for ensuing year

Councillor Paxton was acknowledged as Chair of the Policies & Resources committee, Councillor Mikkelson was acknowledged as Vice-chair of the committee (as per Standing Orders).

031.3 Election of Chair and Vice-chair for the Pay & Personnel sub-committee for ensuing year

Councillor Selley **PROPOSED** Councillor Mikkelson as Chair of the Pay & Personnel sub-committee, **SECONDED** by Councillor Vale **with 6 in favour and 1 abstention**. Councillor Mikkelson then **PROPOSED** Councillor Selley as Vice-chair, **SECONDED** by Councillor Vale **with 6 in favour and 1 abstention**.

031.4 Matters arising from previous Policies & Resources Committee not included within agenda

The Tennis Club have provided their annual report for 2025/26, in line with the terms of their lease. This was acknowledged.

031.5 To approve cost for BATPC New Councillor Induction Training

BATPC have arranged New Councillor Induction training, online on Thursday 28th May at 7.30pm. Cost of the session is £35 each delegate. The new councillors confirmed their availability on this date. Therefore, Councillor Mikkelson **PROPOSED** approval of a cost of £70 for Councillors Lupata and Beckett to attend this session, **SECONDED** by Councillor Tebb and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

26/032 ITEMS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Councillor Selley invited members and their partners to his Summer Barbeque, to be held on 25th July 2026. Further details will be provided nearer the time.

The meeting closed at 8.23pm

I certify these minutes are a true and correct record of the Extra-ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th May 2026

Dated this the 8th June 2026

**COUNCILLOR J PAXTON
CHAIRMAN**