

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2022 COMMENCING AT 8.22PM**

Present: Councillors Mrs B Thomas (Chairman), Miss G Widdowfield (Vice-chair), Mr J Paxton,
Mr S Laycock and Mrs G Gardner

In attendance: Mrs C Callen (Clerk)

Minutes: Mrs C Callen

22/170 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillor Mr J Selley.

22/171 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were none.

22/172 MATTERS ARISING

The new photocopier was delivered and installed on 29th September. The Office Staff are pleased with the additional features this offers which will result in time savings.

The Village Hall Committee have offered several dates to meet and discuss their plans for improving the Village Hall facility, using S106 funding already secured. The Clerk will liaise with Councillors and the Village Hall Committee to agree a suitable date.

22/173 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20th JUNE 2022

A copy of the minutes was provided to members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** the approval of the minutes of 20th June, **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock **with 4 in favour and 1 abstention.**

22/174 TO CONSIDER REQUEST REGARDING THE TELEMAT LEASE AND AGREE WAY FORWARD

Cellnex UK (who manage the T-mobile/EE telemast) have contacted the Parish Council to look at assigning the existing agreement to On Tower UK Ltd. All existing terms would remain the same. They will pay a premium and a Solicitors cost contribution. The Clerks understanding is that there is no formal lease currently in place due to issues several years ago, although the annual rental premium is received each year, the latest paid by On Tower UK Ltd. The new assignment document proposed would restrict the term of the lease to 10years, whereas there is currently no end date in place. Details of the offer have been shared with Barton Rovers FC who share the current rental income with the Parish Council. After discussion, it was agreed to seek further clarification on the actual value of the site and feedback from Barton Rovers FC before making any decision.

ACTION – Clerk to investigate further independent advice.

22/175 TO CONSIDER CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED UPGRADE TO BASE STATION TELEMAT AND AGREE ANY RESPONSE

Cornerstone have contacted the Parish Council as part of their consultation on a proposed upgrade to the telemast on Barton Rovers FC site. The Clerk has shared the information with the football club for their input. Members discussed the implications of the proposals, including any additional height or Planning requirements, particularly given the views from the neighbouring ANOB.

ACTION – Clerk to seek further clarification on what is proposed.

22/176 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM BLOOMING BARTON REGARDING THE WATERING OF PLANTERS AND TREE IN THE CENTRE OF VILLAGE

Blooming Barton have approached the Parish Council to request use of the water from the Allotments for watering their planters and the proposed new Christmas tree. They have calculated the potential usage and costings which would be c£20 per annum. The planters consist of the 4 purchased by the Parish Council using the Welcome Back Funding and the additional ones purchased by the group (3-tier outside the Co-op, The Bull and The Wagon). The Group are also considering purchasing further planters in due course. Members discussed the proposal, including the fact that the water at the allotments is turned off during the winter months to prevent damage to pipes. Therefore, Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval to allow use of the water during the Summer months but for alternative plans to be agreed in the Winter. Any additional

planters purchased would have to be discussed and agreed as necessary. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Paxton and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

22/177 TO CONSIDER DESKTOP AUDIT OF UTILITY ENERGY BILLING AND AGREE WAY FORWARD

Utility Aid have contacted the Parish Council to offer a free desktop audit of our current energy suppliers billing. They have requested copies of a recent invoice to complete this, together with a letter of authority from the Parish Council for them to obtain necessary information from the suppliers. This will then identify if there is any overcharge occurrence. Their main aim is to help the Council get the best deal when the current contracts expire. Unity Aid is an energy broker who specialise in the public sector, charities and not-for-profit organisations. After review, Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** approval for the free desktop audit to be undertaken, **SECONDED** by Councillor Paxton and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

22/178 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Councillor Paxton advised that Stagecoach are changing their bus service from 30th October. The Bedford/Luton Bus no. 81 will continue to run through the Village hourly but it will also go via the airport and on to Milton Keynes. The new MK1 service timetable is available from their website and will be put on noticeboards in due course.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm