

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2022 COMMENCING AT 8.24PM**

Present: Councillors Mrs B Thomas (Chairman), Mr J Paxton, Mr S Laycock and Mrs G Gardner

In attendance: Mrs C Callen (Clerk) and Councillor Mr J Roberts

Minutes: Mrs C Callen

22/242 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillors Mr J Selley and Miss G Widdowfield.

22/243 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were none.

22/244 MATTERS ARISING

A meeting was held with the Village Hall Committee on 27th October to discuss their plans for improving the Village Hall facility, using S106 funding already secured. Councillors Thomas, Roberts, Gardner and the Clerk attended. Councillor Roberts gave a summary of the discussion.

22/245 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3RD OCTOBER 2022

A copy of the minutes was provided to members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** the approval of the minutes of 3rd October, **SECONDED** by Councillor Gardner and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

22/246 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE S137 GRANTS FOR 2022/2023

A summary of grant applications was provided to all committee members prior to the meeting. The 2022/23 budget for small grants had been set at £3,500. Councillor Paxton declared a non-pecuniary interest in Barton Kids Club, Ramsey Manor Lower School PTA, Barton Scout Troop, and Barton Helping Hands as members of his family all utilise these organisations. Councillor Gardner declared a non-pecuniary interest in Barton-le-Clay Bowling Club as a member. The committee reviewed all grant applications received and reached a consensus on the proposed 2022/23 grants shown below:

ORGANISATION	ORGANISATIONS ACTIVITIES	GRANT REQUIRED FOR	COST OF PROJECT	AMOUNT SOUGHT	LAST YEAR AMOUNT GRANTED	PROPOSED GRANT 2022/23
Barton Helping Hands	Local volunteers who provide time and transport to any residents of the village in need	Annual Public Liability Insurance	£125.00	£125.00	£173.63	£125.00
Barton Community Choir	Community Choir open to anyone over 16	Music Scores	£200.00	£200.00	Nil	£200.00
Unity Hall	Scouting & Guiding HQ	Internal Defibrillator (in cabinet)	£857.00	£500.00	£250.00	£300.00
Barton-le-Clay Pre-school	Pre-school for children 2-4yrs following the EYFS	Interactive whiteboard	£1500.00	£500.00	Nil	£200.00
Barton-le-Clay Bowling Club	Outdoor bowling club, providing coaching and bowling from club to county level and social activities for members	Replace water pump on irrigation system	£2276.84 + VAT	£1000.00	£350.00	£350.00
Barton-le-Clay Village Hall	Multi-Functional Village Hall run for the benefit of local groups and organisations	LED Lighting for the Foyer area	£2000.00	£500.00	Nil	£250.00

Barton-le-Clay History Society	To research & promote local history - Community archive & exhibitions	Archaeological tools, materials/PP E/insurance for volunteers	£1100.00	£211.90	Nil	£212.00
Noah's Ark	Non-profit making group offering a weekly get-together for parents/carers and pre-school aged children.	Purchase of new rug for the children's corner	£250.00	£100.00	£50.00	£100.00
Barton Kids Club	Wraparound childcare for 4-11 year old children attending Ramsey Manor Lower School and Arnold Academy, including Holiday Club. Run by Parent Volunteers	Purchase indoor/wet weather play equipment	£165.00	£165.00	£200.00	£165.00
Barton Scout Troop	Weekly Scout Group with an active outdoor programme. Aimed at young people in the village from 10yrs to 15yrs	Event shelter & tent pegs/mallets/camping equipment	£800.00	£500.00	£400.00	£400.00
Ramsey Manor Lower School PTA	Parents, students and teachers working together to raise money from organised events to improve the school	Purchase of BBQ for fundraising events	£250.00	£250.00	£100.00	£100.00
CPRE Bedfordshire	Countryside charity looking to enhance, promote and protect Bedfordshire for local communities to enjoy & value the natural world	Support planning volunteers to give advice & guidance to PC/communities	£25,300.00	£400.00	Nil	£400.00
Keech Hospice	Hospice supporting adults and children with terminal or life-limiting conditions	Adult in-patient unit	£2,070,763	£400.00	Nil	£400.00
Harlington Upper School	Educational establishment for children aged between 13 and 18	Prizes for annual awards evening	£125.00	£125.00	£125.00	£125.00
Arnold Academy	Educational establishment for children aged between 9 and 13	Prizes for annual Year 8 leavers award evening	£50.00	£50.00	£50.00	£50.00
Gale Court Residents	Sheltered housing for elderly residents	Lunch/entertainment event	£325.00	£325.00	£304.00	£325.00
The Royal British Legion	To support all armed service personnel	Poppy Wreath	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00
TOTAL						£3802.00

Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** the approval to allocate grants totalling £3,802 as per the schedule of S137 grants above, **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

ACTION – Planning and Remembrance budgets to be considered to cover any overspend.

- 22/247 TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE AND DIRECT DEBIT TO TOWER LEASING LTD FOR THE PHOTOCOPIER CONTRACT**
As agreed under Minute ref no. 22/114.7, the new photocopier has been delivered and the lease contract agreement signed by the Clerk. Tower Leasing Ltd have provided a schedule of payments for the next 5 years. This includes an initial contract fee of £150 plus VAT and an annual service fee of £40 plus VAT. Total cost £2304.47, which equates to £109.74 plus VAT per quarter (an increase of £16.71 over the original costs approved in July but still much cheaper than the other quotes received). Payments to be made quarterly by Direct Debit over 5 years. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of payment schedule and direct debit to Tower Leasing Ltd, **SECONDED** by Councillor Gardner and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.
- 22/248 TO CONSIDER A VILLAGE 'WARM SPACE' FOR THE WINTER**
As raised at the last Full Council meeting, the Parish Council agreed to consider offering a 'warm space' over the Winter for Villagers who might be struggling to heat their own homes due to the current cost of living and energy crisis. It was reported that Central Beds Council are offering all their library sites during opening hours, including Barton Library. A discussion took place regarding the possibility of offering financial support to a suitable group if they would be interested in running something. The Village Hall may be available as a location to hire.
ACTION – Councillor Gardner agreed to speak to the Women's Institute members to see if they would consider running a regular drop-in session. An update will be provided at the next meeting for further consideration.
- 22/249 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SALE OF RIALTAS BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LTD**
Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd, who provide the software and support for the Council's finance system, have advised that they have been sold to Harris Computer Corporation. A copy of the advice letter with Frequently Asked Questions was provided to members, for information. This was acknowledged.
- 22/250 TO ACKNOWLEDGE DATE AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAY AT FOOTBALL CLUB**
Barton Rovers FC Chairman has advised the Clerk that this year's event will be held on Friday 4th November. The usual contractor from Dynamic Fireworks Ltd, will be running the event and has provided confirmation of their insurance, risk assessment and method statement ahead of the date, to meet the requirements of our insurance company. It was noted that due to weather conditions, an area of the Sports Field, between pitches 1 and 4 will be used to launch some of the fireworks. Debris will be collected up on the evening after the event.
ACTION – Clerk to confirm arrangements with the Football Club and request that their staff/volunteers undertake another sweep of the pitches for debris on Saturday morning, before the scheduled games kick off.
- 22/251 TO RETROSPECTIVELY APPROVE THE COST TO REPLACE THE LAMINATOR MACHINE**
The laminator machine in the Parish Office has stopped working. It was nearly 5 years old and out of warranty. The Clerk has purchased a replacement machine from Herts Supplies which is more efficient and should meet the ongoing needs of the Parish Council, especially given the amount of signage now undertaken in-house for events. Councillor Laycock **PROPOSED** retrospective approval of the cost of £98.65 plus VAT, **SECONDED** by Councillor Paxton and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.
- 22/252 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA**
There was none.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm