

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 8.56PM**

Present: Councillors J Paxton (Chairman), S Laycock, A Fletcher and B Thomas

In attendance: C Callen (Clerk)

Minutes: C Callen

23/197 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – These were received from Councillors N Day and J Selley.

23/198 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Councillor Fletcher expressed a non-pecuniary interest in item 23/205 as a member of the Christmas Lights committee.

23/199 MATTERS ARISING

The Parish Council have been successful in obtaining a Grant of £5k from the Whitbread Fund towards the Community Garden project. A decision is still awaited on the Central Beds Council Community Asset Grant.

A request has been received from Cluttons LLP to formalise the lease for the Vodafone/Telefonica Telemast at the Football Club. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Clerk advised that an entry has been submitted on behalf of the Parish Council into this year's Christmas Tree Festival at St Nicholas Church. Details to be discussed at the next meeting.

23/200 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3rd JULY 2023

A copy of the minutes was provided to members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** the approval of the minutes of 3rd July, **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas **with 3 in favour and 1 abstention**.

23/201 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF THEIR LEASE AND AGREE WAY FORWARD

The Chair of the Village Hall Committee has contacted the Parish Council regarding their lease. They have been advised by BRCC that since the current lease only has 10 years left to run, it may hamper them securing S106 or grant funding. They have asked the Parish Council to consider starting the renewal process. Members agreed for Councillors Paxton and Laycock to meet with the committee to start negotiations.

23/202 TO CONSIDER SECURITY AT THE VILLAGE HALL/DOCTORS AND AGREE WAY FORWARD

Following the matter being raised at the last Full Council meeting by residents and staff from the Doctors, the Parish Council now need to consider a way forward. The Village Hall committee have discussed the situation at their last meeting and, whilst they acknowledge the problems and are happy to discuss it with us, not all their members felt it was something they should get involved with – suggesting the ASB/drug taking issues should be directed to the Police / CBC to deal with. As discussed with the Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner on 18th September, there could be some support with re-deployable CCTV, although without the evidence of reported incidents on the Police heat map, the funding could be diverted elsewhere. Members agreed that Councillors Paxton and Laycock should meet with the Village Hall Committee and Doctors to agree a way forward. The Clerk was asked to write to the residents and doctors with an update and also emphasis on Social Media and the next Newsletter the importance of reporting every incident.

ACTION – Clerk to take forward communications as requested.

23/203 TO APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE INSURANCE POLICY FOR 2023/24

The Annual renewal of the Council's insurance policy is due as at 30th September. The Council entered into a long-term undertaking with BHIB Councils (now rebranded Clear Councils) Insurance in 2021, which covers a three-year period. The Clerk has reviewed the Policy Schedule to ensure it is still correct. Under the delegated authority approved at Full Council (23/153.2)

Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the renewal for 2023/24 at a cost of £2,588.28 with Aviva, **SECONDED** by Councillor Fletcher and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

23/204 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE RENEWAL OF THE GAS SUPPLY CONTRACT FOR THE PAVILION

The Crown Gas contract at the Pavilion expires on 2nd October. The Clerk has contacted Utility Aid who are a broker who specialise in supporting charities, not-for-profit organisations and public sector (endorsed by NALC) in sourcing competitive energy contracts. Given the volatility in the market, quotes are only valid for a short space of time. Utility Aid have now advised that the contract appears to have already been renewed for 12months. The Clerk will clarify the situation and contact all members via email if the contract still can be negotiated.

23/205 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE CORRESPONDENCE FROM BARTON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND AGREE WAY FORWARD

The Christmas Lights team have advised that 2023 will be their last organised event. They have struggled attracting volunteers to help and run fund-raising activities. They are looking for the Parish Council to take on the provision of Christmas Lights for the Village, funded from the annual Precept. Estimated cost for storage, repairs and to put up and take down the lights is c. £5k. They will donate funds remaining after this year's event, which should fund 2024. The Parish Council already provide £1k to support the storage costs but would need to provide the additional £4k. Councillor Paxton thanked the Committee for all their hard work over the past six years in putting on a fantastic event for the Village. It was agreed that this item should be discussed further at the next Full Council meeting in October.

23/206 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

There was none.

The meeting closed at 9.41pm