

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 22nd APRIL 2024 COMMENCING AT 8.35PM**

Present: Councillors J Paxton (Chair), N Day (Vice-chair), B Thomas, and S Laycock

In attendance: C Callen (Clerk)

Minutes: C Callen

23/589 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – These were received from Councillors J Selley and A Fletcher.

23/590 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were none.

23/591 MATTERS ARISING

The Government have provided the official portrait of the King free of charge to all Town and Parish Councils and public buildings. The Portrait has been put up in the Parish Office.

A resident has spoken to the Parish Council regarding a possible carol singing event on Lime Close before Christmas, with members of both St Nicholas and the Methodist Churches performing. This could be linked to the switch-on of the lights. They are only considering the proposal at the moment and the Clerk has given them details of Central Beds Council Safety Advisory Group contact, to ensure they have everything considered. The Parish Council can support them with the event, if necessary.

The Clerk has completed the Year End accounts with the support of Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd. An additional £2k has been moved from General Reserves into Ear Marked Reserves before the Year End was completed, to fund urgent tree works – this will be retrospectively approved at the May Full Council meeting. The Accounts have now been sent to the Internal Auditor for review.

Councillor Paxton advised members that Councillor Day had tendered his resignation from the Parish Council from the end of the month. Councillor Day was thanked for his commitment and support over the past six years. A formal letter of appreciation will be sent by the Chairman.

23/592 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25th MARCH 2024

A copy of the minutes was provided to members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Laycock **PROPOSED** the approval of the minutes of 25th March, **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas **with 2 in favour and 2 abstentions**.

23/593 UPDATE REGARDING THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND TO APPROVE COSTS FOR STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE

The Clerk has obtained details from Lamps & Tubes Illuminations Ltd regarding the storage and maintenance of the Christmas Lights. The Community Group previously involved has also now provided a brief guide on how they managed the lights and switch-on event. Following review, Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the total cost of £4670 plus VAT for the storage and installation of the lights by Lamps & Tubes Illuminations Ltd, **SECONDED** by Councillor Day and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. Funds are help in the Ear Marked Reserve to cover this cost.

Maintenance costs are charged in addition, as required. Following the checks completed after the last Christmas period, repairs are now required. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the total cost for repairs of £332.80 plus VAT, **SECONDED** by Councillor Day and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Members considered a possible Switch-on event in November. In view of the work required to prepare and manage such an event, it was felt that the Parish Council did not have the resources to take on this commitment, particularly so close to organising the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial. It was agreed to advise the Village in the next Newsletter that no plans are in place for a formal Switch-on event. Installation and switch-on date for Lamps & Tubes Illuminations Ltd was agreed as 24th November 2024.

23/594 TO DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE CLERK REGARDING PAYMENT FOR AGREED EXPENDITURE FOR THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

The invoices are starting to be presented for the works and supplies at the Coronation Community Garden. Grants have been awarded to cover the costs, which are held in an Ear Marked Reserve, currently totalling c£31k. The Clerk is maintaining a schedule of expenses, which has been agreed by members of the Partnership Group.

Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** to delegate authority to the Clerk to manage the payment of invoices, in line with the expenditure agreed. Payments will be detailed on the monthly payment sheet for Full Council and authorised by two Councillors and the Clerk. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Day and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

23/595 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

There were none.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm