

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 2024 COMMENCING AT 8.50PM**

Present: Councillors J Paxton (Chair), J Mikkelson (Vice-chair), A Fletcher, A Vale and S Laycock
In attendance: C Callen (Clerk)
Minutes: C Callen

24/194 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – These were received from Councillor J Selley

24/195 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were none.

24/196 MATTERS ARISING

An invitation has been received to attend the Police and Crime Plan Launch event on 3rd October 2024 7pm at Kempston Police Headquarters. Unfortunately no members were available to attend.

The second Precept tranche has been received and all the planned transfers to Ear Marked Reserve's have been completed. Funds have been invested in the Public Sector Deposit Fund and Nationwide Building Society accounts until they are needed.

24/197 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17th JUNE 2024

A copy of the minutes was provided to members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** the approval of the minutes of 17th June, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mikkelson and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

24/198 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF THE COUNCIL'S INSURANCE POLICY FOR 2024/25

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 covered a three-year period and has now expired. The Clerk has received the renewal quote with Aviva. The premium has been loaded due to the two Public Liability Claims that have been made over the past year. The Clerk has reviewed the Policy Schedule to ensure it is still correct. Under the delegated authority approved at Full Council (24/144.2), Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the renewal for 2024/25 at a cost of £3,536.76 with Aviva, **SECONDED** by Councillor Fletcher and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

In addition, members agreed not to add Cyber protection cover at an additional cost, given the limited sharing of personal data and the support already provided by Puzzle Technologies Ltd.

24/199 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE REVISED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS 2024/25

NALC produced a revised Financial Regulations template in April 2024. The Clerk has now reviewed the document and completed a suitable version for the Parish Council to adopt. A copy was provided to members ahead of the meeting – items in bold are mandatory and items highlighted in yellow were for consideration by members. After review and discussion, Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** the approval of the revised Financial Regulations 2024/25 v8, **SECONDED** by Councillor Vale and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Councillor Laycock agreed to undertake the quarterly Bank Reconciliation overview on behalf of the Council.

24/200 TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL COSTS INCURRED FOR THE COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Parish Council were unsuccessful with their Grant application to the Connolly Foundation which was hoped to have covered the cost of the pedestrian entrance gates at the Community Garden. The Partnership are currently looking at further grant opportunities to cover the future costs for purchasing the roses, shed, etc. However, as the gates are now in situ, it is unlikely that a grant can be obtained to meet the cost of the gates. In addition, the Parish Council have covered the cost for additional items to complete the groundworks, including metal banding within the raised beds, kick rails on the bridge, grass seed for the bare areas and hire of heras fencing

whilst the gates were being installed. To offset some of these costs, the volunteers are now undertaking grass and hedge cutting in the Garden, which were previously covered by the Parish Council contractors. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** acknowledgement of the costs incurred and approval that the total additional costs of £3991 plus VAT are to be met by the Parish Council. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

24/201 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE ENTRY FOR THE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AT ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

The Parish Council have been invited to enter the annual Christmas Tree Festival at St Nicholas Church on 30th November and 1st December. The Clerk has submitted an initial entry form. Members discussed ideas for the tree, suggesting promoting the allotments and Community Garden. No additional costs are anticipated. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval to enter a tree in the festival, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mikkelson and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Members also discussed the Christmas Lights Switch-on timing. They agreed to install and switch the lights on at 6pm on 24th November. Details will be shared with residents in the October Newsletter.

24/202 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

There were none.

The meeting closed at 9.31pm