

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE
ON MONDAY 21st OCTOBER 2024 COMMENCING AT 7.46PM**

Present: Councillors J Paxton (Chair), J Mikkelson (Vice-chair), A Fletcher, A Vale and S Laycock

In attendance: C Callen (Clerk)

Minutes: C Callen

24/244 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – These were received from Councillor J Selley

24/245 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were none.

24/246 MATTERS ARISING

Re: **minute 24/227.7** - Councillors Paxton and Rudd have met with the Clerk to discuss emergency planning. They have agreed to write to all the local organisations and businesses in the Village to find out if they would be prepared to offer their buildings as potential hubs, in case of an emergency. Once this information is available, the draft Plan can be updated and reviewed.

Councillor Fletcher gave an update regarding the bulb planting activity planned by Blooming Barton over the next few weeks.

24/247 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23rd SEPTEMBER 2024

A copy of the minutes was provided to members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** the approval of the minutes of 23rd September, **SECONDED** by Councillor Fletcher and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

24/248 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE the Grant Applications for 2024/2025

A summary of the grant applications was provided to all committee members prior to the meeting. The 2024/25 budget for small grants had been set at a maximum of £3,675. Councillor Fletcher declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Blooming Barton and Unity Hall applications due to her and her family's involvement with these organisations. Councillors Vale and Paxton declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Arnold School applications due to their involvement as a member of staff and parent respectively. The committee reviewed all grant applications received and reached a consensus on the proposed 2024/25 grants as shown below:

ORGANISATION	ORGANISATIONS ACTIVITIES	GRANT REQUIRED FOR	COST OF PROJECT	AMOUNT SOUGHT	LAST YEAR AMOUNT GRANTED	PROPOSED GRANT 2024/25
Barton Helping Hands	'Good Neighbour' scheme - local volunteers who provide time & transport to any residents of the village in need	Annual Public Liability Insurance	£164.34	£164.34	£138.84	£164.34
Barton-le-Clay Bowling Club	Outdoor bowling club, providing coaching and bowling from club to county level and social activities for members	Purchase 12 new coloured bowls mats – replaced to maintain their rigidity and stability for safety	£172.50	£172.50	£350.00	£172.50
Barton Rovers Football Club	Community Football and Social Club	Litter bins for the car park	£632.60	£332.60	£250.00	£250.00

Barton Rovers Youth Football Club	Provision of football facilities for local junior and youth players (c.300)	Purchase football goals	£750.00	£250-£500	Nil	£250.00
Barton Icknield (Luton) Scout Group	Young people aged between 6-18yrs to support development of life skills in an all-inclusive setting, providing an inspiring programme	Purchase STEM educational equipment to build team-working, problem solving and creativity skills	£500.00	£500.00	£250.00	£250.00
Unity Hall	Hall for Guiding and Scouting units to meet regularly	Upgrade the current camp fire circle, ensuring safe and fit for purpose	£370.00	£370.00	Nil	£370.00
Blooming Barton	Volunteer group that provide and maintain plants and flowers around the Village	Purchase additional materials including tools and plants	£500.00	£300-500	£300.00	£300.00
Barton Community Choir	Community choir providing singing for everyone and providing occasional performances	Piano tuning and purchase music to expand repertoire	£300.00	£300.00	Nil	£300.00
Noah's Ark Via St Nicholas Church	Non-profit making group offering a weekly get-together for parents/carers and pre-school aged children.	Purchase of 4 folding garden chairs for use in the garden	£50.00	£50.00	£60.00	£50.00
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 sensory and SEND supporting resources	£150.00	£150.00	£100.00	£150.00
Barton-le-Clay Pre School	Pre-school for local children aged 2-4 years	Purchase of projector and screen to support children learning and staff training	£200.00	£200.00	Nil	£200.00
Arnold Academy PTA	Parents/carers and teachers working together to raise money from organised events to improve the school	Provide 4 table tennis tables and equipment	£2,310.00	£500.00	£500.00	£250.00
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

Keech Hospice Care	All-age Hospice caring for adults and children with life-limiting conditions in Bedfordshire	Music and Art therapy service for adults, children and carers (9 residents supported in 2023)	£86,538.00	£500.00	Nil	£100.00
Magpas Air Ambulance	Providing Pre-hospital emergency care for Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, East of England	Purchase essential emergency equipment and medical supplies (229 patients treated in Bedfordshire in 2023/24)	£30-3,500	£30-1,000	Nil	£100.00
TOTAL						£3,081.84

Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** the approval to allocate grants totalling £3081.84 as per the schedule of Small Grants above, **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. This will leave £593 for any further urgent requests for funding, for the remainder of the year.

24/249 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE RENEWAL OF TELEPHONE AND BROADBAND CONTRACTS AT THE PARISH OFFICE

The BT iCloud service is now out of contract, as is the BT Broadband, Virgin Media Fibre Broadband and O2 Mobile SIM card. The Clerk has obtained quotes to replace the current phone system and broadband from several providers. Following discussion, it was agreed that further information was required to reach a decision.

ACTION – Clerk to investigate additional details and bring them back for approval at the next meeting.

24/250 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE COST TO PURCHASE RADIO WALKIE TALKIES AND LICENCE

Re: minute point 24/145.5. As discussed at October Full Council, Radio Solutions provided hire of two styles of walkie talkies to test their range and suitability. The cost for the hire for 1 week was £21.00+VAT and the units were Motorola T82 and Motorola DP1400 (licensable). After testing the units, the Motorola T82 was considered unsuitable for the coverage required for Remembrance and any other event or emergency usage.

At the September Full Council meeting members had approved the purchase of 4 Motorola T82 from Radio Solution. Following this further investigation, it is apparent that these will not be sufficient. A local company, IRS Radio is offering a special package to local authorities, for emergency planning – An Entel DX422 which is similar to the Motorola DP1400. The cost of each unit is £130 plus £20 per earpiece and £35 per spare battery + VAT. Both the DP1400 and DX422 require a licence which costs a further £75 for 5 years.

After consideration, Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** to purchase 4 x Entel D422 walkie Talkies from IRS Radio, including earpiece and spare battery, at a total cost of £815 plus VAT. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Mikkelson and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The equipment will be used at the Remembrance Service for road closures and also be part of the Emergency Planning for the Village.

24/251 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

There were none.

The meeting closed at 9.12pm