

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE
ON MONDAY 20th JANUARY 2025 COMMENCING AT 8.34PM**

Present: Councillors J Paxton (Chair), A Fletcher, J Selley, S Laycock and A Vale

In attendance: C Callen (Clerk)

Minutes: C Callen

24/383 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – These were received from Councillor J Mikkelson

24/384 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were none.

24/385 MATTERS ARISING

The Chair of Unity Hall has emailed the Parish Council regarding the Small Grant they were awarded in November 2024, towards upgrading the campfire circle. Councillor Fletcher declared a non-pecuniary interest in this matter, due to a family link. The original plans were for the Scout Leader to undertake the works and so the grant would pay for the materials. Sadly, the Scout Leader passed away suddenly and so Unity Hall are now seeking additional grant funding to pay for the campfire area to be created in his memory. The Parish Council Small Grant of £370 will still be used for the materials. Members acknowledged this slight change to the terms of the Small Grant. In addition, members discussed providing an additional amount, towards the increased costs. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of a Small Grant of £130 be awarded to Unity Hall to support their revised plans, **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock, **with 4 in favour and 1 abstention**. This will be ratified at the next Full Council meeting.

The Clerk advised that HM Revenue and Customs are undertaking a creditability check on our Vat Return for Q4 2024, due to the unusual increase seen. This is as a result of the one-off costs incurred to install the new play equipment at Arnold Recreation Ground. The Clerk has provided all the paperwork and information requested and is awaiting a response once they have completed their review.

24/386 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 2nd DECEMBER 2024

A copy of the minutes was provided to members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** the approval of the minutes of 2nd December, **SECONDED** by Councillor Vale **with 3 in favour and 2 abstentions**.

24/387 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL INVESTMENT POLICY

The Clerk has reviewed and updated the existing Policy. A copy was provided ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the updated Annual Investment policy version 7.0, **SECONDED** by Councillor Fletcher and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

24/388 TO CONSIDER HEADS OF TERMS OFFER FOR THE TELEMAST LEASE AT LUTON ROAD SPORTS FIELD

The Parish Council are being asked to enter into a formal lease regarding the O2 Telemast situated at Barton Rover FC. The proposed Heads of Terms were provided to members ahead of the meeting. The proposal is to pay the Parish Council £2,000 for a Surveyor and £2,000 towards Solicitor costs. The Term proposed is 10 years and would see a reduction in income of £1500 pa. No increases have been received to the rent received over the last 10+ years.

The Clerk has discussed the proposal with the Chairman at Barton Rovers FC, who agrees the reduced rent proposed is inadequate (currently shared 50/50 between PC and BRFC). After discussion, Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** to reject the offer and request a more reasonable amount of rent be set, to reflect the inflationary increases that Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Ltd receive from O2, and also a maximum term of 5 years. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Vale and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

24/389 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE REVIEW AND UPDATE TO THE RISK ASSESSMENT ACTION PLANS

The Risk Assessment Action Plans were agreed in February 2024. These have been progressed over the year as time allows and the Clerk has now undertaken an interim review. Members acknowledged the summary.

ACTION – The Clerk was requested to put together a proposal for completing the review of personal data held within the next six months.

24/390 TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE PARISH COUNCILS ACTION PLAN 2025/26 FOR THE POLICIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The draft Plan has been drawn up by the Clerk, following the Budget review at the end of 2024. The committee were happy with the amended plan proposed in respect of Policies & Resources to be put forward for adoption at the next Full Council meeting. Therefore, Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the draft Action Plan 2025/26, **SECONDED** by Councillor Vale and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

24/391 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

Councillor Fletcher requested an update regarding a review of the flooding issues seen in the Village in September. It is understood that Central Beds Council, the Ward Councillors and the local MP are jointly undertaking this exercise, and a follow-up report will be requested in due course.

The meeting closed at 9.09pm