

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE
ON MONDAY 20th OCTOBER 2025 COMMENCING AT 7.32PM**

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

25/241 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – These were received from Councillors A Vale and S Laycock

25/242 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were none.

25/243 MATTERS ARISING

The Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel (SAPPP) have published the 2025 edition of the Practitioners Guide, which is designed to help local authorities meet their governance and financial responsibilities.

This Guide has introduced the need for all councils to have a written IT Policy in place to comply with the new Assertion 10: Digital and Data Compliance, in the Annual Governance Statement (AGAR). A template policy has been provided by SAPPP. The Parish Council already has a Social Media and Electronic Communication Policy which is due for review next month.

ACTION – These policies are to be reviewed to provide one compliant policy to cover all aspects of IT, including IT equipment replacement period strategy. Councillor Qureshi to be asked to assist in this process and an update provided at the next Full Council meeting.

Peninsula undertook a review of the Council's H&S procedures on 16th October – the report is awaited.

Barton Rovers FC have requested permission to use the Sports Field for positioning the larger fireworks and debris fall out for their annual firework display, as in previous years. This was agreed subject to the firework company providing their RAMS and insurance details in advance.

The Parish Council have been consulted by Cornerstone Telecommunications & Infrastructure Ltd, regarding their proposed upgrade to the mast on Faldo Road Industrial Estate to improve mobile coverage. No issues were raised.

Councillor Paxton and the Clerk provided feedback from the Barton Helping Hands 25year Anniversary celebration afternoon tea held on 18th October, which was well received by all those who attended.

25/244 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29th SEPTEMBER 2025

A copy of the minutes was provided to members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** the approval of the minutes of 29th September 2025, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley **with 2 in favour and 2 abstentions**.

25/245 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2025/2026

A summary of the grant applications was provided to all committee members prior to the meeting. The 2025/26 budget for small grants had been set at a maximum of £3,675. Councillor Fletcher declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Blooming Barton, Arnold Academy PTA, 1st Barton-le-Clay Rangers and Unity Hall applications due to her and her family's involvement with these organisations. Councillor Paxton declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Barton Helping Hands and Arnold School applications due to his family's involvement with these organisations. The committee reviewed all grant applications received and reached a consensus on the proposed 2025/26 grants as shown below:

ORGANISATION	ORGANISATIONS ACTIVITIES	GRANT REQUIRED FOR	COST OF PROJECT	AMOUNT SOUGHT	LAST YEAR AMOUNT GRANTED	PROPOSED GRANT 2025/26
Barton Helping Hands	'Good Neighbour' scheme - local volunteers who provide time & transport to any residents of the village in need	Annual Public Liability Insurance	£220.94	£220.94	£164.34	£220.94
Barton-le-Clay Bowling Club	Outdoor bowling club, providing coaching and bowling from club to county level and social activities for members	Repair and create an accessible walkway between football and bowls clubs	£2000.00	£500.00	£172.50	£375.00
Barton Rovers Football Club	Community Football and Social Club	Accessibility improvements to walkway between football and bowls clubs	£2000.00	£500.00	£250.00	£375.00
Barton-le-Clay Carpet Bowls	Carpet Bowls Club	New tops for club members	£400.00	£300.00	£Nil	£200.00
1st Barton-le-Clay Rangers	Young girls aged between 14-18yrs to support development of life skills, providing an inspiring programme	Upcycle book case for book swap and Eco Award badges	£174.50	£174.50	£Nil	£174.50
Unity Hall	Hall for Guiding and Scouting units to meet regularly	Replacement cooker and fridge freezer	£1250.00	£500.00	£500.00	£300.00
Blooming Barton	Volunteer group that provide and maintain plants and flowers around the Village	Purchase additional materials including tools, bulbs and plants	?	Anything?	£300.00	£200.00
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 story and rhyme books to give to the children	£60.00	£50.00	£50.00	£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	Replacement oven and paddling pool	£550.00	£500.00	£150.00	£300.00
Barton-le-Clay Pre School	Pre-school for local children aged 2-4 years	Wooden arch for role play area	£500.00	£500.00	£200.00	£150.00

Arnold Academy PTA	Parents/carers and teachers working together to raise money from organised events to improve the school	Outdoor team building games	£475.00	£350.00	£250.00	£200.00
Harlington Upper School	Educational establishment for children aged between 13 and 18	Prizes for annual awards evening	£125.00	£125.00	£125.00	£Nil
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
Wanderbus Ltd	Not-for-profit community bus operator run by volunteers providing supplementary service to towns and villages in Central Beds	Replacement bus to ensure reliable service operated	£127k-£150k	£1000	£Nil	£750.00
						TOTAL
						£3,345.44

Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** the approval to allocate grants totalling £3345.44 as per the schedule of Small Grants above, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mikkelson and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. This will leave £330 for any further urgent requests for funding, for the remainder of the year.

25/246 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE COST OF ICCM MEMORIAL MANAGEMENT INSPECTION WORKSHOP TRAINING COURSE

The Assistant Clerk has requested attendance at this workshop, being held in Sandy on 10th March 2026 (10am-4pm). Cost of course £175+VAT for ICCM Members. It is also suggested that a Councillor or the Groundsman might be interested in attending. After considering the course content, Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the cost of £350 plus VAT to allow two staff members to attend, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

25/247 UPDATE REGARDING WASTE COLLECTION CONTRACT

Cawleys have not been emptying the skip regularly over the past few months and invoicing for missed collections. Due to the dispute, the Clerk has cancelled the direct debit instruction with Cawleys so that only actual collections are paid for going forward. Cawleys became a subsidiary of SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd on 1st June and there have been issues with invoicing ever since. Cawleys Customer Service team do not seem to respond to email enquires and do not appear to have updated their invoicing arm.

Our contract with Cawleys requires a minimum 3months notice prior to the anniversary of the contract for cancellation. It was agreed that quotes would be sought from other skip suppliers for discussion at the next meeting. Cawleys are to be put on notice due to the unreliable service provided.

25/248 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

There was none.

The meeting closed at 8.47pm