MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE ON MONDAY 26th OCTOBER 2026 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

Present: Councillors J Mikkelson (Vice-chair), S Laycock and J Selley

In attendance: C Callen (Clerk)

Minutes: C Callen

26/250 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – These were received from Councillor J Paxton, A Fletcher and A Vale.

26/251 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were none.

26/252 MATTERS ARISING

SumUp Card Payments have requested an update on the owners/signatories for the Parish Council as part of their regular Anti-Money Laundering procedures. They currently have the Clerk, Councillor Paxton (Chair) and former Councillors J Roberts and B Thomas. The Clerk will update their records by providing details for Councillor Mikkelson (vice-chair) and Councillors Vale and Fletcher, as authorised signatories.

The Christmas Tree Festival at St Nicholas Church will be held on 5/6th December. Ideas for the Parish Council tree will be needed and help setting up and packing away the tree on the Friday and Monday is sought, as the Assistant Clerk is away that weekend.

ACTION – Clerk to seek ideas from Councillors, ahead of deadline of 16th November.

26/253 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 28th SEPTEMBER 2026

A copy of the minutes was provided to members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Mikkelson **PROPOSED** the approval of the minutes of 28th September, **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock **with 2 in favour and one abstention**.

26/254 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2026/2027

A summary of the grant applications was provided to all committee members prior to the meeting. The 2026/27 budget for small grants had been set at a maximum of £3,675. Councillor Mikkelson declared a non-pecuniary interest in Ramsey Manor School Football Club application due to her family's involvement with this organisation. The committee reviewed all grant applications received and reached a consensus on the proposed 2026/27 grants, as shown below:

ORGANISATION	ORGANISATIONS ACTIVITIES	GRANT REQUIRED FOR	COST OF PROJECT	AMOUNT SOUGHT	LAST YEAR AMOUNT GRANTED	PROPOSED GRANT 2026/27
Barton Helping Hands	'Good Neighbour' scheme - local volunteers who provide time & transport to any residents of the village in need	Annual Public Liability Insurance	£225.94	£225.94	£220.94	£225.94
Barton-le-Clay Bowling Club	Outdoor bowling club, providing coaching and bowling from club to county level and social activities for members	Outdoor lighting upgrade	£750.00	£500.00	£375.00	£375.00
1st Barton-le-Clay Rangers	Young girls aged 14-18yrs to support development of life skills	Purchase new 2026 Girlguiding uniform	£720.50	£500.00	£174.50	£175.00

Unity Hall	Hall for Guiding and Scouting units to meet regularly	Purchase 2nd hand replacement ride-on mower	£1350.00	£500.00	£500.00	£300.00
Blooming Barton	Volunteer group that provide and maintain plants and flowers around the Village	Purchase additional displays and hanging baskets	?	Anything?	£200.00	£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 books & toys for young babies	£150.00	£50.00	£50.00	£50.00
The Barton Players	Community theatre and AmDram Society	Backstage monitor system to relay the performance from the stage to the dressing rooms	£750.00	£350.00	n/a	£250.00
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	Air-cooler/ heater and replacement oven	£650.00	£500.00	£300.00	£500.00
Barton-le-Clay Pre School	Pre-school for local children aged 2-4 years	Purchase portable air conditioning unit	£500.00	£500.00	£150.00	£250.00
Ramsey Manor School Football Club	Children's football team (U12s), for Ramsey Manor School, run by parent volunteers	Storage for sports equipment for the Club	£500.00	£500.00	n/a	£250.00
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
Ampthill vs Cancer	Community Charity based in Ampthill supporting people affected by cancer within Central Beds. Offering awareness, education, screening programmes	Funding for the Ampthill vs Cancer 5k race (8% attendees from Barton in 2025) – insurance, Security, Toilet hire, 1st Aid	£4460.00	£250.00	n/a	£250.00
MAGPAS Air Ambulance	Providing pre-hospital emergency care for Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, East of England	Purchase emergency equipment and medical supplies (232 patients treated in Bedfordshire in 2025/26)	?	Anything?	£100.00 (2024/25)	£100.00
					TOTAL	**£3,175.94**

Councillor Mikkelson **PROPOSED** the approval to allocate grants totalling £3175.94, as per the schedule of Small Grants above, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. This will leave £499 for any further urgent requests for funding, for the remainder of the year.

26/255 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FIRE ALARM & EMERGENCY LIGHTING INSPECTION REPORTS FOR THE PAVILION AND CONSIDER AND APPROVE COST FOR REPLACEMENT PARTS

Knights Shield have completed the annual inspections which were acknowledged. These have highlighted several replacement bulbs & batteries required. A quote for the replacement parts has been requested but not yet received. This item was deferred to the next meeting.

26/256 UPDATE REGARDING STORAGE CONTAINER FOR COUNCIL USAGE AND AGREE WAY FORWARD

As discussed at the meeting in September, a storage container has been approved for the Sports Field for the Grounds staff to use to replace the garage storage facility at Windsor Parade. The Clerk has investigated whether planning permission is required and provided guidance available from the internet. Following discussion, it was agreed that planning would not be required for this ancillary storage facility. Costs for slabs and solar lighting to be sought for approval at the next Full Council meeting.

26/257 UPDATE REGARDING RENEWAL OF THE DEFIBRILLATOR SUPPORT PACKAGE AND AGREE COST

As discussed at the last meeting, additional quotes have now been sought for the annual defibrillator support service. The current contract with Community Heartbeat Trust charity is increasing to £196 plus VAT. This cost includes the supply of replacement pads and batteries when required and the annual service, but the staff undertake weekly checks. Alternative similar package quotes were considered, as well as the cost for the separate supply of consumables. After consideration, Councillor Mikkelson **PROPOSED** approval to renew the contract with Community Heartbeat Trust at a cost of £196 plus VAT, **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

26/258 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE COST FOR LONE WORKER FIRST AID COURSE FOR STAFF

As highlighted at the last Pay and Personnel Sub-Committee meeting, the two Rangers have yet to complete their First Aid training. Options were considered, including online and face to face lone-worker training. Unfortunately, there are no courses run locally for this type of training. After considering the options, Councillor Mikkelson **PROPOSED** approval for the Rangers to attend Emergency 1st Aid at Work course run locally by St Johns Ambulance at a cost of £205 plus VAT each for 1days training. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Laycock and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

26/259 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.21pm