

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ONLINE  
ON MONDAY 28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020 COMMENCING AT 9.19PM**

Present: Councillors Mrs B Thomas (Vice-chair), Mrs G Gardner, Mr J Selley, Mr A Channon and Mr J Paxton

In attendance: Mrs C Callen (Clerk)

Minutes: Mrs C Callen

**20/238 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillor Mr L Davison-Williams**

**20/239 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were none.**

**20/240 MATTERS ARISING**

An update was provided regarding the Royal Mail locating a welfare area for its delivery staff at Barton Rovers FC. The Heads of Terms are currently being finalised between the Club and the Royal Mail. A draft lease document will then be drawn up and shared with the Parish Council so that it can arrange for its own legal advisers to overview and advise accordingly. In the meantime, it is understood that a possible buyer has been found to take on the Post Office and it is hoped this will now not shut on 14<sup>th</sup> October.

The Parish Council were approached in July by a representative from the Chiltern Society 'Save our Pubs' Group to see if it was interested in their services to assist in making any local pubs 'Assets of Community Value'. As there are currently two pubs trading in the Village (Royal Oak and Waggon & Horses) and the future of The Bull is not yet clear, it was not felt necessary at this stage to follow this route but it could be considered in future, if the pubs look likely to close.

The Clerk applied for a Business Support Grant from Central Beds Council in August, following the lifting of restrictions preventing Parish Councils applying. This was to support the costs being incurred at the Sports Pavilion, due to lack of hiring income. Unfortunately, the application has been declined as the Parish Council occupies more than one premises and so does not qualify for the support.

The External Auditors are currently completing their report on the AGAR for 2019/20. Once received, this will be reviewed at Full Council.

Safer Central have contacted the Parish Council to promote its 'Best Bar None' scheme to support licenced businesses working with the Police and local authority. Full details are available in the Parish Office for anyone interested.

At the Committee meeting in March, the Council were looking at providing a possible social area for the Barton Youth. The Police are currently working on a similar idea in Toddington, having seen successes in other Bedfordshire Villages where a shelter has been installed, resulting in less anti-social behaviour. This item can be discussed again at a future committee meeting, once more evidence has been seen on its success elsewhere.

In March, a resident had approached the Parish Council to request a review of the need to rent office premises in the Village and to consider a possible shared space with the Library. This item has been deferred until the current restrictions are lifted and the ongoing needs of the Village are established.

**20/241 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 29<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2020**

A copy of the minutes was provided to members ahead of the meeting. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** the approval of the minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020, **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

**20/242 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR A BARTON ROCKS MEMORIAL AREA AND AGREE WAY FORWARD**

As previously discussed, the Parish Council have been approached by several residents to see if a suitable site could be found to build a lasting memorial from the painted pebbles and rocks that have been left around the village for people to find during Lockdown. Members agreed that it was important to mark the situation using these souvenirs. Suitable areas were discussed and it was felt that it should be somewhere central to the Village and the library would be first choice. Councillor Paxton has spoken to the Library Manager who is supportive but due to building works planned in the near future, there may be a delay in allocating a suitable area. It was suggested that Ramsey Manor Lower School PTA might be approached to assist in the collection of the

rocks in the meantime. Members debated their strategy for facilitating the project. Councillor Paxton agreed to contact the Barton Rocks group and School PTA to try and get an indication of the quantity of rocks available and will feedback at the next Committee meeting.

**20/243 UPDATE REGARDING THE NHS TEST & TRACE RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS FOR PARISH COUNCIL PREMISES**

On 18<sup>th</sup> September new regulations came into force making it a legal requirement for certain venues to log details of visitors, customers and staff. Parish Councils who allow public access to their buildings are included. Therefore, the Clerk has set up a system to record contact details of all visitors to the Parish Office. A similar system will be used at the Pavilion. A Privacy notice has been taken from the Government website and tailored for the Parish Council, which is on display at the office and on the website. In addition, both the Parish Office and Pavilion have been registered for QR codes under the new NHS Test and Trace system to allow the public to 'check in' using their mobiles.

**20/244 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM RESIDENT TO PURCHASE THE OPEN SPACE LAND OFF GRANGE ROAD/ASHBY DRIVE**

A request has been received from a resident to purchase the open space behind his property. A map of the area was provided to members. Following discussion on the reasons for retaining the open area, Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** to decline the request, **SECONDED** by Councillor Paxton and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

**20/245 UPDATE REGARDING THE PROPOSED CCTV INSTALLATION FOR THE VILLAGE**

At the start of the year, the Parish Council were working with the 'Action Against Crime in Barton' Group to investigate putting CCTV around the village. In March, Councillors Davison-Williams, Paxton and Day and the Clerk reviewed the map of locations for the cameras and contacted Central Beds Council for permission to use the streetlight posts. A response was received confirming permission, subject to structural testing being undertaken and agreeing to fund any energy usage for the power used. No progress has since been made due to the Covid-19 Pandemic Lockdown. It was agreed to provide the Group with the update from Central Beds Council and request a formal proposal be submitted to the Parish Council on the support required to progress the installation and ongoing commitment from the Parish Council, so that this can be considered at the next Committee meeting.

**20/246 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE ORGANISATION OF THE MACMILLAN COFFEE EVENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH BARTON ROVERS FC**

Councillor Davison-Williams has arranged for a Macmillan Coffee event to be held at Barton Rovers FC on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October from 10am. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk have held a meeting with BRFC to discuss arrangements. Any Councillors available to assist with making cakes or helping on the day should contact the Parish Office. Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** to acknowledge and approve any extra time required to be spent on this event by the Office Staff during their working day, **SECONDED** by Councillor Paxton and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

**20/247 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM RAMSEY MANOR LOWER SCHOOL FOR A COUNCILLOR TO JOIN THEIR BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

The Rector and the Head of Ramsey Manor Lower School, have both contacted the Parish Office to see if any Councillors would like to join their Board of Governors. Councillor Channon agreed to liaise with the School to gain a better understanding of what is required and will provide an update at the next meeting.

**20/248 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE FORMAT FOR 2020 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

At the Burial Grounds Committee meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September, it was agreed that a public event was not viable under the current restrictions. The Assistant Clerk has spoken to the Churchwarden and asked if it would be possible for a 'peeling of the bells' after the 2-minute silence. The Peace clock will chime at 11am. The Chairman or Vice-Chair of the Parish Council to lay their wreath at this point. The church will be holding a small service (limited to 30 attendees). Councillor Thomas agreed to attend if there is sufficient capacity at the church. It was felt that there may be a national scheme for Remembrance suggested nearer the day. It is understood that the uniformed organisations have no plans for this year's event.

**20/249 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA**

There was none.

The meeting closed at 10.16 pm.