

**MINUTES OF POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF
BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE
ON MONDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2019 COMMENCING AT 8.10PM**

Present: Councillors Mr L Davison-Williams (Chair), Mrs B Thomas (Vice-chair), Mr J Paxton and Mr J Selley

In attendance: Mrs C Callen (Clerk)

Minutes: Mrs C Callen

19/445 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillors Mrs G Gardner and Mr A Channon

19/446 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were none.

19/447 MATTERS ARISING

Following on from the Leisure Committee meeting on 25th November, a copy of the proposed signage for the new notice at Norman Road play area was shared with members. All were in favour, giving a majority approval. **Action - Assistant Clerk to refer to the sign-makers.**

The Peninsula HR Contract has now been terminated. The new cost of the Peninsula H&S support only is £100 per month. The first reduced payment has been paid in November, rather than the higher figure of £199 as shown in the Payments schedule approved at Full Council on 11th November.

Barton Rovers FC have been successful in getting to the last 6 applicants for a grant of £25k from Buildbase. They require a letter of support from the Parish Council, as landlords, for the works they are proposing, to accompany their final bid due at a presentation at Wembley on 9th December. **Action – Councillor Davison-Williams and Clerk to provide draft wording.**

The review of the Online Engagement & Communication Policy and Website Accessibility is still to be actioned.

Councillors Davison-Williams and Thomas are attending the Community Police Priority Setting quarterly meeting on 6th December. Members were requested to email any suggestions to the Clerk ahead of the meeting.

19/448 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 28th OCTOBER 2019

Councillor Davison-Williams **PROPOSED** the approval of the minutes of 28th October 2019, **SECONDED** by Councillor Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

19/449 TO CONSIDER ACTIONS REGARDING THE PLAY EQUIPMENT IN PARK MEADOW CLOSE

At the committee meetings on 18th November, Councillor Roberts reported that the play equipment in Park Meadow Close has deteriorated further and is now considered unsafe. The Assistant Clerk contacted the management company responsible for this area in Summer 2018 and also Central Bedfordshire Council but nothing further has been done in that area since. **Action – Clerk to speak to the Parish Council's insurers for advice and revert back to next Full Council meeting.**

19/450 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE COSTS FOR PARISH COUNCIL SKIP

The Clerk has contacted Direct365 to give notice to cancel the current contract with Mick George which ends in March 2020. Alternative quotes have been sought from Cawleys, Barton Skips, Synergy Waste Solutions and Direct365 (alternative provider). Currently the cost is £1525pa for a 10yard skip based at the allotments but this is rarely fully utilised. Following discussion, Councillor Davison-Williams **PROPOSED** approval of the quote from Cawleys to supply 2x 1100ltr lockable carts costing £900pa and an additional recycling bin at £66pa. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. Subject to landlords approval, one of the 1100lt carts and the recycling bin are to be relocated at the rear of the Parish Office.

19/451 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE QUOTE FOR IT UPDATE AND SUPPORT PACKAGE

Three quotes were sort earlier in the year to upgrade the Office IT and support package. Since then, issues with the Cloud and email have arisen. The new Virginmedia broadband service will help to address some of these issues. The Clerk has now spoken at length to one of the companies to clarify their quote to match the Council's requirements. The Clerk will summarise the quotes for approval at the Full Council meeting on 9th December.

19/452 TO APPROVE INCREASED S137 GRANT FOR GALE COURT AFTERNOON ENTERTAINMENT & TEA AND CONFIRM ARRANGEMENTS

A cost of £230 was approved in November from the S137 funds. The final cost of the entertainment has now been advised at £150 and the WI cost for the tea at £6 per head - £120 for 20 residents giving a total cost of £270. The event has been booked for 20th February 2020. Councillor Davison-Williams **PROPOSED** approval of the additional £40 to come from the S137 budget, increasing the final spend from the individual Grant applications and Council donations to £3261. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Selley and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

19/453 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE FOR 2019/20 AND TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE DRAFT BUDGETS FOR 2020/21

Details of the expenditure to date and draft budget for 2020/21 were discussed by members. Interest income has increased due to closer management of surplus funds in savings accounts. An increase in the level of S137 Grants has been included. Skip costs are currently budgeted at current levels, not reflecting potential savings as previously discussed in the meeting. Allowance has been made in the Ear-marked Reserve for recruitment and training costs for the prospective new groundsman. A new Ear-marked reserve is proposed to start saving towards the replacement or refurbishment of the Parish noticeboards.

Councillor Davison-Williams **PROPOSED** the approval of the draft 2020/21 Policies & Resources budget, with a £39,437 committee precept. This was **SECONDED** by Councillor Paxton and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

19/454 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

There was none.

The meeting closed at 9.19pm.