

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SPORTS FIELD COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PAVILION,
LUTON ROAD SPORTS FIELD
ON 23rd JUNE 2025 COMMENCING AT 7.30 pm**

Present: Councillors J Selley (Chair), A Vale (Vice-chair), W Rudd, A Tebb, J Paxton (ex-officio) & J Mikkelsen (ex-officio)

In attendance: S Cowie (Assistant Clerk), C Callen (Parish Clerk), Councillors S Laycock, A Fletcher & 1 representative of Barton Rovers Youth FC

Minutes: S Cowie

25/055 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – all members were present.

25/056 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Members were reminded of the procedures; there were no declarations of interest made.

25/057 MATTERS ARISING

Re minute point 026.3. The new speed hump was delivered on 12th June. It will be installed as soon as possible.

25/058 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPORTS FIELD COMMITTEE HELD ON 28th APRIL 2025

There were no queries. Councillor Selley **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the committee meeting held on 28th April 2025, **SECONDED** by Councillor Tebb with **3 in favour and 3 abstentions**. The minutes were approved.

25/059 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE THE COST FOR THE ANNUAL BOILER SERVICE

Councillor Selley **PROPOSED** approval of the cost of £544.00 + VAT for SMRHS Ltd to carry out the annual boiler servicing. Councillor Vale **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

25/060 TO CONSIDER THE SPORTS FIELD PERIMETER FENCING AND AGREE THE WAY FORWARD

A representative from Barton Rovers Youth FC arrived at 9.34pm

Much of the wooden perimeter fence along the access road is in poor condition and needs to be replaced. The issues with dog fouling and persons accessing the pitches during the closed maintenance period have continued and the Groundsmen report that they have received verbal abuse and threats from a minority. It was agreed that the safety of staff and hirers is a priority and the project to replace the fence should be brought forward.

Barton Rovers FC Chairman has offered to help the Groundsmen with the installation and may be able to source some of the machinery required. Machinery which is not available will need to be hired in. Consideration must be made for the defibrillator machine which will need to be relocated so it is accessible to the wider public. Any pieces of wooden fence which are reusable will be utilised elsewhere however there will undoubtedly be some disposal costs incurred. Members considered the quote of £8,337.63 + VAT for the supply and off-loading of fencing materials from First Fence. There may be savings to be made if the fence is reconfigured and the Assistant Clerk will look into this. There were some concerns regarding security and access to the site, but everyone agreed that securing the site from future antisocial behaviour, dog fouling and for safeguarding would be beneficial. The representative

from Barton Rovers Youth FC agreed. The boundary with Luton Road will be checked for any weak spots. It may be necessary to fence this in a similar way in the future.

Councillor Selley **PROPOSED** approval of the installation of mesh fencing and gates, **SECONDED** by Councillor Vale and **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**. Costs to be approved once the site visit and up to date quote has been received.

Councillor S Laycock arrived at 7.46pm

25/061 TO CONSIDER REMOVAL OF THE BENCHES ON THE SPORTS FIELD DUE TO ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The benches are located at the top end of the field close to the perimeter hedge and are a magnet for antisocial behaviour, providing a place for people to congregate leaving litter behind which has to be cleared by the Groundsman. The benches are not positioned close to pitches so are not generally utilised by spectators. Following discussion, Councillor Selley **PROPOSED** that the benches should be removed and once the new fence is installed, they should be relocated to more appropriate areas of the site. Councillor Vale **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

25/062 TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR PITCH HIRE

Members considered the request for use of pitches and the sports field. Following discussion the following decisions were made.

Councillor Selley **PROPOSED** the approval for ProDirect Academy to utilise a pitch for training 3 times a week, during the daytime. Councillor Rudd **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Renewal of the contractor for one-to-one football training was considered. In addition to training, a request had been received to hire a pitch on Sundays however additional information which had been requested has not been received. Councillor Selley **PROPOSED** that the request to hire pitches on Sundays be declined due to capacity issues, but that the contract to continue one-to-one training off of the pitches for the 2025/26 season be renewed. Councillor Vale **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The Groundsmen will monitor for wear and tear, conditions as last years agreement.

The request for Luton Ladies Youth FC to hire a 9v9 pitch on Saturday afternoons was considered. It was noted that a similar request, from another group, had recently been declined due to the long-standing agreement with Barton Rovers FC to avoid parking issues when Barton Rovers FC are playing at home. Additionally, the site is already at capacity on Saturdays and any proposed matches would be outside of the Groundsman's working hours. After consideration, Councillor Selley **PROPOSED** that the request from Luton Ladies Youth be declined for the 2025/26 season. Councillor Mikkelson **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Councillor A Fletcher arrived at 7.55pm

Members considered the request from Leighton & District Sunday League to hire 2 adult pitches on Sunday afternoons, as last season. Councillor Selley **PROPOSED** the approval of the hire of 2 adult pitches, **SECONDED** by Councillor Tebb and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Renewal of the agreement with BoxFit to hire an area off pitch for up to 2 hours per week was considered. Councillor Selley **PROPOSED** approval for their contract to be renewed, conditions as previously agreed. Councillor Mikkelson **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

Members considered the request from Barton Rovers FC to use the training area for their first team fitness sessions from 28th June. Sessions will be for one hour, approximately 4 times and terms and conditions as previous years. Councillor Selley **PROPOSED** the approval of the request, subject to the terms and conditions as previous years. Councillor Tebb **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

25/063 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – for information only

The representative for Barton Rovers Youth FC asked for clarification on when the S106 money for improvements to the Luton Road Sports Field, 3g project will be released.

Barton Rovers Youth FC are looking to further expand their teams on Saturday mornings to accommodate local teams who have folded. They asked for permission to add another team to Saturday play which would raise the total from 8 to 9 teams. Although the staggered kick off times have improved parking, which has enabled the total number of teams to rise to 8, there are still reports of problem parking which the Groundsmen are having to deal with on their own. Councillor Selley confirmed that regretfully the request must be declined for this season and until additional parking is available to protect the Parish Councils staff. As an alternative there is availability on Sundays should teams wish to play.

ACTION: Assistant Clerk to confirm the decisions in writing.

There was no further business, and the meeting closed at 8.10pm