

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SPORTS FIELD COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON 24TH NOVEMBER 2025 COMMENCING AT 8.38 pm**

Present: Councillors J Selley (Chair), A Vale (Vice-Chair), W Rudd, A Tebb, S Laycock, J Mikkelson (ex-officio)

In attendance: S Cowie (Assistant Clerk), C Callen (Clerk), Councillor B Thomas & one member of public

Minutes: S Cowie

25/312 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillor Paxton.

25/313 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – there were no declarations of interest made.

25/314 MATTERS ARISING

Project Metalcraft have been instructed to weld the padlock to the gate at the Sports Field.

SJB Electrical have been asked to quote to install the defibrillator at the Pavilion, now that it has been relocated.

Unity Hall have requested that the area to the side of their entrance is tidied up. The Grounds staff will action.

25/315 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPORTS FIELD COMMITTEE HELD ON 27th OCTOBER 2025

There were no queries. Councillor Selley **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the committee meeting held on 27th October 2025, **SECONDED** by Councillor Tebb with **4 IN FAVOUR AND 2 ABSTENTIONS** as they were not present.

25/316 TO RETROSPECTIVELY APPROVE THE COST TO PURCHASE TWO SLAM PLATES FOR PEDESTRIAN GATES

Councillor Selley **PROPOSED** the retrospective approval of the cost of £29.30 + VAT to purchase two slam plates from First Fence. Councillor Laycock **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. The slam plates have been received and will be installed as soon as possible.

25/317 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON REPAIR TO THE PAVILION SHUTTER AND AGREE THE WAY FORWARD

Following discussion at the last committee meeting, the contractor has attended site and provided a quote to repair the shutter by the changing room corridor. The quotation from Royal Industrial Doors was considered and following discussion, Councillor Selley **PROPOSED** approval of the cost £565 + VAT for shutter service and repair. Councillor Tebb **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

25/318 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE MEETING WITH BARTON ROVERS FC AND AGREE ANY ACTIONS

Councillor Selley provided an update on the meeting with Barton Rovers FC to discuss their lease and the actions relating to the Sports Field Committee which were agreed. These include improvements to security and lighting along the access road and Luton Road entrance, tackling ongoing drainage issues and siting a storage container for use by Barton Rovers Youth FC and the Parish Council on the Sports Field site.

25/319 TO REVIEW THE PITCH FEES FOR THE 2026/27 SEASON

It was noted that the hire fees had been held last year although there were increases in grounds maintenance from the contractor. A comparison of fees from other local sites was provided and following discussion, Councillor Selley **PROPOSED** an increase of 50p per match be applied for youth games (mini, 9v9 and junior) and £1.00 per match for adult pitches for the 2026/27 season. Councillor Tebb **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

25/320 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE FOR 2025/26 AND TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE DRAFT BUDGETS FOR 2026/27

The committees' expenditure for 2025/26 was reviewed. The annual maintenance programme during the non-playing months included reseeding pitches and an application of fertiliser and weed selective. There had been additional water usage due to the dry weather resulting in higher bills. The internal and external hedges were cut and it is planned to cut these annually going forward. Despite additional expenditure there have been savings made, including a reduction in the number of grass cuts due to the weather, and additional income has been received from the new day time hirer. The mesh fencing project was funded through saved funds in the ear marked reserves.

As discussed earlier, additional funds are needed next year for drain jetting on the whole site (annually) and the Clerk is working to resolve the broken drain issue on Sharpenhoe Road and the pedestrian access. There is a projected increase of 4% for grounds maintenance next year. Annual hedge cutting on all boundaries internally and externally, and savings for future projects including ditch clearance, replacement boiler fund, 3g project and general maintenance.

Councillor Selley **PROPOSED** the approval of the draft 2025/26 Sports Field Income and Expenditure budgets, with a £15,925 committee precept, an increase £805 which is 5% on last year. Councillor Laycock **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

25/321 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – for information only

Following the recent onsite meeting with Take the Next Step 121 Training they have asked to increase their training sessions during weekdays. They are currently using the Recreation Ground for their sessions and are keen to resume hire at the Sports Field. It was noted that a complaint has been received in the Parish Office regarding parking during sessions. Due to increased demand from the village, they propose to increase their coaches to 4 with 1 pupil each over the set period. In addition, they are looking to include new group sessions of up to 8 children per session. Monday evenings would involve 4 coaches and 28 children which is a significant increase.

Concerns were raised regarding the proposed increase in numbers and sessions which will undoubtedly affect the surface. There are two small training areas (off the pitches) but they are also used by Barton Rovers Youth FC which could cause a potential clash. It was agreed that there should be discussion with Barton Rovers Youth FC before any hire is finalised and then progress discussions with Take the Next Step.

There was nothing further and the meeting closed at 9.29 pm