

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SPORTS FIELD COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT
THE PARISH OFFICE, 1 WINDSOR PARADE
ON 20th APRIL 2026 COMMENCING AT 7.44pm**

Present: Councillors A Vale (Vice-Chair), W Rudd, J Paxton (ex-officio), Mikkelson (ex-officio)

In attendance: S Cowie (Assistant Clerk), 1 member of public

Minutes: S Cowie

25/602 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors J Selley, S Laycock & A Tebb.

25/603 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – there were no declarations of interest made.

25/604 MATTERS ARISING

Barton Rovers Youth FC drew 9 home matches on Saturday 18th April and asked that the rule of a maximum of 8 games was lifted to enable all matches to go ahead. The office agreed the request with conditions to ensure there were no issues with parking. All matches went ahead with no issues reported. Several of the teams have made it through to Cup Finals which is great news for the Club. They thanked the Parish Council for being flexible and allowing all matches to go ahead.

25/605 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPORTS FIELD COMMITTEE HELD ON 16th MARCH 2026

There were no queries. Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of the committee meeting held on 16th March 2026, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mikkelson with **3 IN FAVOUR AND 1 ABSTENTION** as they were not present. The minutes were approved.

25/606 TO REVIEW THE COMMITTEES RISK ASSESSMENTS

There were no amendments. Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** the approval of the Committees Risk Assessments, **SECONDED** by Councillor Rudd and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

25/607 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE THE QUOTATION FOR LIGHTNING PROTECTION EQUIPMENT ANNUAL INSPECTION

Two quotations were provided for the annual inspection. Following discussion Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** the quotation of £160 + VAT from Lightning Protection Services be approved. Councillor Paxton **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

25/608 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MEETING WITH BARTON ROVERS FC AND AGREE ANY ACTIONS

The Assistant Clerk provided a report on the meeting with the Chairman of Barton Rovers FC. Items discussed included the annual reseeding programme, outstanding work to mend a section of damaged fence, the date for the Ramsey Manor tournament and work needed to the car park at Barton Rovers FC. Barton Rovers have asked the Parish Council to consider contributing to the car park repairs, as it is utilised by Sports Field hirers however the cost was unknown at the time of the meeting. The Chairman is planning to complete the Grounds Maintenance Association online course, along with the Full Time Groundsman as soon as possible.

25/609 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR 3 YEAR HIRE AGREEMENT WITH SCL TO USE AN ADULT PITCH FOR WEEKDAY TRAINING

The current agreement with the Academy ends in May and they are keen to secure a 3-year contract with us and Barton Rovers FC. The Academy must have a 3-year contract secured to access Government funding. They will continue to use Barton Rovers FC as their base and only need the Sports Field for weekday training. Pupil numbers are set to increase from next season.

Following discussion, Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** that SCL Academy should be offered a 3-year contract to use an adult pitch for weekday training. Councillor Rudd **SECONDED** the proposal, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**. A meeting will be held with the Academy before the Hire Agreement is issued.

25/610 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM BARTON ROVERS YOUTH FC TO DISPLAY 'GREATER GAMES' BANNER AT THE SPORTS FIELD

Barton Rovers Youth FC is the first Club in Bedfordshire to be chosen as the flagship Club for 'The Greater Game'. Currently there are around 20 clubs nationally delivering 'The Greater Game' and it provides the club with a great opportunity to showcase Barton Rovers Youth FC and support its members. The scheme, which is a FA initiative, aims to improve health and well-being to bring positive transformations to players and promotes values such as respect. As part of the scheme the Club has been issued with a banner which they would like to display at the Sports Field. A photograph of the banner was provided for consideration.

It was acknowledged that previous requests to display banners have been denied but everyone agreed that due to the nature of the national scheme, which promotes a very positive message on values and health, that the request should be approved. If the banner falls into disrepair at any stage it must be removed. The Club have also been issued with a smaller poster, and it was agreed it can be displayed in the Pavilion building. Councillor Vale **PROPOSED** the approval of the request, **SECONDED** by Councillor Mikkelson and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

25/528 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA – for information only.

The provisional date for Barton Rovers Youth FC AGM is 10th June.

There was nothing further and the meeting closed at 8.17 pm.