

**MINUTES OF POLICIES & RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF
BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE
ON MONDAY 18th JUNE 2018 COMMENCING AT 8.51PM**

Present: Councillors, Mr D. Gunter (Chair), Mr L. Davison-Williams (Vice-Chair), Mrs B. Thomas, Mr J Paxton & Mr A Channon

In attendance: Mrs S Cowie (Assistant Clerk)

Minutes: Mrs S Cowie

18/072 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllrs Mrs G. Gardner and Mr J Selley

18/073 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None.

18/074 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE P&R COMMITTEE HELD ON 26th MARCH 2018.
Councillor Gunter **PROPOSED** approval of the P&R minutes held 26th March 2018, **SECONDED** by Cllr Davison-Williams, 4 in Favour 1 abstention

18/075 MATTERS ARISING – None

18/076 TO RETROSPECTIVELY APPROVE COSTS FOR ANNUAL SERVICE OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS AT THE PARISH OFFICE AND PAVILION
Councillor Gunter **PROPOSED** retrospective approval of costs for annual service of fire extinguishers at the Parish Office and Pavilion at a cost of £37.50 + VAT per site, Total cost £75.00 + VAT. This proposal was **SECONDED** by Councillor Davison-Williams and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.**

18/077 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE RESPONSE TO CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE'S CONSULTATION ON COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW
Central Bedfordshire Council are conducting a review of local governance arrangements and have made recommendations on changes to town and parish governance, including parish boundaries, parish name and number of parish councillors. The draft recommendations for Barton-le-Clay are that the boundary should remain the same, the parish name of Barton-le-Clay should remain but the number of Parish Councillors be reduced from 13 to 10. Members felt it was important to retain 13 councillors to ensure committees are quorate and disagreed with CBC's recommendation to reduce the number of Parish Councillors to 10. A reduction in Parish Councillors would result in an disproportionate amount of work being undertaken by fewer councillors. The reduction also raises concerns over the democratic process. Councillor Gunter **PROPOSED** that the survey be completed as laid down in the meeting, **SECONDED** by Councillor Paxton and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED. ACTION:** Completed questionnaire be submitted to Central Bedfordshire Council and a link to all CBC consultations to be added to the website.

18/078 REVIEW RISK ASSESSMENT AND AGREE ACTION PLAN
A copy of the Risk Assessment for Policies & Resources was circulated to members, it was confirmed that the medium risks of document storage and COSHH were being looked into. Councillors Gunter and Davison-Williams will continue as Health and Safety representatives for the Parish Council.

18/079 TO CONSIDER /APPROVE COST OF CHRISTMAS TREE, STAND AND LIGHTS
Three options for supply of real Christmas tree, lights, and stand with installation were considered. Members were in favour of a full package to include providing all materials, installation and removal. The Christmas Lights Committee previously asked the Parish Council whether Lime Close could be used to site an artificial tree. Following enquiries with Central Beds Council this location CBC have granted consent subject to a number of conditions which include insurance, appropriate fixing methodology and Parish Council taking formal responsibility (licence). Many trees on Lime Close have TPO orders in place.

The Parish Council's previously suggested that they consider erecting a living Christmas tree in the Library carpark. Following further investigation it was felt this would be an unsuitable location due to the high fence and shrubbery around the perimeter making visibility of the tree very poor. A

number of alternative locations were discussed and after much discussion it was agreed that a walkabout of the village centre should be arranged to establish possible sites for the tree. If a suitable location can be found members will then consider the quotations. **ACTION:** Walkabout to be arranged

18/080 APPROVAL TO TERMINATE CONTRACT WITH PENINSULA

The monthly contract with Peninsula ends September 2019, the Parish Council is required to give a minimum of 6 months notice to end this contract. Councillor Gunter **PROPOSED** that the necessary steps be taken to terminate the monthly contract with Peninsular, **SECONDED** by Councillor Davison-Williams and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' or 'G' shape with a horizontal line extending to the right.