

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 29th OCTOBER 2018 COMMENCING AT 7.38 PM**

Present: Cllrs Mrs B. Thomas (Chair), Mr A Channon (Vice-Chair) Mr L Davison-Williams (ex-officio)
In Attendance: Mrs S Cowie (Assistant Clerk), Mrs C Callen (Parish Clerk)
Minutes: Mrs S Cowie

18/276 APOLOGIES – Councillor Mrs G Gardner, Mr D Gunter & Mr J Paxton

18/277 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were none.

18/278 MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Thomas reported that the three dead silverbirch trees at Arnold Recreation Ground have now been removed. Councillor Davison-Williams advised that he and the Ground Facilities Maintenance Person had not been able to remove the backboard of the basketball net and asked that the contractor be asked to carry out the necessary works. The replacement bearings for the aeroskate have not yet been installed, however the equipment is functional at present. The bearings will be fitted as soon as possible.

18/279 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 2018

It was noted that there was a spelling error on minute point 18/214, members asked that the minutes be revised. No approval was sought as the committee was not quorate. **ACTION:** minutes to be approved at the next committee meeting.

18/280 TO ACKNOWLEDGE COMPLAINT FROM RESIDENT REGARDING KISSING GATE INTO ARNOLD RECREATION GROUND

Councillor Davison-Williams advised members that the kissing gate is not the responsibility of the Parish Council and suggested that the enquiry should be passed onto Central Bedfordshire Council, owners of the gate. **ACTION: resident to be advised.**

18/281 TO CONSIDER REPLANTING THREE SILVERBIRCH TREES RECENTLY FELLED AT ARNOLD RECREATION GROUND

Members discussed whether they wish to replant the three silverbirch trees which were recently felled as they were in poor health. The Council has an unwritten policy that any trees removed will be replaced. The office were asked to look into the availability of silverbirch trees, item to be taken back to the committee for further discussion once availability and costs are available.

18/282 TO CONSIDER INSTALLING ADDITIONAL BENCH IN ARNOLD RECREATION GROUND

There are currently three benches in Arnold Recreation Ground. In the past there were additional benches within the recreation ground but they were removed following vandalism and it was decided they should not be replaced at that time. A selection of bench types and costs were provided for consideration. Councillor Davison-Williams suggested that members may wish to look at costings for a bench made out of logs/tree trunk, the Assistant Clerk was asked to look into this. Members felt they would like to consider installation in the next financial year and costs to be included in the 2019/20 budget. Councillor Thomas advised that she has received comments from residents that additional benches should be installed in the village. Councillor Davison-Williams advised that any requests should be made to the office for discussion by the relevant committee. **ACTION:** Cost of log/tree trunk bench to be provided at committee meeting.

18/283 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE QUOTATION FOR REPAIR TO GREEN GATE INTO CHILDRENS AREA AT ARNOLD RECREATION GROUND

Members were advised that the gate appears to have been damaged and is dragging as it opens and closes. Three contractors were asked to quote for repair of the gate/post and following advice from one contractor the Parish Council has removed grass from underneath the gate and the gate now closes freely. Members discussed the two quotations provided at the meeting and reviewed photographs of the gate and posts. The gate hinge is believed to be bent and should the gate be

removed from its fixings it would not be possible to rehang it. As the gate is now operational it was felt that more research should be made and a contractor welder be approached for advice and quotation for the necessary works. **ACTION:** Councillor Davison-Williams to provide details of mobile welder, item to be discussed at next committee meeting.

18/284 TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECENT WORK UNDERTAKEN BY THE CONSERVATION GROUP TO CUT BACK HEDGEROW IN NORMAN ROAD PLAY AREA

Work cutting back the hedgerows was carried out by the Conservation Group on 27th October. The arisings were shredded and placed at the base of the hedgerow. Members noted that it had not been possible to shred all arisings on the day and the small amount left would be cleared by the Grounds Facilities Maintenance Person as soon as possible. Members commented that the Conservation Group had done a fantastic job and thanked them for their hard work. **ACTION:** letter of thanks to be sent to the group.

18/285 TO CONSIDER REPLACEMENT NOTICE BOARD AND SIGNAGE AT NORMAN ROAD PLAY AREA

Members were advised that the notice board at the Norman Road play area is deteriorating and the signage is out of date and needs amending as the opening hours are ambiguous. It was agreed that quotations for a replacement notice board and signage be sought, costs to be included in the budget for the next financial year.

18/286 TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECENT THEFTS FROM THE ALLOTMENT SITE AND CONSIDER SECURITY OF THE SITE

In recent months the Council has been informed that thefts have taken place at the allotment site. Two vehicles have been stolen and a shed store broken into with tools taken. The car owners, allotment tenants, were on site when the motor thefts took place, these were reported to the Police however the tool theft was not reported by the tenant. The stolen vehicles had been parked at the far corner of the site and would not have been visible from the roadside, members were concerned that lone workers could feel uneasy if approached. Following the second incident the Parish Council has erected signage at the site reminding tenants to be vigilant and to lock vehicles keeping keys with them at all times. Members considered whether additional fencing and gate should be installed. They felt that a gate could act as a deterrent but it would need closing and locking each time a tenant enters or leaves the site. Should a gate be installed members were concerned that it could create a bigger risk as exit from the site could be delayed due to a locked gate. It was felt that this item should be discussed further and asked that research into available grants for a security gate on the site be provided at the next meeting.

18/287 TO CONSIDER QUOTATIONS FOR HEDGE CUTTING AT THE ALLOTMENT SITE, BOUNDARY WITH VILLAGE HALL

Two quotations for the hedge cutting were considered by members. Following discussion Councillor Thomas **PROPOSED** that the quotation from Reynolds Landscaping to cut hedge height to 6 foot (approx) plus side up at a cost of £95.00 plus VAT be accepted. This proposal was **SECONDED** by Councillor Channon and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

18/288 AGREE POLICY ON CLEARING ALLOTMENT PLOTS ONCE VACANT

When plots are given up they are not always cleared by the tenant and items are often left on the plot. When allocating plots to new tenants they can be put off if items have been left by the previous tenant and need to be disposed of. The Council is now regularly strimming vacant plots to ensure they do not cause a nuisance to neighbouring ploholders however does not currently have an agreed policy regarding clearance of plots when they become vacant. Following discussion members agreed that a policy should be drawn up and agreed by Council whereby the Grounds Facilities Maintenance Person will clear away any debris and then regularly strim to ground level any vacant plots. This policy would exclude any fruit trees left and new tenants will be given the option whether they wish to keep them or have them removed. **ACTION:** policy to be agreed by Council.

18/289 TO CONSIDER ACTION REQUIRED TO CLEAR ALLOTMENT PLOT NUMBER 12

The vegetation on allotment Plot 12 is now dying down and the edges and paths are now visible. Councillor Davison-Williams confirmed that he has spoken to the Grounds Facility Maintenance Person regarding the clearance and has agreed items to be disposed of. Once removed the plot should be able to be cut down to ground level. **ACTION:** Groundsman to carry out work as agreed.

18/290 TO AGREE PLANS FOR NEW GREEN SPACE AT ALLOTMENT

Members acknowledged that progress with the creation of the Barton Heritage Garden within the allotment site had not moved forward. Initial work required will be ploughing and grass seeding. The contractor is currently unable to quote for this work due to high workloads however funds will need to be set aside for the project. It is expected that in year one the area will be turned over, grassed and bulbs planted. In year 2 gates and benches to be installed. **ACTION:** quote for ploughing and grass seeding to be provided at next committee meeting. Investigate sponsorship of bulbs with local businesses.

18/291 TO AGREE ACTION FOR ONGOING MAINTENANCE OF THE WILD AREA IN THE ALLOTMENTS

The wild area was cleared by the Conservation Group in 2016/17, since then no maintenance has been carried out and it is now overgrown. Members considered the ongoing maintenance requirements for this area and agreed that initial action should include cutting back the footpath and its maintenance thereafter. Due to time constraints this item was deferred to the next committee meeting.

18/292 TO AGREE SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE STORAGE OF CHEMICALS

Examples of signage were circulated to members prior to the meeting. Councillor Davison-Williams advised that the Clerk is meeting with a health and safety representative later in the week and suggested that additional advice be sought as to what signage is required. **ACTION:** Clerk to clarify what signage is required, item to be taken back to committee.

18/293 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE

The Play Area Keyholder has asked the committee to consider purchasing a new weatherproof padlock and installing an additional litter bin by the bench in Norman Road play area. Items to be included in the next committee agenda.

Meeting end time: 9.04pm