

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF BARTON-LE-CLAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE PARISH OFFICE ON
MONDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2019 COMMENCING AT 7.47pm**

Present: Councillors Mr J Paxton (Chairman), Mr N Day & Mr L. Davison-Williams (*ex-officio*)

In Attendance: Mrs C Callen (Parish Clerk) & Councillor Mrs G Gardner

Minutes: Mrs C Callen

18/540 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillor Mr D Gunter & Mr J Roberts

18/541 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (*Cllrs may make declarations pertaining to the agenda at this point or at any point during the meeting*). - There were none.

18/542 MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk confirmed that the majority of old lighting columns have now been removed around the village, with the work to be completed by end of March at the latest.

Councillor Davison-Williams advised that he is arranging to meet with the Tree Officer from Central Bedfordshire Council on-site to confirm ownership of the trees at Simpkins Drive ahead of instructing the trees to be cut down.

18/543 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26th NOVEMBER 2018

Councillor Paxton **PROPOSED** approval of the minutes of 26th November 2018, **SECONDED** by Councillor Day and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**.

18/544 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BUS SHELTER INSPECTION

The inspection of the bus shelters undertaken on 13th February was acknowledged by members. No issues were found.

18/545 TO CONSIDER PRODUCING LOCAL WALKS LEAFLETS

An approach has been received from a company called Paul Martin Associates (PMA), based in Hitchin, to enquire if the Parish Council would be interested in producing walks leaflets for the village. They have done similar work for several local councils and a sample of their work has been provided. Councillor Paxton enquired if this is something that has been considered in the past and Councillor Davison-Williams confirmed that Central Bedfordshire Council had been consulted historically. Members felt that the local conservation group volunteers should be involved in any progression with this project and it was agreed that further investigation should be undertaken.

18/546 TO CONSIDER PURCHASING A PORTABLE RADAR SPEED SIGN

Following up on the Traffic Calming Measures being progressed with Central Bedfordshire Highways department, members considered whether a portable radar speed sign would be of benefit for the village. Details of costings have been obtained from one company, Morelock Signs, who have done work with other local councils. Members agreed that a demonstration of the signs working would be beneficial. Clarity was also requested regarding the funds currently held in the Ear Marked Reserve for traffic calming projects, to confirm with Central Bedfordshire Council how much is required to settle the works completed to date. **ACTION – Clerk to arrange a demonstration of the radar signs from more than one provider and also liaise with Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the outstanding payments required under the Rural Match Funding scheme.**

18/547 TO CONSIDER SURVEY OF HEDGES AROUND THE VILLAGE

Councillor Paxton outlined the need to survey all the hedges around the village that are under Parish Council ownership, so that they can be mapped to assist with liaison with contractors when going out to tender for the annual maintenance contracts. This needs to be completed ahead of the review of budgets for precept in the autumn. Members agreed to confirm a date at the Full Council meeting in April to undertake a walk around the village to commence this work.

18/548 TO ACKNOWLEDGE RESIDENTS COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE BUS SERVICE TO HITCHIN

The Parish Office has received several complaints over the past few months from residents who are unable to use the bus service between Barton-le-clay and Hitchin on the W12 route, as the bus arrives into Barton at 10 am on a Tuesday morning already full, having picked up passengers

in Meppershall and Shillington. The Clerk has spoken to both the operator, Whitbread Wanderbus, and Central Bedfordshire Council regarding this matter. Wanderbus have advised that they have only one 16 seater bus available, which is operated by volunteers. In the past they have run a second bus but it was not utilised enough so proved not to be viable. From May they are amending the timetable so that if passengers are unable to catch the Hitchin bus, they can still get the local bus into Luton. Members acknowledged the complaints but felt they were limited in what actions the Parish Council could take. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Wanderbus to offer to promote the use of the bus service within the village if a second bus was to be operated. **ACTION – Clerk to write to Whitbread Wanderbus operators.**

18/549 TO CONSIDER IMPROVEMENTS TO SEATING AT BUS SHELTERS

The Parish Council received a complaint from a resident at the end of last year regarding the lack of seating at some of the bus stops within the village. Members discussed the situation but felt that there is sufficient seating available at the stops at both the ends of the village in both directions and that limited space and the possibility of anti-social behaviour in the centre of the village, ruled out any further seating being provided. No further action proposed.

18/550 TO CONSIDER INSTALLATION OF REAL-TIME BUS TIMETABLES AT BUS STOPS

Members discussed the possible demand and financial implications of providing real-time bus timetables at the village bus stops to help passengers. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Central Bedfordshire Council to ask about costs and funding available to pursue this option. **ACTION – Clerk to investigate costings and report back at next meeting.**

18/551 ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE - There was none

Meeting closed at 8.30pm