Barnoldswick Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 21st October 2026 at The Civic Hall.

Present: Chair Cllr Callum Hird, Councillors Gillian Robinson, , Chris Church & Angela Moran

Apologies for Absence

Councillors Jodie Greaves, Hollie Barrett, John Spencer

26/18 Open Forum

No members of the public present.

26/19 Declaration of Interests

None declared.

26/20 Minutes of the Last Meeting

To approve and accept the minutes of the last meeting held on the 26th August 2026.

RESOLVED: Approved these minutes as the correct record.

26/21 BTFC 5G Pitch Proposal

AM reported on a meeting with BTFC regarding the proposed 5G pitch.

The environmental concerns, particularly the use of rubber infill, were discussed. BTFC would be willing to consider natural infill materials, such as cork.

Two key considerations were identified:

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG): Clarification was required on whether BNG requirements would apply to the whole training area.

Land for biodiversity and nature recovery: The possibility of making land available for additional allotments, biodiversity improvements or nature recovery offsetting was discussed.

AM indicated support for the proposal, subject to the use of cork infill and the ability to use land to offset BNG requirements. AM proposed that the matter be progressed, with CC seconding the proposal. It was agreed that the relevant commitments must be confirmed in writing and that the proposal should be taken to Full Council.

RESOLVED: Unanimous agreement to progress the proposal to Full Council, subject to the use of cork infill and suitable arrangements for BNG offsetting.

26/22 Summer Planting

A quotation had been received from Gledstone Gardens for the 2027 planting schedule.

RESOLVED: The quotation was approved on the same basis as the previous year, with a trial of a 50/50 mix of peat and peat-free compost.

26/23 Working Groups

a. Allotments Working Group

The following matters were discussed:

- Allotment mapping: AM had met with a contractor who could use a drone to produce site maps for all allotments at a cost of £120.
- Greenberfield 2 newsletter: A newsletter had been produced with a positive approach, including guidance on the use of plastic.
- IBC containers: The IBCs needed to be removed from outside the Rainhall Centre, placed on a pallet and transported to Hardy Avenue.
- Working Group meetings: Dates for further meetings had been agreed.
- Dam Head allotments: A quotation of £90 had been received for clearing Plot 4.
- Allotment rents: A £5 increase in allotment rents for 2027 was suggested.
- Potential new site: CH provided an update on a potential allotment site at Rolls Royce.

RESOLVED:

- **The £120 drone mapping cost was approved, to be met from the Allotments budget.**
- **The £90 quotation for clearing Plot 4 at Dam Head was approved, to be met from the Allotments budget.**
- **The proposed £5 rent increase for 2027 to be taken to Full Council on 11th November 2026.**
- **CH to circulate the update on the potential Rolls Royce site to the General Purposes Committee and arrange a site visit.**

b. Bioscapes

A debrief was provided on water testing undertaken at 17 sites in Barnoldswick. Further testing would take place at locations where concerns had been identified.

An update was provided on the River Ribble Trust's (RRT) new Community Water Enterprises project. The project aims to establish a new environmental group to undertake activities that improve the local water environment, with support from RRT, including rainwater separation schemes in areas served by combined sewers.

It was reported that funding would be used from DEFRA. The proposed fencing would leave sufficient space for the creation of a hedgerow. Barlick Bioscapes was asked to consider securing the hedgerow plants and organising the planting by March 2027.

The proposed hedgerow would extend to 135 metres. At six plants per metre, a total of 810 plants would be required, together with protective spirals and canes.

RESOLVED: To be discussed at the next Bioscapes meeting.

26/24 Maintenance and Repairs

Victory Park Pavilion

The Committee discussed storage at the Pavilion and the possible disposal of BOTS equipment.

RESOLVED: CH to liaise with Eugene to arrange a visit to the Pavilion, compile an inventory of items and identify those requiring disposal. The recommendations would be presented to Full Council on 11th November 2026 for approval.

Letcliffe Park

Damage to the edge of the track was noted.

26/25 Health & Safety

Missing bollards at Victory Park were discussed.

RESOLVED: The Committee agreed that the bollards should be reinstated, with relevant personnel provided with keys.

Remembrance Parade

CH was preparing the risk assessment for the Remembrance Parade.

For further information contact: Diane Nowell, Clerk to the Council
The next meeting of the General Purposes Committee will take place on Wednesday 13th January 2027 at The Civic Hall, Station Road, Barnoldswick, BB18 5NA
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