BARNTON PARISH COUNCIL
Policy on the Disposal of Parish Council Land
Local Government Act 1972, Section 127.

1. Purpose
This policy sets out the principles and procedures that govern any potential disposal of land owned by Barnton Parish Council. It is intended to safeguard land that is held in trust on behalf of the community and to ensure its use remains aligned with long-term public benefit.

2. Ownership and Stewardship
All land held by Barnton Parish Council is regarded as *community-owned*, managed by the Council on behalf of the residents of Barnton. The Council acts as custodian of these community assets and is responsible for preserving them for current and future generations.

3. General Principle: No Sale of Land
There is a *strong presumption against the sale or transfer* of any land owned by Barnton Parish Council. The Council affirms that such land is a public asset and not available for sale under normal circumstances.

In the *exceptional event* that disposal is considered, the following requirements must be met:

- The decision must be justified by compelling community benefit.
- There must be robust evidence that no viable alternative exists.
- Extensive public consultation must be undertaken.
- Legal advice and due process must be followed.
- A formal resolution must be passed by the Council.

Where any such exception is approved, it will be *explicitly recorded that the decision is case-specific and does not establish a precedent* for future land disposals.

4. Transparency and Accountability
All decisions regarding land management will be made transparently, with community involvement at every stage. Proposals involving land use change or disposal will be made publicly available with clear rationale and evidence of benefit to the community.

5. Review and Reaffirmation
This policy shall be reviewed as required, to ensure that it remains consistent with local needs, legislative updates, and the values of Barnton Parish Council.