

BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Village Green Committee (VGC) of the Barrow Gurney Parish Council held at Farleigh Hills, School Lane, Barrow Gurney on 20 November 2017.

Present: Rob McKenzie (Chairman), Nick Kerswell, Annie Robinson and Joanna van Tonder (Parish Council Clerk)

Distribution: The Village Green Committee members and Parish Councillors

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Jim Durie, Joanna Critchett and Richard Dennys.

The committee was informed the meeting was quorate. With Annie Robinson moving out of the area soon, members were mindful that attendance by an insufficient number of committee members may become an issue at future meetings.

(Annie's membership on the VGC would cease at the end of the current financial year on 31 March 2018.)

2 Minutes of the previous meeting:- 7 November 2016

The minutes of the last meeting having been circulated previously were taken as a true and accurate record.

3 Half Year Financial Review of Committee expenditure

Joanna van Tonder presented the Half Year Financial report of the VGC expenditure for the current year, copy attached. Estimated expenditure for the year was predicted to be under budget in the region of £426 primarily due to an anticipated underspending for remedial playground repairs and unspent contingency.

4 Playground Inspection

a) Review of Play Inspection Co. report

The report was discussed and it was noted the findings were either classed as low or very low risk.

Members discussed the points in the report pertaining to the boundary wall. It was agreed the wall needed repointing in places and liability for the cost of such works was considered.

Joanna vT suggested Bath College might be asked to consider the project for their students.

Action: JvT to make enquiries with Bath College

Action: AR to make enquiries at local agricultural colleges

b) Co-ordination of weekly inspections

Nick Kerswell offered to take over the scheduling of weekly inspections for the following year. It was agreed that Rob McKenzie would set up an inspection checklist that can be completed online by all committee members according to the rota.

5 Future improvements and enhancements

a) Table Tennis table

Rob confirmed that, subject to the submission of a risk assessment, the committee's grant application to the Stanombe Quarry Community Fund had been successful and that an award of £2,352 was expected.

Rob advised that the price shown on the original quotation submitted with the grant application had unfortunately risen since then by £380 as a result of currency devaluation due to Brexit uncertainties. As a goodwill gesture, the supplier had offered to cover 50% of the increase.

Members discussed, and it was agreed to proceed with, an alternative supplier offering a similar concrete Table Tennis table with rounded corners at a cost of £1,595 + £650 delivery and installation (exclusive of VAT). Twelve bats and a supply of 144 balls would be included in the package, as would the levelling of the site (alongside the Boules pitch). It was agreed that the surplus grant monies would fund the purchase of necessary signage including a small plaque crediting the Stancombe Quarry with the donation.

Annie Robinson mentioned she had a relative who had competed in Table Tennis at the Paralympics. Annie agreed to approach him with an invitation to officially open the Table Tennis table.

b) Playground resurfacing

Rob reminded members that three quotations had been sought and that, by unanimous agreement, it had been decided to submit the quote from Safety Green in the amount of £8,880 (exclusive of VAT) in a grant application to the Bristol Airport Community Fund, due to meet on 1 December.

Rob advised that the Safety Green quotation had included wet-pour rubber beneath both sets of swings and the spinner, bounded by a concrete kerb, and rubber matting under the adventure trail allowing the remainder of the playground to be grassed over. He confirmed that the rubber would be poured in such a way as to allow the removal of the equipment at a later date should any item need replacing.

Annie suggested the VGC could do more to publicise the good work it does and Rob confirmed he would be doing so especially with the opening of the Table Tennis table and after the resurfacing of the playground.

6 Additional Maintenance work

Memorial Stone

Rob proposed, Annie seconded and it was agreed to authorise Nick to purchase paint and brushes to allow him to repaint the lettering on the Memorial Stone.

Action: NK to undertake the repainting of the lettering

Tree maintenance

Members discussed the status of some of the trees. Annie suggested Christine Pritchard, Landscape Designer, could be asked to assist with the identification of all trees on the Green.

Action: AR to make enquiries with Christine

Rob suggested a working party could be pulled together in February to tackle some tree crown reductions and other tree maintenance projects with a view to passing on vital skills. The leggy Wild Cherry was discussed and it was suggested that another small tree could be replace the Wild Cherry to coincide with the commemoration of the end of WWI.

Nick reported that the Jo Collins Memorial tree had needed to be restaked as it had begun grow at an angle.

Boundary Hedge

Rob confirmed he intended to ensure the hedge remained at its current height. He advised that Hec had planted additional whips to fill the hedge out and was responsible for the maintenance of the hedge at this time.

7 Village Green Maintenance schedule 2018/19

It was agreed to advise Chris Lane of the following requirements for 2018/19:

- 18 x grass cuts (Village Green)
- 18 x grass cuts (playground)
- 2 x major and 4 x minor strims

Action: JvT to notify Chris and confirm prices

Action: JvT to circulate schedule of cuts remaining for this current year

Rob agreed to ask Chris if he still wished to provide a weed spraying service and obtain a quote from Hec if needs be.

8 Village Green Committee proposed budget 2018/9

Various items of expenditure were considered for inclusion in the budget:

Rubbish bin / Dog waste bin

It was agreed that a sturdy rubbish bin of a design more in keeping with the Village Green was needed to replace the loose standing bin currently located alongside the playground.

Members went on to discuss the growing need for a dog faeces bin.

Joanna vT reported that a number of neighbouring Parish Councils had collectively negotiated a favourable rate for the emptying of dog waste bins with Bin-It Dog Waste Solutions.

Action: JvT to circulate quotations for discussion and agreement for:

1. Replacement rubbish bin
2. Provision and emptying of dog waste bin
3. Collection of general waste from rubbish bin

Ride-on lawn mower

It was suggested the Parish Council could purchase a ride-on lawn mower at a cost in the region of £5,000 and make use of volunteers to cut the Village Green on a regular basis. While it was agreed it would save the cost external contractors, it was felt the associated Health & Safety and insurance costs, together with the logistics of housing, maintaining and scheduling the mower, would make it preclusive.

Additional grass cuts

It was agreed that, in addition to the eighteen cuts to be confirmed with Chris Lane for both the Village Green and the playground, a further two cuts at each location would be budgeted for to allow some flexibility.

Joanna vT confirmed that the draft budget would be circulated for discussion and agreement once it was known if the VGC was successful in its bid for grant funding for the playground resurfacing from Bristol Airport and quotations have been agreed for the rubbish and dog waste bins.

9 Public Questions

There were no members of the public present.

10 Date of the next meeting

Date of next meeting: Saturday, 17 November 2018 at 10:00 (Prince's Motto)

On behalf of the VGC, Rob offered his sincerest thanks to Annie for her years of dedicated service, expertise and support!

The meeting closed at 10:06 pm.

BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk:
Ms Joanna van Tonder
Tel: 07586 437769

HALF YEAR FINANCIAL REVIEW 2017 / 2018

VILLAGE GREEN COMMITTEE BUDGET

	Actual for the 6 months ending 30/09/17	Estimated for the year ending 31/03/18	Budget for the year ending 31/03/18
Grant Income:			
Stancombe Quarry Community Fund		2,352	
TOTAL INCOME	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,352</u>	<u>0</u>
Annual Expenditure:			
Grass cutting		950	900
Path spraying		144	144
Strimming		206	230
Annual playground inspection		65	65
Remedial repairs to playground		0	150
Contingency		200	300
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,565</u>	<u>1,789</u>
Extraordinary Expenditure:			
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Grant Expenditure:			
Table Tennis table		2,352	
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>2,352</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>0.00</u>	<u>3,917</u>	<u>1,789</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	<u>0.00</u>	<u>-1,565</u>	<u>-1,789</u>