

BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the village hall, Barrow Gurney,
at 7:30pm on 11 March 2019.

Present: Claire Arbery (Chairperson), Phil Carnell, Geoff Coombs, Joanna Critchett, Eric Gates and Joanna van Tonder (Clerk)
1 resident

Distribution: The Parish Councillors plus Nick Wilton

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Andy Robbins and Cllr Andrew Sheridan.

2 Declarations of Interest and dispensations

a) Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

b) Receive requests for dispensation

No requests for dispensation were received.

c) Grant requests for dispensations

No requests for dispensation were granted.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting – 14 January 2019

It was agreed the minutes of the last meeting having been circulated previously be taken as a true and accurate record.

4 Public Questions

Broadband

Resident NT told members he had been in contact with Truespeed who had recounted the number of properties within the "village" and gone on to suggest another 13 sign-ups were required to enable them to commence a roll-out for the village quadrant. It was agreed another note would be circulated around the village to encourage sign-up.

Members considered the implications in terms of contractual obligations where a property that had committed to Truespeed was subsequently put on the market.

Action: Joanna Critchett to make enquiries with Truespeed

5 Police Report

The following incidents of crime were reported on the constabulary's website:

December 2018:

- 2 x Violence and Sexual Offences on or near Bridgwater Road (both under investigation)

No information was available on the constabulary's website for January 2019 as at the time of the meeting.

6 Actions Arising

The following actions arising from the meeting of 12 November 2018 were still outstanding or not addressed elsewhere:

Min 7(e) (12/11/18): Other Planning matters	Clerk to source flight path maps of recent activity into and out of Bristol Airport – outstanding Action: Clerk to request from Bristol Airport information on flights that have deviated from the prescribed route during either take off or landing
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7 Annual Parish Meeting

Members considered options for speakers at the upcoming APM and it was agreed that the first choice was for a representative from the firm consulting on the J21 Park & Ride proposals to talk on that topic with specific reference to the impact on the A38. Alternatively, it was suggested a speaker involved with the Joint Local Transport Plan 4 could be invited.

The Clerk reminded members that the West of England Rural Network / Village Agents had offered to address the APM on the topic of Reducing Social Isolation and Loneliness in the community. It was agreed this would be the council's standby option.

8 Parish Council elections – 2 May 2019

The Clerk confirmed that, through various means, parish residents were being made aware of the upcoming parish council elections and were invited to consider standing.

Councillors were reminded that the deadline for handing in nomination forms was 4pm on Wednesday, 3 April 2019.

9 Planning

a) Planning applications since the last meeting

There have been no planning applications received since the last meeting.

b) Consents, refusals and enforcement cases since the last meeting

The following planning application has been granted consent:

- 18/P/5009/TPO: T1 beech - fell at <i>Former Barrow Hospital Lodge, Hospital Road</i>	CONSENT GRANTED 29/01/2019
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The following enforcement cases have been opened or are still pending:

- 19/00072/BCN: Breach of condition on planning permission 18/P/3555/FUL – opening times at <i>Former Petrol Station, Bridgwater Rd</i>	CASE CLOSED 28/02/2019
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Enforcement Officer response: "I have investigated your complaint and I can confirm that I have written to the owners of the site to inform them that the opening hours for the petrol station are as stated on the decision notice 18/P/2140/FUL, as 07:00 to 23:00 hours only.

As there has not been a breach of the conditions as the petrol station is not open yet I will close this matter."

c) Barrow Hospital – update

The Clerk read from two e-mails updating on the status of the outstanding matters pertaining to the Hospital site, received from Neil Underhay, Principle Planning Officer and Lucy Nicholson, Senior Flood Risk Officer, both of NSC.

Outstanding S106 works

Neil Underhay had reported the footpath along Wild Country Lane over the railway bridge had been completed at the beginning of March with only the lighting of the sign on the north side still outstanding.

Phil Carnell mentioned the kerb appeared to be too low so during periods of heavy rainfall, motorists would not see the kerb and this could cause problems for low bodied vehicles.

Improvements to the highway drainage system had been made at the same time and it was hoped these measures would eliminate the previous flooding that often occurred adjacent to the bridge.

Site drainage

Lucy Nicholson confirmed in her e-mail that NSC were engaged in ongoing discussions with the developer's engineers who were working on the design for the drainage system and flood mitigation measures for the proposed development.

Leaking sewerage

Lucy suggested remedial work had been carried out and the legal notice subsequently lifted although, as this issue did not fall within her remit, she could not elaborate.

Action: Clerk to follow up with relevant department and obtain feedback

Action: Clerk to forward e-mails to Andrew Sheridan (absent)

d) Joint Local Transport Plan 4 consultation

Members were reminded the deadline for comment was Wednesday, 20 March 2019.

Action: Councillors to circulate comments by the end of the week

e) Other Planning matters

Ashton Vale / Taylor Wimpey development

It was noted the hedge along the A38, bordering the proposed development site, had been cut down, suggesting this was pre-empting the submission of a planning application.

Bristol Airport / Parish Councils Airport Association

Members noted the PCAA had circulated an update to their comments objecting to the expansion of Bristol Airport. John Penrose MP (Weston-super-Mare) had written to the Secretary of State for Housing requesting The Rt Hon James Brokenshire call in the application for determination at government level. Dr Liam Fox MP (North Somerset) had also been asked to request a call-in.

10 Highways, pavements, verges and footpaths

a) Action taken by North Somerset Council since the previous meeting

It was confirmed the manhole cover on Barrow Street in the vicinity of Springhead Barn had finally been replaced.

It was noted that all highways defects and works outstanding that had previously been reported to NSC remained unattended to.

Eric Gates advised that he, Claire Arbery and Andy Robbins had met with NSC the previous week but had been unable to secure any firm commitment or positive feedback on the list of outstanding works. It appeared contractors Skanska were left to schedule the works themselves with few or no penalties or repercussions for delays or non-provision of service.

Temporary road closures / speed amendments

- A38 / Barrow Street – REPLACEMENT OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS

- effective from **11 March 2019** for fourteen days
- temporary traffic lights will be in operation

Councillors expressed their disappointment at NSC's failure to notify the PC of the upcoming works to the traffic lights, made known to the PC only through an article in the press.

- GREAT WESTON RIDE 2019 – passing through Barrow Gurney on **Sunday, 14 July 2019**

b) Condition of roads, pavements, verges and footpaths

The following reports were noted and/or received:

- A38 traffic islands (between Hobbs Lane and Barrow Street) – street lighting not working
- Barrow Court Lane (north of Barrow Court) – pothole
- Barrow Lane – drains blocked
- Barrow Street (at Hilltop and Hillside Cottages) – drains blocked

Action: Clerk to report on Council Connect

It was noted that litter in the laybys along the A38 was noticeably on the increase and was, in all likelihood, a result of taxi drivers emptying their cars while waiting on airport custom. The two areas of greatest concern was the layby at the quarry entrance and the layby at Dial Lane.

Action: Clerk to write to Bristol Airport regarding the increasing litter

c) NSC Parks & Open Spaces contract

The Clerk reported that at the recent Town & Parish Forum, there had been a brief discussion around the Parks and Open Spaces contract led by Colin Russell & John Flannigan. The current contract with Glendale ended on 31 March 2020 and NSC were inviting councils to let them know what their priorities were in order to help shape the contract.

After a discussion, members agreed the priorities for Barrow Gurney were the regular maintenance of verges along both A & B roads and lanes, as well as a priority mechanism within the contract to deal with such issues as visibility at junctions that required immediate action.

It was reiterated that parish councils should be made aware of what the final contract included in order that adherence thereto could be monitored at a local level.

Action: Clerk to inform NSC of Barrow Gurney PC priorities

11 Village Enhancements

a) Flowerbeds

There was nothing to report.

b) Defibrillator

Eric Gates reported an application for funding had been made to the Stancombe Quarry Community Fund who were due to meet later in the month.

Clerk's note: A grant in the amount of £1,490.00 had been awarded by SQCF to the PC for the purchase of the defibrillator.

c) Litter picking

It was commented that there was a significant amount of broken glass along Barrow Street and it was unclear if this was due to the recycling collectors or from passing motorists throwing bottles out of their vehicles.

Members noted a request from a group of residents asking for the PC to either fund or assist in securing funds for the procurement of litter picking equipment. This followed a successful village litter pick organised by the same residents shortly before.

The Clerk advised that NSC had initiated a litter pick licensing procedure that enabled interested groups to register a litter pick with the District Council. In exchange, NSC would, in most cases, provide liability insurance and some litter picking equipment. She advised, however, that litter picking on certain roads such as those without a pavement was not permitted without a road closure.

Members agreed that Barrow Street needed to be cleaned up regularly and so it was decided to ask NSC to either permit two road closures each year to enable a village litter pick or, alternatively, resume regularly street cleansing along the highway.

Action: Clerk to make enquiries

12 Village Green Committee Report

Members noted the following report received from Rob McKenzie, Chair of the Village Green Committee:

- Mole hills in the play area – dried brambles had been put down the holes in an effort to deter the animals.
- Damage to wet pour surface around the Spinner – SafetyGreen had remedied within a few days of it having been reported.
- Damaged Village Green wall – a 1m stretch of the redundant wall had been damaged significantly when struck by a lorry on the morning of 18 February. As it was located at the narrowest point of the pinch point, repairs would be made by NSC during a summer road closure while surface dressing was being undertaken.
- Overhanging branches – lower branches overhanging the play area and paths had been removed

Joanna Critchett reported that Rob had made contact with SafetyGreen regarding the disputed non-compliance of the poured play area surface sizes. SafetyGreen had indicated the dimensions to which the playground inspector had referred in his report were simply guidelines and not regulations.

13 Clerk's resignation and recruitment of successor

The Chair confirmed she had received the Clerk's resignation and that she would be vacating her post on 31 May 2019.

The Clerk advised the vacancy was being advertised online and the decision to place a joint advertisement with Brockley Parish Council in North Somerset Times at a cost to Barrow Gurney PC of £60.25 + VAT was ratified.

Members noted the deadline for applications was 22 March and it was agreed to hold interviews on 5 April 2019.

14 Finance

a) Internal Audit 2019

The Clerk advised the Internal Audit was scheduled to take place between 8 – 19 April 2019.

b) Disposal of redundant laptop

The Clerk advised that the Acer laptop originally purchased through NSC's "Paperless Parishes" initiative, made redundant following the purchase of a replacement through a Transparency Code Compliance grant, needed to be safely disposed of.

It was agreed to approach ex-councillor Rob McKenzie for advice.

Action: Clerk to seek advice from Rob McKenzie

c) Receipts and Payments

The Clerk reported that no **receipts** had been received since the last meeting.

Joanna Critchett proposed, Eric Gates seconded and it was resolved to ratify the following **payments** made since the last meeting:-

£424.06	Ms Joanna van Tonder / HMRC	Clerk's salary (January 2019)
£424.06	Ms Joanna van Tonder / HMRC	Clerk's salary (February 2019)

Joanna Critchett proposed, Eric Gates seconded and it was resolved to authorise the following **payments** to be made:-

£350.00	Barrow Gurney Village Hall	Hall hire for 2018/19
£75.00	Mr G Bennett	Tidying the War Memorial (2018)
£78.33	Avon Local Councils Association	Annual subscription for 2019/20
£145.96	Ms Joanna van Tonder	Clerk's expenses (October 2018 – March 2019)
£72.30	Archant	50% of recruitment advertisement

The Clerk reported the current account bank balance prior to the authorisation of the cheques was £4,865.71. Following the payment of the cheques amounting to £721.59, the available balance would be **£4,144.12**. £7,514.56 was held in the deposit account.

15 Open Forum for the Parish Council

Earthlight Training

The Clerk reminded members that NSC were offering training sessions on their mapping software, Earthlight, should they be interested.

16 Future meetings

2019 meeting dates: 13 May, 8 July, 9 September and 11 November 2019

The meeting closed at 8:58 pm.