

# BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the village hall, Barrow Gurney,  
at 7:30pm on 9 September 2019

**Present:** Andy Robbins (Vice-Chair), Phil Carnell, Nick Tyrrell, Joanna Critchett, Sandra Gibson and Joanna van Tonder (Clerk)  
Hugh Gregor (NSC District Councillor)  
Lyndsay Newman (WERN Village Agent)  
3 residents

**Distribution:** The Parish Councillors plus District Councillor Hugh Gregor

## 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Eric Gates and Andrew Sheridan.

## 2 Declarations of Interest and dispensations

### a) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest 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 – 8 July 2019

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

## 4 Guest Speaker: Lyndsay Newman (WERN Village Agent)

Andy Robbins welcomed Lydsay Newman and invited her to address the meeting.

Lyndsay began by outlining her role as a Village Agent in terms of the work of West of England Rural Network in providing a social service, interfacing with other providers. Some of the areas highlighted were supporting over 50's, helping the elderly to stay independent and social prescribing.

Lyndsay went on to talk about **Rural Connections**, a lottery funded initiative to support local rural communities either set up new projects to tackle social isolation, such as coffee mornings, film clubs and tea parties, or sign-post to existing services.

It was generally agreed that getting invitations to such events out to the target members of the community was often difficult as those residents were less likely to be on the village e-mail list; leaflet drops would be more effective. Lyndsay suggested organising a coffee morning in the village and agreed to contact the pub to invite their participation.

Members considered the possible gaps in service provision within the parish and which additional needs were probably covered by neighbouring parishes.

**Action:** Clerk to draw up a directory of local services, facilities and activities

## 5 Public Questions

Andy Robbins invited District Councillor Hugh Gregor to introduce himself and went on to explain the Parish Council's need for support at the District level following the extended absence of the previous District Councillor for Winford Ward.

Hospital Cottage residents raised concerns around the two active planning applications pertaining to the Hospital site, 19/P/1640/AGA and 19/P/2086/TPO. These were discussed and Andy Robbins advised the Parish Council had objected to the former with NSC going on to determine prior approval would be required.

Fly-tipping along Wild Country Lane was reported.

## 6 Police Report

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

July 2019:

- 1 x Other Theft on or near Bridgwater Road (offender given a caution)

There was no crime reported during May and June 2019.

## 7 Actions Arising

The following actions arising from previous meetings were still outstanding or not addressed elsewhere:

<b>Min 7(e)</b> (12/11/18): Other Planning matters	Clerk to source fight path maps of recent activity into and out of Bristol Airport – <b>SEE 13(c)(1)(ii), BELOW</b>
<b>Min 15(a)</b> (08/07/19): Open Forum: Good Councillor's Training	Clerk to co-ordinate with ALCA and neighbouring parishes to facilitate joint training – <b>SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2019</b>
<b>Min 15(c)</b> (18/07/19): Open Forum: Freemans Farm Memorial	Clerk to look into having the memorial included on NSC's historic monuments list – <b>TO BE ADDED TO HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD and KNOW YOUR PLACE: NORTH SOMERSET</b>

## 8 Co-option to fill vacancy on the Parish Council

Nick Tyrrell proposed, Andy Robbins seconded and it was agreed that Sandra Gibson of Naish Lane would be co-opted on to the Parish Council.

Sandra Gibson duly co-opted, took her place at the meeting table and completed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office form in the presence of the Clerk.

## 9 Ratification of Clerk's continued employment with the Parish Council

The decision taken by all members of the Council via e-mail or in person to retain Joanna van Tonder in the role of Clerk on a permanent basis, was ratified.

## 10 Finance and Governance

### a) Review of Clerk's Job Evaluation and salary scales

It was agreed that, in advance of the budgetary process commencing at the end of the year, the role of the Clerk would be benchmarked against the SLCC's Job Evaluation Scheme in order to establish the salary banding appropriate to the role. The Clerk for Kenn Parish Council, a member of the Internal Audit Panel, would be asked to undertake the benchmarking.

### b) Reallocation of Flax Bourton Youth Club grant 2019/20

Following the closure earlier in the year of the Youth Club as a result of falling numbers, members discussed reallocating the £750 grant set aside in the 2019/20 Budget for the club.

Joanna Critchett proposed, Andy Robbins seconded and it was agreed to reallocate the funds to cover the repairs required in making safe the Mill Leat railings at the edge of the Village Green.

Mindful of the discussions that had taken place earlier regarding reducing social isolation, members went on to discuss the possibility of conducting a survey of residents to establish the needs, views and opportunities of the various demographic groups within the parish.

**Action:** Clerk to look into feasibility of a survey

**c) Receipts and Payments**

The Clerk reported the following **receipts** had been received since the last meeting:-

£4,500.00 North Somerset Council 2<sup>nd</sup> Precept payment 2019/20

Phil Carnell proposed, Sandra Gibson seconded and it was resolved to ratify the following **payments** made since the last meeting:-

£444.19 Ms Joanna van Tonder / HMRC Clerk's salary (Julv 2019)

£444.19 Ms Joanna van Tonder / HMRC Clerk's salary (August 2019)

Phil Carnell proposed, Sandra Gibson seconded and it was resolved to authorise the following **payments** to be made:-

£45.00	North Somerset Council	2019 Election costs
£300.00	Little Apple Gardening Services	Village Green maintenance
£40.00	Society of Local Council Clerks	Annual subscription
£124.37	Ms Joanna van Tonder	Clerk's expenses

The Clerk reported the current account bank balance prior to the authorisation of the cheques was £11,003.87. Following the payment of the cheques amounting to £509.37, the available balance would be **£10,494.50**. £7,529.39 was held in the deposit account.

**11 Highways, pavements, verges and footpaths**

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

Location	Problem	NSC Action
Wild Country Lane	Weight restriction signage outstanding at Hern Lane end	Works completed.
A38 street light (opposite hot tubs)	Street light not working; at an angle since collision	No action since reported on 20/05/19; unable to report more than once. <b>Action:</b> Clerk to escalate
A38 / Naish Lane bus stop litter bin	Overflowing	Emptied 29/07/2019.
A38 at Barrow Street traffic lights	2 x potholes	No action since reported. <b>Action:</b> Clerk to escalate
Hobbs Lane	Severely overgrown	No action since reported. <b>Clerk's note:</b> Cllr Hugh Gregor escalated and advised only suitable machine was in for repair; Hobbs Lane on the works list
B3130 / A370 interchange	Ragwort	NSC response on 28/08: "A works order has been raised and committed to contractors to remove the ragwort from the location given ..."
All overgrown verges and hedges along A38		NSC response: "Under investigation to discuss order to side out and cut back all vegetation down the whole footway on A38"

**Cllr Joanna Critchett was excused from the meeting at 8:50pm.**

**b) Condition of roads, pavements, verges and footpaths**

The following reports were noted and/or received:

- Naish Lane (opp. Wisteria Cottage / Roseneath) – pothole
- Barrow Street (in the vicinity of St Anne's) – 3 x blocked drains
- Wild Country Lane (between Hern Lane and Barrow Street) – overgrown verge

**Action:** Clerk to report on Council Connect

Andy Robbins reiterated to Cllr Hugh Gregor that the PC'S communication channels with NSC were troublesome and the PC was finding it increasingly difficult to illicit responses to requests for updates. Cllr Gregor offered to take the PC's issues to NSC to progress.

**Action:** Clerk to provide Cllr Gregor with a list of outstanding issues

Phil Carnell reminded members that the water seepage from the reservoir wall at the Dundry Lane / Bridgwater Road intersection had still not been remedied several years after first being reported.

**12 Village Green Committee Report**

**a) Village Green Committee report**

The Clerk read from the report received from Rob McKenzie. Brambles were, once again, being used to deter moles. Additionally, Rob had reported the fence around the play area was beginning to show signs of age and the VGC would be considering options. A Village Green tidy-up was on the cards for October.

Andy Robbins reported he had cut back the nettles along the ditch with the PC's strimmer, allowing for improved accessibility for Table Tennis players. Andy suggested a nettle-specific herbicide might be the answer and advised Phil Coombs was available for advice.

**b) Mill Leat railings quotations**

As further quotations were still awaited, it was agreed to defer a decision until the next meeting.

**Action:** Clerk to request from tenderers i) what materials will be used, and ii) expected longevity of materials

**13 Planning**

**a) Planning applications since the last meeting**

The following planning applications have been received since the last meeting:

1	19/P/1640/AGA	Prior approval in respect of development consisting of the carrying out of excavations or the deposit of waste materials at <b>Land adjacent to the former Barrow Hospital, Wild Country Lane</b> <u>Council comment:</u> objection (retrospective)
2	19/P/2086/TPO	Collection of core samples from Ash and Oak trees for research purposes at <b>Barrow Wood Farm, Wild Country Lane</b> <u>Council comment:</u> no objection

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

There had been no decisions made since the previous meeting.

- <b>19/P/1086/FUL:</b> Application for planning permission for the change of use of an existing agricultural building to a class B2 use (general industrial) and increase the height of the building at <i>Redwood Farm, Barrow Street</i>	CONSENT GRANTED 05/07/2019
- <b>19/P/1204/FUH:</b> New dormer windows to the rear elevation and new small windows to the front elevation at <i>Wayside, Naish Lane</i>	CONSENT GRANTED 09/07/2019

<p>- <b>19/P/1512/FUH:</b> Erection of single storey garage adjacent to the existing garage. New games room at the lower ground floor level to the rear of the garages and below the ground floor rear patio at <i>The Gables, School Lane</i></p>	<p>CONSENT GRANTED 13/08/2019</p>
<p>- <b>19/P/1640/AGA:</b> Prior approval in respect of development consisting of the carrying out of excavations or the deposit of waste materials at <i>Land adjacent to the former Barrow Hospital, Wild Country Lane</i></p>	<p>PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED 02/08/2019</p>

No new enforcement cases have been **opened, reported on** or are still **pending**.

**c) Other Planning matters**

1. Bristol Airport

i. Increased overhead air traffic / noise

The Clerk reported she was still waiting for the requested flight path data from Bristol Airport. Andy Robbins advised he had made enquiries whilst attending the Airspace Change workshop and had been told categorically there had been no significant change to flight traffic movements. He had made useful contacts at the workshop who could be asked to intervene and provide the long-awaited data.

ii. Airspace Change workshop

Andy Robbins reported that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) were looking to change the currently used air traffic control systems based on beacons and altitude in favour of satellite navigation. Bristol Airport had been asked to contribute to the consultation around design principles and were inviting stakeholders' input. Workshop attendees raised noise management as a critical issue that, together with air quality, should be driving the airport to insist on new generation airplanes.

iii. Opposition to expansion

Members noted the growing opposition from various quarters to the expansion proposals. It was also noted that a Planning Committee meeting could well be scheduled in the near future to decide the Airport's planning application with Cllr, Hugh Gregor, hoping to be afforded an opportunity to speak on behalf of the ward.

2. Joint Spatial Plan

Members noted that, following the first round of hearings, Inspectors had found the JSP irrevocably unsound.

**14 Parish Area reports**

**a) Barrow Court / Barrow Court Lane**

The Clerk advised that Maggie Lomas had kindly offered to provide a report for the Parish Council on matters affecting this part of the parish.

Of concern was the prospect of the expansion of the airport; primarily in terms of its environmental impact, burden on infrastructure and increased aircraft noise. Another ongoing concern was the damage to properties as a result of quarry blasting.

**b) Barrow Hospital site / Wild Country Lane**

Members noted the previously circulated report submitted by Andrew Sheridan wherein Andrew outlined the ongoing issues facing the Barrow Hospital communities.

**c) Naish Lane / A38**

Sandra Gibson reiterated the pothole on Naish Lane and suggested the hedges were becoming overgrown.

Following up on the status of broadband roll-out to the Naish Lane area, the Clerk read from an e-mail received from Truespeed that indicated the network could go live towards the end of November / early December. Andy Robbins confirmed he had recently seen a Truespeed contractor on the A38 near Hobbs Lane.

**d) Village centre / Barrow Street**

Members noted there had been no further confirmation from NSC regarding dates for the road closure necessary for the completion of outstanding walkways work and the Barrow Street resurfacing works.

Phil Carnell advised he had made enquiries with NSC contractors surveying Barrow Street who had suggested resurfacing was scheduled for October.

**15 Village Enhancements and maintenance**

**a) Defibrillator - training**

The Clerk confirmed training would be provided free of charge by Bristol Airport's Fire Team on Monday, 7 October at the Village Hall. Members asked the Clerk to convey the Parish Council's thanks to the airport.

**b) Defibrillator - signage**

Phil Carnell proposed, Nick Tyrrell seconded and it was agreed to purchase 2no. 200mm x 300mm signs and 1no. sticker at a total cost of £47.62 (exclusive of VAT) for Hobbs Lane and the telephone box, respectively.

**c) Litter-picking**

Members agreed a community litter pick should be arranged for the Autumn, possibly to coincide with the road closure.

In addition, a call would be put out for volunteers for a central village clear-up, with permission being sought from householders to cut back overhanging foliage.

**16 Open Forum for the Parish Council**

The following upcoming meetings / events would be represented as follows:

Event	Attendee	Cost
Playground Inspection Training – 3 October 2019	N Kerswell (Village Green Committee)	£20.00
ALCA AGM – 5 October 2019	Phil Carnell	FOC
NSC Town & Parish Summit – 12 October 2019	Andy Robbins & Nick Tyrrell	FOC

**17 Future meetings**

2019 meeting dates: 11 November 2019

2020 meeting dates: 13 January, 9 March, 11 May, 13 July, 14 September and 9 November 2020

Village Green Committee meeting: 16 November 2019 (TBC)