

BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall, Barrow Gurney
on Monday, 13 May 2019.

Present: Claire Arbery (Chair), Joanna van Tonder and Maria Carter (Parish Clerks,
outgoing and incoming, respectively)
10 residents
Carl Tonks (guest speaker) and Alistair Mead (Mead Realisations, landowner)

The meeting commenced at 7:05pm after a decision was made to wait for latecomers.

Claire Arbery welcomed all to the meeting.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Phil Carnell and Eric Gates.

Claire Arbery welcomed Carl Tonks (Transport Planning, Traffic Engineering and Highway consultant) who was invited to address the meeting.

2 Proposals for a Park & Ride at J21 (M5) – Carl Tonks (consultant)

Carl began by outlining some of the concerns that had been raised regarding the expansion of Bristol Airport, namely the increase in volume of overhead aircraft traffic and, especially, the predicted increases in traffic volumes through the surrounding road network.

Carl advised he represented rural landowner, Mead Realisations, who currently held significant land interests around Junction 21 of the M5. His client was proposing a Park and Ride to serve the airport, sustainable with or without the airport's expansion.

Mead Realisations was proposing the same amount of parking (3,000 spaces) currently being proposed by Bristol Airport in its, as yet, undecided expansion planning application, however, the J21 spaces were not in Green Belt land whereas those provided for in BA's application were.

Carl went on to outline the benefits of a P&R at J21:

- negate the need to eat into further Green Belt land around the airport
- remove a significant volume of traffic from surrounding rural roads

Questions and concerns raised from the audience:

1. Would the P&R be targeting traffic from the South West or from South Wales?

CT: It was believed the P&R would appeal to airport users travelling from both directions.

2. In order to change customer behaviour away from parking at the airport, will there be an attractive pricing strategy to lure passengers to the P&R?

CT: If it was deemed commercially beneficial, the pricing strategy could easily be adjusted. With regular buses planned, making use of the P&R was calculated to be the quickest option for travellers.

3. While it was agreed that driving through narrow rural lanes was not "convenient", people tended to value the convenience of on-site parking over price.

AM: The enhanced security offered at the P&R site would prove attractive when compared to the unscrupulous practices of supplementary airport parking providers. Additionally, existing Airport Flyer buses would probably be used as well to offer a frequent shuttle service, cutting down travel times even further.

4. Have you approached Bristol Airport yet?

AM: As the P&R is a direct alternative to the airport's extension to its Silver Zone parking, it had been deemed premature to initiate communications prior to obtaining planning permission. Once this had been achieved, negotiating with the airport would be considered.

5. Will you be marketing the P&R on the basis of convenience?
CT: The best way forward from a marketing standpoint would be decided further down the line once planning permission had been secured.
6. With the proposed increase from 10mppa to 12mppa, it is believed the traffic lights on the A38 (intersection with Barrow Street) could handle the resultant increase in traffic volumes, but what of the rural lanes?
CT: Bristol Airport is of the opinion that the extra demand underpinning their 2mppa increase will only be generated from Bristol or the South West, with nothing coming from the North. The P&R is predicted to remove approximately 190 vehicles/day from the A38 and 180 from the A370.
7. The additional P&R shuttle buses running 24 hours/day, in at least twenty minute intervals, will disturb the peace for residents living in the vicinity of Brockley Combe (the route to be travelled from the P&R to the airport).
CT: The increase in volume of shuttle buses will be offset by a significantly larger reduction in volume of cars travelling along the same route to access the airport. It is the intention that the buses will be of a sustainable nature and could well be electric, thus eliminating the noise.
8. What are the timescales for the project?
AM: The full planning application, 19/P/0704/FUL, had been submitted and was in the hands of the planning officer.
9. If one wanted to oppose the expansion of Bristol Airport, how would one go about it?
AR: The deadline for commenting on the Bristol Airport expansion application had passed, however, actively supporting the application for the P&R was a way of supporting the curtailment of the increase in car parking and local traffic inherent in the airport's expansion plans.

Claire Arbery thanked Carl and Alistair for addressing the meeting.

Carl Tonks, Alistair Mead and approximately half the residents left the meeting.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting - held on 14 May 2018

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

4 Chair's Report

Claire Arbery addressed the meeting, outlining the achievements of the Council over the past year (copy of report attached). Claire was thanked for her service and received a warm round of applause.

5 Presentation of the Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2019

Residents were provided with a summary of the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2019. The Clerk presented her Financial Report (copy attached).

6 Public Comments

Resident, Alex Learmonth, distributed leaflets advertising the Barrow & Flax Festival to be held between 13 and 16 June 2019 and invited everyone present to spread the word. It was hoped to reinstate the once annual event that, this year, offered a variety of attractions from cookery demonstrations and three-course lunches to opera, poetry and the ukulele!
 The suggestion was made that the Parish Council could be included in plans for future festivals.

The meeting closed at 8:00 pm.

BGPC Annual meeting – Chairman's Address

Thank you to you all for taking the time and effort to be here this evening, we have had a wonderful day today, and I would not blame anyone of you for spending some time at home enjoying the sunshine, so I am glad you have made the effort to attend.

It's been another busy year for the Council, who we hear, have got a bit of a reputation at North Somerset at punching well above their weight – in a good way....

After nearly a year of badgering, pestering and shaming the Council leader and their officers we finally have a cover over the manhole on the corner of Springhead Barn. We understand the final snagging works for the road will be undertaken in the summer holidays. We might even get the wall on the village green fixed.

This year has seen many activities in the village – June saw the Table tennis table installed for the village use with funding from Stancombe Quarry, the Tour de Bristol came whizzing through in September, a success bid to Bristol Airport for funding to renovate the telephone box was realised October with the box being updated, and very recently approval for the funding of a defibrillator for the village to be sited here outside the hall. November saw the village come together to commemorate the end WW1 centenary, and the village has been busy with other events organised but other groups and societies.

This time last year we had a presentation from James and Liz from the Airport on their proposal to expand passengers numbers, which as we all know is now submitted to North Somerset for comment, but the political landscape has changed significantly in recent weeks with surrounding Councils calling a Climate change emergency, and the new leadership in North Somerset, the application faces more challenges than maybe before Easter.

Housing is the other significant issue facing us a community, with the green belt under immense pressure to be developed, we should hold our nerve and reject wholesale redevelopment of the surrounding green belt to support the growing needs of Bristol. The development at Barrow hospital has not been without its problems and we watch to see what options Linden homes put forward for the remaining plots of land.

And finally, well nearly.... Broadband.... We hear that we have met the threshold for the village and that Naish Lane is near to quota too, we might reach 21st century levels of wifi connectivity before the end of the year. FAMOUS LAST WORDS And as my parting statement I wish to personally thank Joanna the Clerk, who will be leaving the role at the end of the month for her support and dedication to the role, and to thank Geoff Coombs who moved out of Barrow Gurney in February for his support to the Council and to Barrow Gurney over the years. I too am stepping down tonight, the challenges of a national education programme and time away from home, mean I am no longer able to commit to the hours this REWARDING job deserves.

I wish you all the best for the future, and wait to see what is next for this great Parish.

BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL REPORT – FYE 31/03/2019

- x **Income:** One grant received during FYE 31/03/2019
 - £1,000 – Bristol Airport Community Fund
 - For the refurbishment of the telephone box

- x **Expenditure:** Savings over budget have been made in the following areas:
 - Village Green – an underspend of just over £990 was a result of approximately half of the contracted services not having been completed for various reasons.
 - Training – expenditure of £120 was budgeted for this year but no training was taken up
 - Data Protection Fee – at the time of the setting of the budget, Parish Councils would have been required to appoint a Data Protection Officer under the new GDPR legislation. To cover this cost, the PC budgeted £150. During last year, the government agreed to exempt Parish Councils from this requirement.
 - Village Green litter bin - £500 was budgeted for to cover the cost of a new dog waste / litter bin and the associated costs of refuse removal. It was later decided not to proceed with this.
 - WWI commemoration – In order to cover the reasonable cost of any commemorative event the PC chose to undertake, £200 was budgeted for, however, two silhouettes of seated soldiers were gifted to the PC and the bonfire event was at no cost to the PC.

- x **Cash assets:** Balances in the bank at the end of the financial year:
 - £3,720.06 (current account)
 - £7,514.56 (deposit account – gross interest rate 0.37%)
 - Down significantly from last FYE as grants received in the previous year for playground resurfacing and Table Tennis table were spent during 2018/19

- x **Budget 2019/20:**
 - Precept has been increased by 9.76% but is shared between an increased number of properties as the Barrow Hospital homes become occupied
 - The net impact on the average, band D equivalent household is an increase of £0.85 for the year (which equates to an increase of 2.37%)
 - Overall budgeted expenditure is up 4.4% on last year's budget
 - Costs included in the budget for this year with the largest impact on the increase are:
 - Clerk's salary – up £745 as a result of a) a reassessment of hours from 7.5/week to 9.5/week and b) a one month handover period between outgoing and incoming clerks
 - Youth Services – the provision in the budget for a grant of £750 to Flax Bourton Youth Group
 - Parish Council election - £150 budgeted to cover the cost of an uncontested election

- x **Financial Accounts:**
 - The annual internal audit was conducted in April and the PC's Annual Governance and Accountability Return will be published on the website later in the month.
 - All financial statements including a list of expenditure over £100, the bank reconciliation and detailed accounts will be published on the PC's website by the 1st of June.
 - As required by The Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015, the public have the right to inspect the accounting records for the year ending 31 March 2019 and the period these records will be available from for this purpose is Monday, 17 June to Friday, 26 July.