

# BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held remotely,  
at 6:00pm on 10 August 2020

**Present:** Eric Gates (Chair), Andy Robbins, Nick Tyrrell, Phil Carnell, Sandra Gibson and Joanna van Tonder (Clerk)

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

**In line with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, this meeting was held remotely using the Zoom platform enabling both Council members and the public to hear and be heard.**

*Before the start of the meeting, the Clerk advised the Regulations, above, had been amended and required all Councils to publish the remote meeting link and password. The Clerk reported Cllr Eric Gates had expressed concern and wished for his reservations to be noted.*

## **1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Joanna Critchett and Cllr Andrew Sheridan.

## **2 Declarations of Interest and dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest received.

## **3 [Minutes of the previous meeting – 13 July 2020](#)**

Nick Tyrrell proposed, Sandra Gibson seconded and it was agreed the minutes of the last meeting having been circulated previously be taken as a true and accurate record. It was noted Eric Gates would sign a copy of the minutes and return signed copy to the Clerk.

## **4 Public Questions**

There were no members of the public present.

## **5 Covid-19 Response**

Nick Tyrrell reported the easing of lock-down was happening slowly in the village, so far, without incident. Members noted the number of Covid-19 cases in North Somerset had increased. The Council agreed that, in the event of another spike, the support network in place was sufficiently robust to continue offering the required level of support to the community in conjunction with NSC.

## **6 Finance and Governance**

### **a) Amendment to Clerk's salary standing order**

The Clerk reported a change of tax code resulted in the deduction of PAYE from her monthly pay and therefore an amendment to her existing salary standing order was required.

Eric Gates proposed, Nick Tyrrell seconded and it was agreed to amend the standing order against the Council's Co-Operative bank account from £461.89 to £395.41 with immediate effect.

It was noted that any discrepancies would be reconciled at year end.

## b) Clerk's training: Creating accessible excel documents

It was agreed the Clerk would enrol on the SLCC course. The cost of £30 + VAT would be split with Brockley Parish Council on a 50:50 basis.

## c) Receipts and Payments

The following **receipts** had been received since the last meeting.

£149.74 Ms Joanna van Tonder Repayment of overpaid salary

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

£461.89 Ms Joanna van Tonder / HMRC Clerk's salary (July 2020)

It was resolved to authorise the following **payments** to be made:-

£20.00	Avon Local Councils Association	50% of Clerk's training
£210.00	Little Apple Gardening Service	Village Green maintenance
£61.00	Society of Local Council Clerks	50% of annual subscription
£1,500.00	Stancombe Quarry Community Fund	Return of unspent grant funds

The Clerk's [financial report](#) was noted.

## 7 Upgrade of council website to Spanglefish 3

The Clerk's report was noted and discussed.

Nick Tyrrell proposed, Sandra Gibson seconded and it was agreed to upgrade the Council's website to the Spanglefish 3 version at a cost of £103 per annum.

## 8 NSC Local Plan 2038: Challenges consultation

It was agreed to set up a Working Party (Eric Gates, Andy Robbins and Nick Tyrrell) to draft a response to the consultation for circulation and agreement in advance of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September deadline.

## 9 Rights of Way Improvement Plan: consultation

Members commended Andy Robbins on the clarity of the draft submission, previously circulated.

It was agreed to submit the document without amendment.

**Action:** Clerk to make submission to NSC

It was agreed to approach landowners over whose properties the aspirational paths and diversions passed in order to let them know of the Council's submission.

**Action:** Andy Robbins to contact the relevant parties

## 10 Highways, pavements, verges and footpaths

### a) General highways report

The Clerk reported there had been no action as yet on the eradication of the ragwort growing on the A370 underpass verges.

Phil Carnell reported NSC had been to the Cathorn Lane site to inspect the blown drain and carriageway deterioration but that there had been no further action since.

The Clerk was asked to set up a meeting with Cllr James Tonkin, Cllr Hugh Gregor and Phil Bush (NSC) for Phil Carnell, Andrew Sheridan and Andy Robbins for a date in August.

**Action:** Clerk to set up site meeting

The following reports were received:

- Hobbs Lane – severely overgrown
- A38 – pavements overgrown and litter in evidence

**Action:** Clerk to report to NSC

**b) Barrow Street road closure**

Members noted Barrow Street would be closed to traffic from 24<sup>th</sup> of August for two days for Openreach to complete works to clear their ducts, allowing Truespeed to feed their cables through. It was likely works would take longer than the allotted two days but NSC seemed amenable to an extension.

It was noted that Truespeed had been out along the north-west stretch of Barrow Street stringing their cables on the existing posts since the previous week.

## **11 Village Enhancements**

**a) Village Tap**

**1. Reinstatement of water supply**

Andy Robbins reported Bristol Water would be coming out during the road closure and, provided a live stopcock could be found, would be reinstating the water supply to the tap, free of charge.

**2. Repairs to housing structure**

Andy Robbins reported that, in addition to the initial estimate obtained for, and reported at the last meeting, two additional quotes had been sought. Only one of these specialist contractors had been prepared to quote and had submitted a costing of £2,465 (exclusive of VAT) for the restoration works.

It was agreed the Council would look to gather the required number of quotations for works to create a housing for the tap.

It was agreed the Council would apply to the Stancombe Quarry Community Fund for a grant to cover the restoration works of £2,465.

**Action:** Andy Robbins to complete application form

**7:19pm - Eric Gates left the meeting (connection failure); the Chair passed to Andy Robbins**

**b) Jubilee Bench refurbishment**

Members agreed the refurbishment of the bench would be undertaken by WH Cole & Sons at a cost to the Council of £100 and would be a project given to one of their apprentices.

## **12 Village Green Committee**

**a) Village Green Committee Report**

The Clerk reported the following points had been raised by the VGC:

- New mole hills had appeared on the Green; dried brambles were being used as a deterrent but if this failed to curtail activity, the VGC would need to consider employing the mole catcher once more.
- The VG hedge was trimmed on 3<sup>rd</sup> of August.
- The playground gate had been damaged and would need to be looked at.
- The vehicle access gate to the Green was now secured (see 12b, below).

**b) Securing the Village Green**

Members noted a combination, heavy duty padlock had been purchased by the VGC to secure the access gate to the Green. The combination was known to the VGC members and the Clerk. Little Apples Gardening Service had also been given the combination in order to carry out their grass cutting duties.

## 13 Planning

### a) Planning applications since the last meeting

The following planning application had been received since the last meeting:

1	20/P/1310/FUH 20/P/1311/LBC	Proposed replacement of 14no. existing windows to the front and side of the property and the replacement of the front door at <b>Steps Farm, Barrow Street</b>  <u>Council comment:</u> support
2	20/P/1256/FUL	Retrospective application for the change of use from former store building to A1 retail at <b>Princes Motto, Barrow Street</b>  <u>Council comment:</u> support

**7:23pm - Eric Gates returned to the meeting and took back the Chair**

### b) Consents and refusals since the last meeting

There were no consents or refusals since the last meeting.

### c) Enforcement Report

Members noted and discussed the previously circulated [enforcement report](#).

## 14 Parish Area reports

### a) Barrow Court / Barrow Court Lane

The Clerk reported she had not yet made contact with the Council's liaison with Barrow Court and would do so as a priority.

### b) Barrow Hospital site

Andrew Sheridan had reported to the Clerk that tree works had commenced within the past fortnight.

### c) Naish Lane / A38

Sandra Gibson advised there was nothing to report other than to confirm works to Spring House, as outlined in the enforcement report (13c, above), were in progress. Sandra said she would report back on the state of Hobbs Lane.

### d) Village centre / Barrow Street

Nick Tyrrell advised the collapsing wall alongside the stream running between Springhead Barn and Springhead Farm, reported at the last meeting, had not yet been repaired.

## 15 Open Forum for the Parish Council

### a) Town & Parish Forum – 29 July 2020

The Clerk reported she had attended the online forum that focussed on building on the community support networks established over the past five months. Presentations had been given by the Clerk of Banwell PC and a councillor and member of Long Ashton's Community Interest Company set up to deliver the parish's support initiatives.

### b) Councillor reports

Eric Gates – reported that, while the surrounding area was clear, the footpath giving access to the Freeman's Memorial was overgrown and impenetrable.

**Action:** Andy Robbins to seek permission from tenant farmer and strim

## 13 Date of the next meeting

The next virtual meeting will be held on Monday, 14 September 2020.

It was agreed to reconsider the start time of meetings in light of the easing of lock-down and the return to work of some councillors.

**Action:** Clerk to scope opinions on preferred times

Meeting concluded at 7:40pm.