

BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held remotely,
at 7:00pm on 12 October 2020

Present: Eric Gates (Chair), Andy Robbins, Nick Tyrrell, Sandra Gibson, Phil Carnell,
Andrew Sheridan 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.

1 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2 Declarations of Interest and dispensations

There were no declarations of interest received.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting – 14 September 2020

Nick Tyrrell proposed, Andy Robbins seconded and it was agreed to insert the following line of text at the end of Minute 16(b): Councillor reports:

“It was agreed Nick Tyrrell would replace Joanna Critchett on the Village Green Committee with immediate effect”.

It was noted Eric Gates would sign a copy of the minutes and return signed copy to the Clerk.

4 Casual Vacancy as a result of Councillor resignation

The Clerk advised the Electoral Officer had confirmed there had been no call for poll for the casual vacancy that arose following Joanna Critchett's resignation from the Council and the Council was free to proceed with the co-option process.

It was agreed to publicise the vacancy targeting the Barrow Court / Barrow Court Lane and Oatley Park areas.

Action: Clerk to forward a note to Maggie Lomas for circulation amongst Barrow Court Lane residents

Action: Andrew Sheridan to circulate a note amongst Hospital site residents

5 Public Questions

There were no members of the public present and no questions had been received.

6 Covid-19 Response

Members noted a number of local schools had been affected and had year groups who had to self-isolate. Nick Tyrrell added there was nothing else to report.

7 Police report

Members noted the following incidents of crime reported:

February	No crimes reported		
March	1x antisocial behaviour	on or near Bridgwater Road	No timeline
April	1x burglary	on or near Bridgwater Road	Status unknown
	1x violence & sexual offence	on or near School Lane	Unable to prosecute
May	1x violence & sexual offence	on or near Naish Lane	Unable to prosecute
June	1x violence & sexual offence	on or near Naish Lane	Unable to prosecute
	1x violence & sexual offence	on or near School Lane	Under investigation
	1x public order	on or near Barrow Court Lane	Unable to prosecute
July	1x violence & sexual offence	on or near Barns Close	Under investigation
August	1x violence & sexual offence	on or near Naish Lane	Under investigation
	1x violence & sexual offence	on or near Bridgwater Road	Under investigation
	1x criminal damage / arson	on or near Bridgwater Road	Unable to prosecute
	1x violence & sexual offence	on or near Barns Close	Formal action is not in the public interest

Concerns were raised at the significant level of increase in incidents classed as *Violence and Sexual Offences*.

Action: Clerk to make enquiries with PCSO

8 Finance and Governance

a) Village Green Committee membership

It was confirmed Nick Tyrrell would sit on the Village Green Committee (see 3: Minutes of previous meeting, above).

b) Website Accessibility Statement

The Clerk reported that no further progress had been made.

Action: Clerk to draft and publish Accessibility Statement

c) Receipts and Payments

There had been no **receipts** received since the last meeting.

Nick Tyrrell proposed, Andy Robbins seconded and it was resolved to ratify the following **payment** made since the last meeting:-

£395.41 Ms Joanna van Tonder / HMRC Clerk's salary (September 2020)

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

£277.30	PCAA	Contribution to Bristol Airport appeal legal fund
£140.00	Little Apple Gardening Service	Village Green maintenance
£241.48	Ms Joanna van Tonder	Clerk's expenses reimbursed

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

9 Highways, pavements, verges and footpaths

a) General highways report

The following reports were received:

- Bridgwater Road – drains blocked
- Hobbs Lane – overgrown
- Barrow Street (between traffic lights and Hern Lane) – litter in the verges
- Vicarage Lane – ditch needs clearing out
- Vicarage Lane (at intersection with Barrow Street) – carriageway breaking up

Action: Clerk to report on Council Connect

With regard to Hobbs Lane. Members noted NSC had an obligation to cut back the verges but that verge creep had set in along Hobbs Lane. It was agreed local responsibility for Hobbs Lane was what was needed.

Action: Clerk to contact Sustrans for advice

Members were reminded that a site visit with Cllr James Tonkin (NSC) was taking place the following Friday that would take in both Hospital Road and Barrow Street where issues of flooding and ongoing problems with drainage were to be addressed.

b) Hospital Road flooding

Members discussed the recent severe flooding of Hospital Road that had cut residents of Hospital Cottages and Oatley Park off. It was heard that, during one particular occasion, an ambulance had been unable to reach a resident in need.

The possible causes were discussed as well as the ongoing wider drainage issues on the site that were currently being addressed by the landowner. Andrew Sheridan reported that, while the trees earmarked for felling as part of the drainage program had been taken down, works to the drainage system itself was yet to begin.

c) Barrow Street pedestrian access

While the access route between the village and the A370 had been the most requested addition to the PRoW network improvements plan recently consulted on, the Estate would not permit any further access to their land and, therefore, alternative solutions would need to be found.

Members discussed the possibility of making use of the Barrow Street verges that could be reclaimed, citing the Highways Act 1980 (S130) that stated the Highways Authority had a duty to keep verges passable where it can be shown that verges had existed in the past.

It was agreed Nick Tyrrell and Andy Robbins would make contact with NSC Highways to explore this possibility further.

d) Speed along the A38

Sandra Gibson offered to organise volunteers to undertake a Speedwatch survey to collect speed data from spots along the A38. It was agreed that there were insufficient repeaters along Bridgwater Road as it passed through the parish.

It was decided to approach NSC with the evidence that would be collected and ask for a signage review.

Action: Clerk to forward Speedwatch guidance and risk assessment to Sandra Gibson

e) Bristol Airport A38 improvements

Members noted the Bristol Airport Ltd (Land at A38 and Downside Road) Compulsory Purchase Order 2020 and agreed to submit the draft comment drawn up by Nick Tyrrell, and

previously circulated, wherein the Parish Council outlined its reasons for **OBJECTING** to the CPO.

10 Broadband update

Andy Robbins confirmed homes through the village were beginning to be connected up to the Truespeed network. Sandra Gibson advised that, while infrastructure for part of Naish Lane was now in place, blockages and pending way leaves were delaying the process for those further up the lane.

11 Village Enhancements

a) Village Tap

Andy Robbins confirmed the water had been reinstated and that, subject to a successful bid to the Stancombe Quarry Community Fund, the works could begin in November.

It was suggested the stone trough at Reservoir Farm could be used as an animal drinking station.

b) Autumn Litterpick

Members discussed conducting a litterpick along Wild Country Lane and it was widely felt the exercise would encourage community bonding. Andrew Sheridan advised the presence of litter began at the railway bridge and was in evidence almost continuously to Hern Lane.

Action: Clerk to seek expressions of interest from parishioners via e-mail

12 Proposed skate park – Long Ashton

Members noted the email that had been received from Long Ashton Parish Council asking for the Parish Council's assistance in publicising their proposed skate park plans and associated survey. It was agreed to circulate the details on the village e-mail.

13 Village Green Committee

The Clerk read from the report received wherein Rob McKenzie advised the following:

- mole catcher had returned to the Green in August and successfully removed the mole
- damage to the latch on the play area gate had been repaired as had a missing gate panel
- a mini working party was being arranged to rake up the long grass; social distancing would be maintained

14 Planning

a) Planning applications since the last meeting

No planning application had been received since the last meeting.

b) Consents and refusals since the last meeting

Planning application 20/P/1256/FUL – Princes Motto, Barrow Street – permission granted.

c) North Somerset Local Plan 2038: Call for sites

Following discussion, it was agreed the Parish Council would not be making a submission.

d) National Planning consultations

1. Planning for the future (deadline: 29/10/2020)

Nick Tyrrell confirmed he would circulate a draft response in advance of the deadline for councillor comments and approval.

2. Transparency and Competition (deadline: 30/10/2020)

It was agreed the Council would not be commenting on this consultation.

15 Parish Area reports

a) Barrow Court / Barrow Court Lane

The Clerk reported there had been complaints from Barrow Court residents of significant quarry blasting activity. On one particular day, both Phil Carnell and Andrew Sheridan confirmed experiencing the effects of the blasting from their respective locations within the parish.

While the Barrow Court residents were already in contact with the Stancombe Quarry manager, it was agreed the matter would be raised at the upcoming Liaison Group meeting later that week.

b) Barrow Hospital site

Andrew Sheridan advised he had nothing further to report over and above what had already been discussed under 9(b), above.

c) Naish Lane / A38

Sandra Gibson advised she had nothing to report.

d) Village centre / Barrow Street

Eric Gates reported he had received correspondence from members of the public concerning activities at the Princes Motto. As the matter fell outside the scope of the Parish Council, the correspondents had been advised to take the matter up with NSC.

It was agreed the review of Community Assets would be resumed as soon as possible. Sandra Gibson offered to assist with the process.

16 Open Forum for the Parish Council

a) ALCA AGM – 10 October 2020

The Clerk advised she had attended the ALCA AGM where a motion to increase annual subscriptions by 30% had been passed. She went on to say that a provision of some free training had been promised.

b) Councillor reports

Eric Gates advised the Remembrance Day wreath laying service would be going ahead but with strict social distancing measures in place. Nick Tyrrell advised the wreath had been delivered to the Village Hall in error.

9:35pm - Eric Gates left the meeting (connection failure); the Chair passed to Andy Robbins

17 Date of the next meeting

The next virtual meetings will be held on Monday, 9 November, 14 December 2020, 11 January, 8 February and 8 March 2021.

Meeting concluded at 9:39pm.