

# BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held remotely,  
at 6:00pm on 13 July 2020

**Present:** Eric Gates (Chair), Andrew Sheridan, 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.**

## 1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Joanna Critchett.

## 2 Declarations of Interest and dispensations

There were no declarations of interest received.

## 3 [Minutes of the previous meeting – 8 June 2020](#)

Eric Gates proposed and it was agreed to amend the second line of the first paragraph of Minute 4: Public Questions

from "It was agreed the obligation to discharge the conditions within the planning application ...."

to "It was **understood** the obligation to discharge the conditions within the planning application ...."

## 4 Public Questions

There were no members of the public present.

## 5 Covid-19 Response

Nick Tyrrell reported there had been a complaint made to North Somerset Together by a Barrow Gurney resident at the level of support received from the Council's Support Network. Nick confirmed the Village Agent had assisted in attempting to resolve the matter and that additional external support was being sought for the resident in question.

## 6 Finance and Governance

### a) Publication of Notice of Public Rights

The Clerk advised that, under the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, the Council was required to offer the public a period of inspection of the accounting records for a period of no less than 30 working days.

It was noted the [Notice of Public Rights](#) had been published on the Council's website on 24 June and that the inspection period would run from 29 June to 10 August 2020.

### b) Review of Draft Financial Regulations

Nick Tyrrell proposed, Andrew Sheridan seconded and it was resolved that the Parish Council would adopt the previously circulated draft [Financial Regulations](#) adapted from NALC's most up-to-date version.

**c) Clerk's training: Local Council Administration 3**

The decision taken since the last meeting to authorise the Clerk to enrol on the Local Council Administration 3 training offered through ALCA was ratified. The cost of £40 would be split with Brockley Parish Council on a 50:50 basis.

**d) Receipts and Payments**

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

Nick Tyrrell proposed, Sandra Gibson 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 (June 2020)

The Clerk explained that, as a result of a tax code notice received, PAYE had become due on her salary. An overpayment of £149.74 had been made to the Clerk and would be repaid by her immediately.

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

£70.00	Little Apple Gardening Service	Village Green maintenance
£183.40	HMRC	PAYE due

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

**7 Rights of Way Improvement Plan: consultation**

Eric Gates began by highlighting some of the issues raised by residents following a call for feedback in the parish magazine, further details of which were covered in [Councillors' reports](#). The priorities identified were i) safe cycling routes, ii) access to the A370, and iii) Hobbs Lane.

Members went on to discuss Andy Robbins' proposed routes drawn up in response to NSC's call for submissions, previously circulated and contained within the above report.

It was agreed the order of priority was:

1. Arterial 5 (linking the village to the A370)
2. Arterial 2 (linking to Long Ashton via Monarch's Way)
3. Arterial 4 (Hobbs Lane – with a need to improve it as a cycle route)
4. Arterial 1 (upgrade of stiles to gates needed)
5. Arterial 3 (only requiring one additional gate)

**Action:** Eric Gates to draft the Council's consultation response using NSC's required spreadsheet for circulation and review, and for agreement at the next meeting

**Action:** Eric Gates and Andy Robbins to approach Estate with proposals

Members discussed the possibility of approaching NSC for a devolved budget to maintain Hobbs Lane as the verge creep would need to be addressed and managed if the lane was to be safe for both cyclists and pedestrians. It was suggested this could be raised with ALCA.

A designation for Barrow Court Lane as a *Quiet Lane* would open up the potential to give access to a wider scope of users such as horses & riders and cyclists as a shared space. Additionally, it was acknowledged the proposed circular routes could be easily achieved with just a small investment of infrastructure.

Andy Robbins was offered sincere thanks for his hard work and effort that had gone into the proposals.

**8 Highways, pavements, verges and footpaths**

Phil Carnell advised there were still a number of verges that had not yet been cut back. Phil added the A38 was still badly in need of trimming back with the pavement overgrown in places.

Ragwort was in evidence around the A370 underpass verges; this had been reported to the Area Officer for urgent attention.

The Barrow Street road nameplate at the intersection with the A38 was overgrown. The grit bin on Barrow Court Lane had recently been destroyed by the verge cutter and needed to be replaced.

**Action:** Clerk to report to North Somerset Council

## 9 Village Green Committee

### a) Village Green Committee Report

No report had been requested.

It was noted the grass had been cut earlier that day leaving the Green looking good.

### b) Re-opening of the Playground

The Clerk reported that, following a review of the Government guidance issued on the re-opening of play parks and other outside spaces, the Village Green playground had been assessed and deemed safe to open with minimal restrictions and appropriate signage on 4 July. Residents had been made aware of the restrictions in place through the village e-mail.

**Action:** Clerk to ensure signage remained in place

## 10 Planning

### a) Planning applications since the last meeting

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

1	20/P/1303/FUL	Change of use of 2no. agricultural buildings to 3no. units of self-contained tourist accommodation at <b>Newditch Farm, Potters Hill, Felton</b>  <u>Council comment:</u> it was agreed that, as none of the proposed development fell within the parish boundaries, the Council would abstain from submitting a comment.
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### b) Consents, refusals and enforcement cases since the last meeting

The following decision had been made since the previous meeting:

- <b>20/P/0554/LBC:</b> Listed Building application for rooflight, lead facings to two dormer windows and lead flashing to parapet wall on east elevation at <i>South Archway Cottage, Barrow Court Lane</i>	CONSENT GRANTED 03/06/2020
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No new enforcement cases have been **opened, reported on** or are still **pending**.

## 11 Parish Area reports

### a) Barrow Court / Barrow Court Lane

No report had been received. It was suggested the Clerk attempts to establish whether the current representative of that part of the parish would be happy to continue to convey the views of Barrow Court and Barrow Court Lane residents.

### b) Barrow Hospital site: Trees

Andrew Sheridan reported communication channels with the landowner's arboriculturist had improved and that the site was to be cordoned off on health and safety grounds in advance of drainage works and later, major tree works required to be undertaken as part of the Woodland Management Plan.

In addition, Andrew had been assured a lot of the rubble from the demolition of the old Hospital would be removed in the near future and was likely to cause some disruption.

**c) Barrow Hospital site: Contamination**

The Clerk reported the matter of contamination at the site had been handed over to NSC's Enforcement Team as well as their Environmental Protection Team.

**Barrow Hospital site: Flooding**

Members were reminded of the severe impact incidents of flooding at Hospital Road was having on the residents of Hospital Cottages and Oatley Park. Residents' access was regularly cut off causing distress and disruption.

Andy Robbins reported he had visited the site on one such occasion to establish the cause and found the ditch at the side of the road completely full, as was the duct taking the water out of the ditch and across the field on the opposite side of Wild Country Lane. It was believed the blockage must, therefore, be further along.

While similar blockages had been cleared before, NSC Highways acknowledged the problem had never been satisfactorily resolved. Members discussed this further, together with the requirement by the landowner, under the S106 agreement, to have brought Hospital Road up to an adoptable standard.

It was agreed to invite Cllr James Tonkin, Cllr Hugh Gregor and Phil Bush to a site visit.

**Action:** Clerk to set up site meeting for Phil Carnell, Andrew Sheridan and Andy Robbins with the above NSC representatives

**d) Naish Lane / A38**

Sandra Gibson advised there was nothing to report.

**e) Village centre / Barrow Street**

Village Tap

Andy Robbins reported he had met with Bristol Water representatives who were eager to support the Council's aim to reinstate the water supply to the tap. It was noted this would require a road closure; Bristol Water was eager to piggyback on the upcoming Openreach road closure.

Members were advised an initial estimate to remove the loose stone tiles and rotten panels, and make good had been received and was in excess of £2,800. It was accepted grant funding would need to be sought.

**Action:** Andy Robbins to seek out additional quotations

**Action:** Eric Gates to scope opinion of NSC Heritage Officer as to whether permission would be required

Jubilee Bench

Members noted a local carpentry apprentice had offered to repair the bench as a project for a sum of £100.

Nick Tyrrell reported the wall alongside the stream running between Springhead Barn and Springhead Farm was collapsing. Nick advised the matter had been addressed with the Estate and the pond, originally a watercress bed, had been cleared out. It was hoped the pond's watercress could be regenerated.

## **12 Open Forum for the Parish Council**

ALCA North Somerset AGM – 25 June 2020

It was noted Eric Gates, Andy Robbins and Nick Tyrrell had attended the virtual AGM.

The Clerk advised the next Town & Parish Forum would be taking place remotely on the afternoon of 29 July 2020 and would be centred around taking forward the positive community bonds that had been formed through the delivery of support.

### Broadband

Eric Gates reported Truespeed and Openreach were in discussions in an attempt to resolve the issue of the blocked duct through the village that Truespeed required in order to lay its cables. Another road closure would be required of an, as yet, unknown duration and the Parish Council had been asked to support such an application.

It was agreed that, once the length of the required road closure had been established, the Parish Council would support Openreach's application to NSC.

### **13 Schedule of meetings for 2020**

It was agreed to continue holding meetings remotely on a monthly basis for the remainder of the year.

The next virtual meeting will be held on Monday, 10 August 2020 at 6:00 pm

Meeting concluded at 7:54pm.