

BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held remotely,
at 7:00pm on 14 December 2020

Present: Eric Gates (Chair), Andy Robbins, Nick Tyrrell, Sandra Gibson, Andrew Sheridan and Joanna van Tonder (Clerk)

1x resident

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 were received from Cllr Phil Carnell (ill health).

2 Declarations of Interest and dispensations

There were no declarations of interest received.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting – [12 October 2020](#)

It was agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October, 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 Minutes of the previous meeting – [17 November 2020](#)

It was agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 17 November, 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.

5 Casual Vacancy as a result of Councillor resignation

It was agreed to target a leaflet drop around Barrow Court / Barrow Court Lane and Oatley Park / Hospital Cottages.

Action: Clerk to forward draft leaflet to Eric Gates

6 Clerk's resignation and recruitment to fill vacancy

Members noted the Clerk's resignation and that she would be vacating her post on 22 January 2021. The Clerk advised the vacancy was being advertised with ALCA in the first instance but that it would be unlikely the position could be filled before she left, thus requiring the Council to consider hiring a locum clerk to cover the transition.

Members noted the deadline for applications was 15 January.

It was agreed Eric Gates and Andy Robbins would make contact with the two North Somerset clerks who had offered to locum for the Council and make the necessary appointment.

7 Public Questions

There were no members of the public present at the time.

8 Covid-19 Response

Members discussed North Somerset's covid figures, its current status in tier 3 and hopes that the district would be downgraded to tier 2 at the next review. It was noted that, while Barrow Gurney had very few cases, North Somerset's figures were on the increase.

Joined by member of the public

9 Police report

Members noted the following incidents of crime reported:

September	1x violence & sexual offence	on or near Bridgwater Road	Unable to prosecute
	1x violence & sexual offence	on or near School Lane	Under investigation
October	2x violence & sexual offence	on or near Barns Close	Unable to prosecute
	1x Antisocial Behaviour	on or near Barns Close	
	1x Public Order offence	on or near Barns Close	Unable to prosecute

10 Finance and Governance

a) Financial projection to year end

The Clerk presented the Financial Review as at 30 November 2020 with projected figures to year end. Anticipated savings were discussed with special focus on the £800 anticipated underspend on village green expenditure.

The Clerk advised the Village Green Committee, at their meeting held the previous week, had agreed that any budget surplus at year end up to £750 would be earmarked for perimeter maintenance.

b) Budget 2021/22

The following suggestions were made for inclusion in the budget:

- contribution towards stiles and gates that may be required under the PRoW Plan
- further contribution towards PCAA legal costs during Bristol Airport appeal - £300
- ongoing village tap maintenance
- defibrillator costs – replacement pads
- verge maintenance of Hobbs Lane

The Clerk requested all expenditure for consideration and inclusion in the budget for the year 2021/22 be forwarded to her by Sunday, 20 December 2020.

c) Receipts and Payments

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

Andy Robbins proposed, Eric Gates seconded and it was resolved to ratify the following **payments** made since the last meeting:-

£7.38	Ms Joanna van Tonder / HMRC	Clerk's salary (balance due for September 2020)
£402.79	Ms Joanna van Tonder / HMRC	Clerk's salary (October 2020)
£402.79	Ms Joanna van Tonder / HMRC	Clerk's salary (November 2020)

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

£81.00	Play Inspection Co,	Annual playground inspection
£410.00	Little Apple Gardening Service	Village Green maintenance
£40.00	Information Commissioner	Annual data registration fee

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

11 Highways, pavements, verges and footpaths

a) General highways report

The following reports were received:

- Barrow Street – bollard outside Springhead Barn damaged
- Barrow Street – blocked drains outside Homefield

Action: Clerk to report on Council Connect

b) Drains

Nothing further was reported.

c) Barrow Hospital site footpaths and access

Members were reminded of the recent notice of an application to deposit a map and statement under section 31(6) of the Highways Act 1980 and deposit a statement under section 15A(1) of the Commons Act 2006 that had been made in relation to parts of the Barrow Hospital site by landowners, del Piero.

Eric Gates reported he had corresponded with NSC regarding this notice, raising the question of rights of access across the site as well as the S106 requirement for a spur off Monarch's Way.

As an aside, Andrew Sheridan reported he, tree warden Rob McKenzie and Nick Tyrrell had made a visit of the site recently and were shocked at the number of trees that had been felled.

7:58pm Sandra Gibson left the meeting

It was agreed that the two separate issues of Monarch's Way PRow and the flooding of Hospital Road remained in the Parish Council's focus. It was acknowledged that a meeting with all relevant NSC officials such as Planning, Highways and Executive Members, at the same time, would be crucial in achieving an outcome on these issues.

Action: Eric Gates to arrange meeting in the new year to include Nick Tyrrell, Andy Robbins, Andrew Sheridan and Eric Gates

12 Broadband update

Members noted Truespeed's roll-out through the centre of the village was running to plan. Members heard from the member of the public, however, that Barrow Court and surrounds were not included within that zone and to date, too few households had signed up to guarantee a Truespeed installation. Andy Robbins suggested the Parish Council could ask Truespeed what the trigger point for the Barrow Court zone was and revert back to residents.

Action: Clerk to contact Andy Moore, Truespeed

13 Village Green Committee

a) Village Green Committee report

Nick Tyrrell reported the Committee had met remotely the previous week. The VGC had discussed and agreed a draft Memorial Policy, the budget for 2021/22 and considered the playground inspection report. Nick advised that the risks highlighted within the report had been classed as either low or very low.

Nick went on to report that, following consideration of the risks and health and safety requirements, the VGC had agreed to purchase a weedkiller sprayer and an appropriate herbicide in order to undertake the path spraying, together with the necessary PPE.

b) Village Green Memorial Policy

Following discussion of the draft policy previously circulated, Eric Gates proposed, Andy Robbins seconded and it was agreed to adopt the amended [Village Green Memorial Policy](#).

14 Ailsa Larcombe Memorial bench / tree

Members noted the correspondence received from the family of Ailsa Larcombe, a long-time resident and active member of the Barrow Gurney community requesting permission to either install a memorial bench on the Green or plant a tree in her memory. Under the adopted *Village Green Memorial Policy* (13b, above), it was agreed to invite the correspondent to apply for a plaque on the memorial picnic bench.

8:42pm Sandra Gibson returned to the meeting

15 Village enhancements

a) Village Tap

Andy Robbins outlined his vision for a bottle filling station at the village tap and suggested the sum of £732.50 fund-raised by the Walkways Working Group in 2013/14 could be put to this purpose. An initial estimate had priced the works at £760 + VAT.

The Clerk advised three quotations would be required and Andy undertook to obtain a further two for consideration at the next meeting.

In addition, it was agreed Andy Robbins would approach Ellis & Co, contractors completing the refurbishment of the housing, to cost an oak slab to replace the existing stone slab should the Council see fit to do so.

b) Gateway flowerbeds

Andy Robbins reported a fair amount of ongoing weeding was required to maintain the flowerbeds and that more soil was needed. It was agreed Andy would circulate a note around the parish asking for donations of suitable ground cover plants that may be going spare.

16 Planning

a) Planning applications since the last meeting

1. 20/P/2636/TPO – 7 Barrow Court, Barrow Court Lane

No objection (retrospective)

2. 20/P/2717/FUL – Land to the rear of 2-5 Clover Grove, Oatley Park

No objection

3. 20/P/2858/FUH – The Haven, Naish Lane

Members agreed to await the views of the applicant's neighbours before submitting a comment.

4. 20/P/2915/LDE – 5 Barrow Court, Barrow Court Lane

The Clerk read an e-mail received and members considered the views raised by the member of the public present.

It was agreed the Council would submit a request to the Planning Officer to ensure the four year rule under which the applicant was referencing was appropriate as the Council was of the opinion that evidence to the contrary was available,

b) Consents and refusals since the last meeting

No decisions had been made by the Planning Authority since the last meeting.

c) North Somerset Local Plan 2038: Choices

Eric Gates confirmed the online consultation forms had been completed in advance of the deadline with an added emphasis on the impact of the airport.

d) Bristol Airport additional information consultation

Nick Tyrrell confirmed he had received a response from three members to the recently circulated draft comment. Once everyone had had an opportunity to comment, Nick confirmed he would submit the response to NSC for onward submission to the Inspector.

17 Barrow Hospital Site village green proposal

Andrew Sheridan reported plans were underway by a group of Hospital Road residents to register parts of the Hospital site as a village green. Members discussed the feasibility of this at length and it was agreed to keep this item on future agendas but for the Parish Council to refrain from any direct action at this stage.

18 Parish Area reports

a) Barrow Court / Barrow Court Lane

There was nothing to report.

b) Barrow Hospital site

Andrew Sheridan advised he had nothing further to report.

c) Naish Lane / A38

Sandra Gibson reported the speed of vehicles travelling along Naish Lane to access the sheds at the end of the lane had gone down. It was believed the sheds were being used for commercial storage, contrary to planning permission. It was suggested that if enforcement was not pursued at this point, it could be difficult to curtail any future activity at the site.

It was agreed to monitor the situation with a view to approaching the Planning Authority if activity intensifies.

d) Village centre / Barrow Street

There was nothing to report.

19 Open Forum for the Parish Council

Eric Gates advised he had drafted a response to the correspondence received regarding the lack of residential places available to children requiring acute mental health care. The Clerk advised she would contribute to the letter to Julia Ross, CEO - Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCG.

20 Consider changing meeting days

It was agreed to amend the regular meeting day to the SECOND WEDNESDAY of every month.

21 Date of the next meeting

The next virtual meeting will be held on Wednesday, 13 January 2021

Meeting concluded at 10:12pm.