

BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

1 x 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 for absence had been received from Cllr Phil Carnell (farming commitments).

2 Declarations of Interest and dispensations

There were no declarations of interest received.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting – 10 August 2020

Nick Tyrrell proposed, Andy Robbins 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

The Clerk read an e-mail received from a resident requesting the Council writes to NSC regarding the speed of traffic along the A38 especially along the stretch from the petrol station to the Barrow Lane turn-off. The resident also suggested they would be contacting the Police.

Members discussed the speed signage along the A38 and the Clerk advised she had undertaken an audit of signage in November 2018, shortly after the speed limits were changed.

Action: Clerk to circulate speed limit signage maps

Action: Clerk to include on the next agenda

5 Covid-19 Response

Members agreed the volunteer cohort had sufficient capacity to address the likely needs of the community in the event of a significant rise in cases of Covid-19 and / or increased restrictions.

6 Finance and Governance

a) Stancombe Quarry Community Fund committee representation

It was agreed that Andy Robbins and Sandra Gibson would represent the Council on the SQCF committee.

b) PCAA request for funds for the public enquiry on the Bristol Airport Appeal

Members discussed the PCAA's request for contributions towards the anticipated £40,000 required to enable it to apply for Rule Six Status and, subsequently, go on to fight Bristol Airport's appeal of NSC's decision to refuse planning permission on its expansion application.

Members noted the suggested *contributions per parish populations* data that had been circulated by the PCAA.

Nick Tyrrell proposed, Sandra Gibson seconded and it was agreed to make a donation in the amount of £277.30 to the fund immediately and look to make a provision for a further contribution in the budget for FYE 2021/22.

c) Clerk's training: SLCC Conference week

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

d) Website Accessibility Statement

The Clerk reminded members that the deadline for the publication of the Website Accessibility Statement on the Council's website was 23 September 2020. The Clerk advised that she had been unable to make much progress on this and that a number of historical documents on the website were, as yet, non-compliant.

Action: Clerk to draft and publish Accessibility Statement

e) Clerk's salary: cost of living increase

Andy Robbins proposed, Sandra Gibson seconded and it was resolved that the clerk will receive the NALC recommended cost of living increase of 2.75% as of 1 April 2020. The clerk's salary would rise from £461.89 to £474.65 per month.

A payment of £63.81 would be due to the Clerk for the increase backdated to 1 April 2020.

f) Amendment to Clerk's salary standing order

In accordance with 6(e) above and taking into account anticipated PAYE, it was resolved to amend the monthly standing order set up with the Co-operative Bank for the clerk's salary to £402.72 with effect from September 2020.

g) Receipts and Payments

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

£100.00	North Somerset Council	Village Orderly grant 2020/21
£5,100.00	North Somerset Council	2 nd Precept payment 2020/21

Nick Tyrrell proposed, Eric Gates 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 (August 2020)
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It was resolved to authorise the following **payments** to be made:-

£75.00	The Molecatcher	Mole removal on village green
£70.00	Little Apple Gardening Service	Village Green maintenance
£33.00	Society of Local Council Clerks	50% of clerk's training
£63.81	Ms Joanna van Tonder	Back-paid annual increase (see 6(e). above)

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

7 Upgrade of council website to Spanglefish 3

The Clerk reported the Council's website had been successfully transferred to Spanglefish 3 with minor tweaks needed before the site could go live. Once the new site was up and running, the old site would be decommissioned with any traffic to the old site automatically bounced over to the new site.

8 NSC Standards sub-committee nomination

It was agreed Andrew Sheridan would be Barrow Gurney Parish Council's nomination on the NSC Standards sub-committee.

9 Citizen's Panel for North Somerset

The Clerk outlined NSC's appeal for residents to sign up to a Citizen's Panel that would enable the District Council to consult more widely and engage more thoroughly. The Council agreed to publicise the Panel via the website, parish magazine and parish e-mail. In addition, the PCAA's crowdfunding appeal would similarly be publicised.

10 Highways, pavements, verges and footpaths

a) General highways report

Members noted the responses that had been received from two officers at NSC following a request for a site visit with Cllr James Tonkin. It was felt the matter of the flooding of Hospital Road and Wild Country Lane had not been adequately addressed in the e-mails received. In addition, the problems experienced with the drainage system along Barrow Street in the vicinity of the School Lane chicane was worsening.

Action: Clerk to follow up with Cllr Tonkin and schedule a date for the meeting

b) Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan consultation

Members noted the Council's submission, previously circulated and agreed, had been made to NSC in response to the PRow Improvement Plan consultation.

11 Broadband update

The resident present at the meeting was invited to update members on the status of the Truespeed installation through the village. It was reported the project manager was confident the works would be completed by the end of September / beginning of October after which time, the *Home Connection Team* would be taking over. It was hoped all households that had signed up to Truespeed would be connected by Christmas.

12 Village Enhancements

a) Village Tap

1. Reinstatement of water supply

Andy Robbins reported Bristol Water had reconnected the water supply. The tap had been securely shut off so as to prevent access to the supply until such time as the water could be tested.

2. Repairs to housing structure

Andy Robbins reported that an application had been submitted to the Stancombe Quarry Community Fund and, should this be successful, the Council could look for further grant opportunities to fund a drinking fountain / bottle filling station.

Action: Andy Robbins to circulate ideas

b) Jubilee Bench refurbishment

Members noted the refurbishment of the bench was tied in with the works to the village tap.

13 Village Green Committee

No report had been received.

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

There were no consents or refusals since the last meeting.

c) National Planning consultations

1. Changes to the current planning system (deadline: 01/10/2020)

Members agreed the scope of this consultation fell beyond the remit of a small parish council. Nick Tyrrell agreed to draft a short comment in response to questions 17 to 31 of the consultation.

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

Nick Tyrrell suggested he would make a start on drafting a submission in response to this consultation, to be agreed at the next meeting.

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

To be considered at the next meeting.

15 Parish Area reports

a) Barrow Court / Barrow Court Lane

The Clerk read an e-mail received from a resident of Barrow Court / Barrow Court Lane asking if the Parish Council could consider changing stiles to gates on the footpaths around Barrow Court in order to improve accessibility for those with reduced mobility. While the Parish Council did not have the power to change the stiles as these were on private land, similar proposals had been submitted to NSC under the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan consultation.

Action: Clerk to reply to resident

It was suggested Nick Tyrrell and Andy Robbins could meet with Elaine Bowman and Adrian Woolcott, both of North Somerset Council, to discuss how best to secure accessibility on selected footpaths within the parish.

b) Barrow Hospital site

Andrew Sheridan reported there had been dramatic clearance of the site under the Woodland Management Plan.

Linden Homes would not be commencing the next phase of development until such time as landowners del Piero had made good the site in terms of outstanding drainage works. Andrew advised there had been a great deal of activity from Bristol Water's Highways teams who appeared to be marking up the site. It was believed temporary car parks would be set up to accommodate the works.

Andrew Sheridan reported a rise in incidents of fly-tipping along Wild Country Lane. Members discussed the presence of the mobile CCTV cameras operated by NSC. It was noted that the volume of roadside litter, in general, appeared to be on the increase.

Action: Clerk to include an Autumn Litterpick on the next agenda

c) Naish Lane / A38

Sandra Gibson advised works to Spring House had recommenced so it could be assumed the building had now been granted permission.

d) Village centre / Barrow Street

Nick Tyrrell advised the collapsing wall alongside the stream running between Springhead Barn and Springhead Farm had now been repaired.

16 Open Forum for the Parish Council

a) ALCA AGM – 10 October 2020

The Clerk reminded members of the ALCA AGM to be held remotely on 10 October. She advised that one of the key proposals to be raised at the AGM was the level of membership subscriptions. A significant increase in subs was to be proposed in order to cover the cost of additional staffing resources that would be needed in the near future to enable the organisation to continue to provide the required level of service.

It was agreed to authorise the Clerk to vote in favour of an increase in subscriptions on behalf of the Council.

b) Councillor reports

Eric Gates advised the Council that he had received the resignation of Cllr Joanna Critchett earlier that day. Joanna had cited increasing family commitments as her reason for her resignation.

On behalf of the Council, Eric expressed his gratitude to Joanna for her service and wished her and her family well.

Action: Clerk to notify Monitoring Officer

17 Date of the next meeting

The next two virtual meetings will be held on Monday, 12 October and Monday, 9 November 2020.

Meeting concluded at 8:36pm.