

BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held remotely,
at 6:00pm on 8 June 2020

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

3 x Residents

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

No apologies for absence had been received.

2 Declarations of Interest and dispensations

There were no declarations of interest received.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting – 11 May 2020

Andy Robbins proposed and it was agreed to amend the last line of the first paragraph of Minute 5: Public Questions

from "Andy Robbins added there had initially been talk of Truespeed making use of the overhead lines along that stretch."

to "Andy Robbins added there had initially been talk of Truespeed making use of the overhead lines **over an alternative route.**"

As the three members of the public wished to raise points pertaining to agenda items 11b) and 11c), it was agreed to bring forward those items Barrow Hospital site: trees and Barrow Hospital site: contamination, respectively.

11 Parish Area reports

a)

b) Barrow Hospital site: trees

Andrew Sheridan reminded members of reports that several trees of varying species had been marked for felling across the site, but specifically and suspiciously on either side of a track leading down to the, as yet, undeveloped part of the site. There was growing concern amongst residents that the felling of those trees would facilitate the delivery of a new access path to the Linden Homes development site.

Members raised concerns of a potential conflict of interest as the developer's appointed arboriculturist was previously in the employ of NSC. To date, no planning applications had been submitted to cover the felling of the aforementioned trees.

Action: Clerk to write to NSC with the following:

1. raise concerns of conflict of interest
2. request details of TPO planning application
3. request an independent assessment of the trees marked for felling

c) Barrow Hospital site: contamination

Members discussed the developer's obligation under planning consent to address the site contamination resulting from the demolition of the old Barrow Hospital. It was agreed that, while there was no requirement to remove all contamination, there was an obligation to provide a sufficient cap, in this case, to a depth of 500mm.

Nick Tyrrell advised the developer was required to submit a completion report to NSC following the discharge of the conditions under the planning consent and that enforcement was the responsibility of the Unitary Authority's Environmental Health department. The Environment Agency was the responsible regulatory body.

Following discussion, it was agreed to continue pursuing the matter with NSC, both through the Planning department and Environmental Health. At the same time, action would be sought from the Environment Agency and the National Home Builders' Confederation.

Action: Clerk to lodge complaints with each of the four aforementioned agencies

Action: Clerk to raise the matter with Cllr Hugh Gregor

4 Public Questions

Resident 1 raised concerns that, as his property was purchased freehold, the responsibility for the contamination would lie with him. It was agreed the obligation to discharge the conditions within the planning application lay with the planning applicant and that the freeholder would have purchased the land on the understanding that all obligations had been discharged.

Resident 2 wished to reiterate that the evidence of discharge of obligations needed to be challenged.

Resident 3 advised the arboriculturist and his associate had been out that day marking up further specimens that included Oak and Beech, as well as potentially diseased Ash.

5 Covid-19 Response

Joanna Critchett reported a request for assistance had been received via North Somerset Together and that contact with the resident had been made. Nick Tyrrell confirmed both he and Joanna C had finally been invited to the North Somerset Together forum, with weekly online meetings.

Members noted most of the Crisis Contact leaflets had been delivered with the remainder due to be dropped off in the next few days.

Members noted the recent spike in the infection rate across the South West and agreed North Somerset averaging consistently higher than neighbouring counties was a cause for concern.

6 Finance and Governance

a) Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2019/20

Andrew Sheridan proposed, Sandra Gibson seconded and it was agreed to approve the completed Section 1: Annual Governance Statement of the AGAR for the year ending 31 March 2020.

b) Adoption of the Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2020 and Section 2 of the AGAR: Accounting Statements 2019/20

Andrew Sheridan proposed, Nick Tyrrell seconded and it was resolved that the Parish Council would adopt and approve the [accounts for the year ending 31 March 2020](#).

It was agreed to approve Section 2: Accounting Statements of the AGAR for the year ending 31 March 2020.

c) Annual Internal Audit report 2019/20

Members noted the Annual Internal Audit report from the Council's Internal Auditor for 2019/20, as previously circulated.

The two recommendations to 1) review the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, and 2) carry out a risk assessment were noted and it was agreed the Clerk would present these for consideration within the next six months.

d) Consider exemption from a Limited Assurance Review

Members noted the Council met the criteria necessary to consider exemption from the requirement to have a limited assurance review.

Following consideration of the Council's Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2020 and the report of the Internal Auditor, **it was agreed the Council would certify itself exempt and the Certificate of Exemption would be provided to PKF Littlejohn.**

e) Receipts and Payments

The Clerk reported the following **receipts** had been received since the last meeting:

£551.37 HMRC VAT reclaimed 2019/20

Andy Robbins proposed, Eric Gates 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 (May 2020)

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

£70.00	Little Apple Gardening Service	Village Green maintenance
£36.00	Campaign to Protect Rural England	Annual subscription

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

7 Rights of Way Improvement Plan: consultation

Andy Robbins reported he had assessed approximately 80% of the the footpath network to date and would soon have a complete picture of the current infrastructure. It was agreed the consultation provided an opportunity to try and deliver the parish's wish-list in terms of new routes and improvements to existing routes.

Phil Carnell reported a number of sheep had been attacked by a dog off the lead over the weekend and asked that increased signage reminding dog owners to keep their dogs under control be included in the Council's consultation response.

Nick Tyrrell proposed a section of footpath that technically fell within the boundary of Long Ashton but had an important role to play in connecting the two villages. Andy Robbins reminded members that a spur off Monarch's Way had been included within the Barrow Hospital S106 agreement.

Action: Eric Gates to put forward a note for the magazine asking for public feedback on the consultation questions

8 Highways, pavements, verges and footpaths

Phil Carnell queried the verge cutting schedule for the year.

Action: Clerk to obtain the schedule from NSC for this cycle

Phil reported that, while the drain on Cathorn Lane had been repaired, it had not been unblocked. Additionally, the damage done to the carriageway by the run-off had rendered the lane unsafe for cattle and required urgent resurfacing.

Action: Clerk to report to NSC and request resurfacing

Andy Robbins reported the drain at the top of the School Lane chicane was almost completely full of debris and that this blockage was the likely cause of the regular flooding further up the drainage system.

Joanna Critchett raised the issue of local motorists passing too closely to horses out on the parish's lanes and recalled witnessing a particularly harrowing incident that left a young rider and her mount extremely shaken.

Action: Clerk to put out a note on the Village e-mail reminding motorists of the Highway Code and to be mindful of horses and other road users

As the Village Orderly had retired at the end of the last financial year, it was agreed Andy Robbins would make use of the Council's strimmer to cut back the overgrowth around the Barrow Street War Memorial. The overhanging trees were discussed and it was felt the Memorial would benefit from greater exposure to sunlight.

Action: Clerk to contact resident responsible for the overhanging branches to politely suggest these could be trimmed back

9 Village Green Committee Report

No report had been received, however, the Clerk advised the mole/s had returned to the Village Green and attempts were being made to humanely deter the mammals from remaining.

The Village Green Committee were setting up a small working party to undertake some basic maintenance of the green and would be ensuring social distancing was maintained at all times.

Eric Gates reported the Covid-19 notices at the entrances to the Green were either missing or in poor condition.

Action: Clerk to provide three laminated copies of the notices reinforcing the government's Covid-19 social distancing message

10 Planning

a) Planning applications since the last meeting

No planning applications had been received since the last meeting.

b) Consents, refusals and enforcement cases since the last meeting

The following decisions have been made since the previous meeting:

- 20/P/0028/FUL: Erection of replacement dairy, parlour, feed silo, cubicle housing building and construction of earth banked slurry lagoon and associated works at <i>St Katherine's Farm, Barrow Street</i>	CONSENT GRANTED 12/05/2020
- 20/P/0902/TEN: Notification under Regulation 5 of the Electronic Communications Code Regulations of the proposed erection of a 9m wooden pole (7.2m above ground) in connection with BT installation of fixed line broadband electronic communications apparatus at <i>Field adjacent to The Old Vicarage, Vicarage Lane</i>	NOTED (UNCONDITIONAL) 12//05/2020

No new enforcement cases have been **opened, reported on** or are still **pending**.

c) Bristol Airport DoT application for year-round slot co-ordination

Nick Tyrrell confirmed the previously circulated and agreed consultation comments had been submitted.

11 Parish Area reports

a) Barrow Court / Barrow Court Lane

No report had been received.

b) Barrow Hospital site: Trees

See above,

c) Barrow Hospital site: Contamination

See above.

Members noted a report that had been made to Andrew Sheridan by a resident of Hospital Cottages of a tractor parked in the middle of Hospital Road and the significant dumping of rubble on an area of hardstanding adjacent to the trees behind Hospital Road.

d) Naish Lane / A38

Sandra Gibson advised Truespeed had been working along Naish Lane over the course of one day and had not returned since. It was not clear what had been accomplished during that time.

e) Village centre / Barrow Street

Andy Robbins reported he had met with a local contractor with a view to having the Village Tap renovated, as agreed at the last meeting, as the stone tiling was loose, supporting boards rotten and slates at risk of falling off and potentially causing harm. Andy confirmed the Tap was no longer connected to the water supply. Sandra Gibson reported she and a number of her neighbours along Naish Lane had discovered wells within their grounds.

Members discussed how the Tap could be used in the future and agreed to look into having the water supply reconnected at a later date.

- Action:** Clerk to establish ownership of the Village Tap
- Action:** Eric Gates to make enquiries to piece together the history
- Action:** Phil Carnell to gather anecdotal information from local residents
- Action:** Andy Robbins to obtain formal quotation

Andy Robbins reported the Jubilee Bench beneath the Council's noticeboard on Barrow Street was in need of repair. The contractor approached to quote on the Village Tap project had suggested the rejuvenation of the bench could be given to their carpentry apprentice, local to Barrow Gurney, for practice. The bench would be spray washed, oiled and reinforced where necessary.

- Action:** Andy Robbins to circulate an estimate for consideration and agreement

12 Open Forum for the Parish Council

Nick Tyrrell reported the Village Hall Committee had reimbursed MB for the cost of electricity to keep the Post Office light running through the winter evenings.

On behalf of all on the Parish Council, Eric Gates thanked Andy Robbins for his tireless efforts in maintaining the Barrow Street gateway flowerbeds.

13 Date of next meeting

The next virtual meeting will be held on Monday, 13 July 2020 at 6:00 pm

Meeting concluded at 7:48pm.