

BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held remotely,
at 7:00pm on 13 January 2021

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

Distribution: 2x members of the public
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 (farming responsibilities).

2 Declarations of Interest and dispensations

There were no declarations of interest received.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting – 14 December 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.

Following a recent bereavement, it was agreed to take items 9(a)-(f) to allow the Clerk to leave the meeting.

9 Finance and Governance

a) Village Green Committee Budget 2021/22

The Clerk presented the Village Green Committee (VGC) Budget as previously circulated.

Following discussion, Nick Tyrrell proposed, Andy Robbins seconded and it was agreed that authority to spend within the confines of the [VGC Budget](#) be granted to the VGC, and subject to the Council's Financial Regulations.

7:28pm Andrew Sheridan joined the meeting

a) Budget 2021/22

Following discussion of both the level of reserves and the impact of the reduction in the tax base, Andrew Sheridan proposed, Nick Tyrrell seconded the proposed [Budget](#), which was agreed.

b) Precept 2021/22

It was resolved that Barrow Gurney Parish Council would request a precept of **£13,500** for the financial year ending 31 March 2022.

c) Split of resources shared with Brockley Parish Council

The Clerk advised she would supply this information to the Council at a later date.

d) Clerk's final salary payment

The Clerk presented a reconciliation of her pay for the current pay year to date. She advised that, as a result of numerous changes to her tax code throughout the year, the salary standing order had been set too low and an amount owing, accrued.

Members agreed the payment outstanding, subject to scrutiny of the supplementary documents by the Chairman.

e) Receipts and Payments

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

It was resolved to ratify the following **payments** made since the last meeting:-

£402.79	Ms Joanna van Tonder / HMRC	Clerk's salary (December 2020)
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It was resolved to authorise the following **payments** to be made:-

£140.00	Little Apple Gardening Service	Village Green maintenance
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£222.00	Ms Joanna van Tonder	Clerk's expenses
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£643.97	Ms Joanna van Tonder	Clerk's final salary
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The Clerk left the meeting

4 Casual Vacancy

Since there had been no reaction to the initial advertisement of the vacancy in the Parish Magazine and village e-group, leaflets had been distributed in the area around Barrow Court, Barrow Court Lane and Vicarage Lane. As a result, one response has been received. A decision would be taken at the end of the month when the period for applications had closed.

5 Clerk / RFO Vacancy

Following the notification by the Clerk that she felt that she wished to stand down from the post, an advert had been placed. To date, there had been one response and an interview had been scheduled for Thursday 14th January. The period for applications formally closes on Friday 15th January.

6 Public Questions

Public questions. Graham Spooner from Barrow Court inquired about progress on the provision of broadband internet by Truespeed. Prior to leaving the meeting, the Clerk read an e-mail received from Andy Moore, Truespeed regarding the roll out of broadband to the Barrow Court area. Andy stated in his e-mail that an initial lack of interest meant Truespeed had not been in a position to draw down any funding for Barrow Court. Although there was sufficient interest now, Barrow Court was having to take its place in the list of communities waiting for funding. No timetable could be offered at this stage.

7 Covid-19 Response

A request had been received from Tyntesfield medical practice for assistance with getting a prescription for a member of the local community. This had been done and it was reassuring that the system seemed joined up in enabling the practice to identify the community rep. via North Somerset Council.

8 Police report

The Police report was not available.

10 Highways, pavements, verges and footpaths

The bollard on the corner of Springhead Barn and the manhole cover by the Village Tap remained outstanding. Note: it was confirmed subsequent to the meeting that these two items have previously been reported and a response had been received in relation to the manhole cover promising action.

The area from the A38 to the village, Hern Lane and Wild Country Lane seemed to be particularly badly affected by litter at present. When circumstances allowed, it was agreed to organise a litter pick. Action Andy Robbins.

11 Barrow Hospital/Oatley Park site – flooding of Hospital Road

A meeting was scheduled for Thursday 21st January with Richard Kent and other appropriate officers of NSC to identify a resolution of the flooding issues. It was agreed to maintain the focus of the meeting strictly to the flood issues and pursue the woodlands issues separately.

12 Village Green Committee report

There was no separate Village Green Committee report and all key issues had been covered in the discussion on budget.

13 Village enhancements

a) Village Tap

Andy Robbins presented the three quotes for the water dispenser that was to be installed in the Village Tap. It was agreed that the Aqua Pointe dispenser, supplied by The Water Cooler Company represented the best value option. Andy Robbins proposed, Eric Gates seconded and the meeting agreed unanimously to the proposal to purchase and install the dispenser.

14 Planning

a) Planning applications since the last meeting

.1 20/P/3141/LBC – 5 Barrow Court, Barrow Court Lane

There was discussion of the application 20/P/3141/LBC for retrospective approval of two satellite dishes at Barrow Court. The meeting was opened to allow Graham Spooner to point out the significance of Barrow Court as a Grade 2* listed building and the importance of observing the planning obligations that went with that. The meeting noted that the intention was to remove the dishes as soon as adequate broadband was available and agreed to adopt a neutral position on the application. It was noted that NSC did not appear to have carried out any consultation with those immediately affected by the application.

b) Consents and refusals since the last meeting

None were reported.

c) NSC Active Travel consultation

The Council thanked Andy Robbins for his efforts to construct a response to the survey and agreed that it should be submitted.

15 Parish Area reports

No additional issues were raised.

16 Open Forum for the Parish Council

No additional issues were raised.

17 Date of the next meeting

The next virtual meeting will be held on Wednesday, 10 February 2021