

BARROW GURNEY ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF RESIDENTS

Minutes of the meeting held remotely on Wednesday 28 April 2021 at 7.00pm

Present: Chairman Eric Gates, Clerk, 5 Councillors, Chairman of Barrow Gurney Flower Show Committee, Secretary of the Village Hall Committee and one resident.

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced the new Clerk.
2. Minutes of 2019 Annual Parish Meeting APPROVED.
3. With sadness everyone reflected on the news of the passing of Mervyn Vowles, a former Chairman of Barrow Gurney Parish Council and long time resident of the Parish.
4. The Chairman gave an overview of Barrow Gurney Parish Council (BGPC) activities undertaken last year, which are summarised as follows:
 - The Chairman thanked Joanna Critchet and Cllr Nick Tyrrell, who volunteered to provide Covid Community Support and have done an amazing job in providing assistance to those who needed it.
 - During lockdown residents have been able to appreciate the footpaths around the Parish. The walkway through the centre of the village has demonstrated its value in providing connectivity for the shop and the pub. In response to a consultation by North Somerset Council, BGPC put forward a plan prioritising the key existing footpaths and considering new ones to facilitate access to public transport. Thanks to Cllr Andy Robbins in particular for this work. Currently BGPC is looking at the feasibility of a route from the village to A38 along Barrow Street. Cllr Andy Robbins is also leading this project.
 - The Chairman thanked the Village Green Committee for managing to keep the village green in excellent condition.
 - The ongoing issue of flooding at Barrow Gurney hospital has required significant attention – Cllr Andrew Sheridan is involved in coordinating activities to alleviate this problem.
 - The Village Tap should be back to use shortly. Cllr Andy Robbins has led this project. The shelter has been renovated and the water fountain should shortly be reinstated.
 - BGPC closely monitors the potential developments of Bristol Airport and its effect on Barrow Gurney. Cllr Nick Tyrrell has been our point of contact for the Parish Councils' Airports Association.
 - North Somerset Council (NSC) has consulted on its development plan out to 2038, in which period it is required to build 20,000 more houses. BGPC has responded in detail to both stages of the consultation.
 - A Village Walk is planned on Sunday 23 May and a community litter pick is to be organised at the end of May.

- Chairman welcomed questions from the participants of the meeting:
- A question was raised about the bus stop on North side of Hobbs Lane, which is overgrown with vegetation and heavily littered. The Chairman suggested that the community litter pick, which is scheduled for the end of May, might target this area. It was mentioned that the PC was aware of the general problem with litter but, because of the social distancing rules this year, it had been difficult to organise the clearing of litter.

5. Village Hall

Following Covid-19 government guidelines, the Village Hall was closed completely, but was hired by a single person in the summer, which was very beneficial in many ways.

The Village Hall has benefited financially from Covid-19 government grants. The new remotely operated heating systems is installed, which will reduce the heating bills in the future. Wi-Fi is also installed.

Recently, the Village Hall is hired by a homeschooling group on a Wednesday. Subject to the government guidelines, it is hoped that the Hall will reopen fully in July, with the Womens' Institute starting in May and band practice starting again in small groups.

The Village Hall Committee started to think about future events and also how to engage new committee members. The Village Hall website has been updated. It was suggested that a list of useful contractors might be published on the website. The Chairman suggested a Welcome Pack for new residents in the Parish.

This year, the Flower Show Committee has decided to cancel the annual event. It is looking at what possible social events might be organised, once the current restrictions are over.

The PC was asked to consider implementing a biodiversity plan, which can be developed for the Parish, with initiatives such as tree planting and preserving wildlife habitats. Avon wildlife is currently conducting a study of the Land Yeo, from Barrow Tanks to Clevedon since there are concerns about the state of the river. Engaging land owners was one of the biggest challenges to implementing biodiversity policies. The Chairman asked if a note could be sent to the PC, with some suggested Green initiatives.

The Princes Motto pub and shop passed on their thanks to all who have supported them during the lockdown. Both the pub and the shop have a lot of ideas and plans for the future and are keen to play a long term role in the village.

A resident asked whether informal language groups might be organised, where people can practice foreign language conversation and can get in touch with each other.

Everyone agreed that they are looking forward to life after the lockdown!

Meeting ended 19.54pm

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