

BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Village Green Committee
of the Barrow Gurney Parish Council held remotely,
at 6:30pm on 9 December 2020

Present: Cllr Nick Tyrrell, Rob McKenzie, James Durie, Nick Kerswell, Richard Dennys and Joanna van Tonder (Clerk)

Distribution: The Village Green Committee members and Parish Councillors

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 Committee members and the public to hear and be heard.

1 Change of Chairmanship

Rob McKenzie, having previously advised the Clerk, stated his intention to step down as Chair of the Committee.

The chair reverted to Cllr Nick Tyrrell as the Parish Council's representative on the Committee.

2 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting – 16 November 2019

The minutes of the last meeting having been circulated previously were taken as a true and accurate record.

4 Public Questions

There were no members of the public present.

5 Financial Review of Committee expenditure

Members agreed to consider the financial review during item 12: Village Green proposed budget 2021/22.

Richard Dennys joined the meeting (work commitments)

6 Village Green Memorial Bench Policy

a) Determine number of benches that can be accommodated on the Village Green

Following discussion, it was agreed that a maximum of five benches could be accommodated on the Village Green.

It was agreed to dedicate the picnic table due to be purchased during this financial year as an item of furniture upon which memorial plaques may be permitted.

b) Determine Terms & Conditions

Members discussed the draft terms and conditions and it was agreed to ask successful applicants to make a donation that could be earmarked within an Environment Fund for the sole purpose of providing trees and other green resources within the parish.

Action: Clerk to amend draft policy and circulate prior to submission to Parish Council for adoption

7 Playground Inspections

a) Review of Play Inspection Co. report

Members noted the contents of the report and were pleased to see that there was nothing of great cause for concern with all items classed as either low or very low risk.

It was agreed that the gap in the gate that posed a pinch hazard would be fixed.

b) Co-ordination of weekly inspections

Nick K confirmed the weekly rota of inspections would be circulated.

8 Maintenance of weeds

a) Purchase of weed-killing equipment

Members considered the merits of undertaking the weed spraying as opposed to contracting the work out. The difficulty in securing a reliable service in conjunction with the cost were cited as reasons for considering the proposal to purchase a pressure sprayer and non-industrial herbicide for use by Village Green Committee members.

Rob McKenzie proposed, James Durie seconded and it was agreed to purchase the following equipment at a total cost of £105.40

- Knapsack 16 litre pressure sprayer
- Gallup Home & Garden Glyphosate weed killer
- 5-layer respirator masks
- Chemical resistant protective gloves
- Protective goggles

7:14 – 7:20pm Nick Kerswell left and rejoined the meeting (connection failure)

b) Risk Assessment for operation of equipment and administering herbicides

The Clerk advised members on the regulations regarding the use of industrial herbicides and the certification required as well as the PPE that would be needed for the volunteers.

The Clerk informed members that a Risk Assessment would be required to be drawn up before spraying began and pointed members to her guidance notes, circulated with the agenda.

c) Weed maintenance schedule 2021/22

It was agreed to concentrate spraying on the Boules area as well as the lower path through the Green. It was felt the upper path was in sufficiently good condition not to require spraying.

9 Village Green maintenance schedule 2021/22

It was agreed to retain the services of Little Apple Gardening Services on the same maintenance schedule as was in place during 2020/21, being

- 20 grass cuts to both the play area and the Green
- 2 major strims
- 4 minor strims

The Clerk advised it was good practice to review contracts every three years and suggested the committee considered opening the maintenance contract to tender before budget setting next year.

10 Additional maintenance work required

Rob McKenzie advised he and Nick K were currently cutting the hedge four times a year and were happy to continue doing so.

It was noted that the problems with moles were ongoing and that provision would need to be made in the budget for their removal.

7:28 James Durie left the meeting (prior engagement)

11 Future improvements and enhancements

It was noted that two trees on the Village Green had died and would need to be replaced.

12 Village Green Committee proposed budget 2021/22

The Clerk outlined the financial position of the Committee as at 30 November as well as the projected outcome at the end of the financial year.

It was noted there was a sum of £350 in earmarked reserves set aside for the replacement of a tree previously located alongside the war memorial.

Nick Tyrrell proposed, Rob McKenzie seconded and it was agreed to earmark the surplus that would be available at year end (up to a value of £750) for the purpose of maintaining the Village Green perimeter.

Nick Kerswell proposed, Nick Tyrrell seconded and it was agreed to request a sum of £2,538 from the Parish Council to be spent in line with the budget also agreed, copy attached.

13 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee was set for a date to be confirmed in November 2021.

Meeting concluded at 8:00pm.