

# BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of the Village Green Committee (VGC) of the Barrow Gurney Parish Council held at Prince's Motto, Barrow Street, Barrow Gurney on 17 November 2018.

**Present:** Cllr Joanna Critchett, Richard Dennys, Nick Kerswell, Rob McKenzie (Chairman) and Joanna van Tonder (Parish Council Clerk)

**Distribution:** The Village Green Committee members and Parish Councillors

## **1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Jim Durie.

## **2 Minutes of the previous meeting:- 20 November 2017**

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

## **3 Public Questions**

There were no members of the public present.

## **4 Half Year Financial Review of Committee expenditure**

Joanna van Tonder presented the Half Year Financial report of the VGC expenditure for the current year, copy attached. Estimated expenditure for the year was predicted to be under budget in the region of £610 primarily due to an anticipated underspending on grass cutting, remedial playground repairs and refuse removal.

## **5 Playground Inspection**

### **a) Review of Play Inspection Co. report**

The report was discussed and it was noted that the findings were either classed as low or very low risk. It was also noted that the introduction of the grassed areas was recognised in the report as making a positive difference.

Joanna Critchett advised the committee that concerns had been raised at the recent Parish Council meeting that the dimensions of the newly laid wet-pour area beneath the two sets of swings did not meet British Standards.

**Action:** Rob McKenzie to address non-compliance with supplier

### **b) Co-ordination of weekly inspections**

It was agreed the online inspection checklist was working well and made it easier for the inspection findings to be recorded. Members suggested adding additional checks to include i) water level / flow of the Yeo, ii) presence of ragwort, and iii) general check of the village green. Anything found to require action would be e-mailed to the group for remedy.

## **6 Future improvements and enhancements**

### **a) Playground litter bin**

As the existing litter bin was deemed no longer in a satisfactory condition, it was agreed to purchase a 75 litre hooded-top bin at a cost of £220 (exclusive of VAT) should the need for a bin be proved following a trial period of six months (see 6(b), below). This would include concrete ballast.

### **b) Litter bin refuse collections**

Joanna van Tonder advised the committee that she had been unable to make contact with Bin-It, the refuse removal contractor that had quoted the previous year. She reported that Biffa (in conjunction with NSC) offered a refuse collection package that insisted upon the

supply of a 180 litre wheelie bin. Following a discussion around the merits and shortcomings of such a provision, it was agreed to trial having no litter bin at all with the presence of litter reported as part of the weekly inspection. This position would be reviewed in May 2019.

## **7 Additional Maintenance work**

Nick Kerswell was thanked for having repainted the Village Green sign.

### Bridge

Nick Kerswell advised the rotten timbers on the bridge would need monitoring.

**Action:** Nick Kerswell to discuss possible remedial repairs with Hec

### Composting

Members discussed creating composting areas where cuttings from clear-ups could be deposited. It was agreed there could be suitable spots down the orchard end of the Village Green.

**Action:** Rob McKenzie and Nick Kerswell to investigate

### Tree maintenance

It was agreed the Oak tree boughs overhanging the play area needed removing as did the lower branches of the Maples located on the wildflower meadow bank.

It was queried whether crown raising of trees within a Conservation Area required prior planning permission.

**Action:** Joanna van Tonder to enquire about planning in a Conservation Area

**Action:** Subject to above, Rob McKenzie to remove lower limbs after leaves have fallen

### Paths

Rob McKenzie advised that the paths were largely moss covered and in a bad state with parts of the path down by the trees, missing. It was noted that these paths were likely to be slippery in winter as a result.

### Playground

The committee heard that a resident had offered to insert a rubber bung in gate to prevent fingers getting trapped in the gate. It was also noted that the fixing was missing on the gate latch.

**Action:** Rob McKenzie and Nick Kerswell to inspect and repair

Members discussed the trip hazard posed by the variation in ground levels between the Village Green proper and the play area.

**Action:** Rob McKenzie and Nick Kerswell to raise level with soil and turf

### Signage

Members considered signage that may be required around the Village Green. It was agreed to consider a sign on the Table Tennis table detailing the location of the bats and balls that could acknowledge the Stancombe Quarry Community Fund as the donor.

## **8 Village Green Maintenance schedule 2019/20**

It was agreed to advise Chris Lane of the following requirements for 2019/20:

- 20 x grass cuts (Village Green)
- 20 x grass cuts (playground)
- 2 x major and 4 x minor strims
- 4 x path spraying

**Action:** JvT to notify Chris and confirm prices

## **9 Village Green Committee proposed budget 2019/20**

Various items of expenditure were discussed:

### Rubbish bin / Dog waste bin

It was agreed that a maximum of twenty six weeks' refuse collection costs would be budgeted for as it was envisaged that, should a litter bin be deemed necessary following the "no bin" trial, a further six month trial would follow where committee members took on the responsibility of refuse removal (see 6(b), above).

Additional grass cuts

It was agreed to budget for the same number of cuts, strims and sprays as 2018/19 (see 8, above).

**Joanna van Tonder confirmed that the draft budget would be circulated for discussion and agreement once next year's prices had been confirmed.**

**10 Increasing membership of the VGC**

Names were put forward of villagers who may be interested in joining the VGC.

**Action:** Rob McKenzie to approach

**11 Date of the next meeting**

Date of next meeting: Saturday, 16 November 2019 at 11:00 (Prince's Motto)

Thanks were extended to Lloyd and Alex for opening up the Prince's Motto especially for the meeting.



# BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk:  
Ms Joanna van Tonder  
Tel: 07586 437769

## HALF YEAR FINANCIAL REVIEW 2018 / 2019

### VILLAGE GREEN COMMITTEE BUDGET

	<b>Actual</b> for the 6 months ending 30/09/18	<b>Estimated</b> for the year ending 31/03/19	<b>Budget</b> for the year ending 31/03/19
<b>Annual Expenditure:</b>			
Grass cutting	640.00	950 <sup>1</sup>	1,200
Path spraying	36.00	72 <sup>2</sup>	144
Strimming	51.00	201 <sup>3</sup>	230
Annual playground inspection		65	65
Refuse collections		100 <sup>4</sup>	212
Remedial repairs to playground		0	150
Contingency		50	50
	<u>727.00</u>	<u>1,438</u>	<u>2,051</u>
<b>Extraordinary Expenditure:</b>			
Playground litter bin		220 <sup>5</sup>	500
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>500</u>
<b>Grant Expenditure:</b>			
Resurfacing of playground (Grant received FYE 31/03/18)	8,880.00	8,880	
Table Tennis table (Grant received FYE 31/03/18)	2,389.35	2,389	
	<u>11,269.35</u>	<u>11,269</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<u>11,996.35</u>	<u>12,927</u>	<u>2,551</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	<u>11,996.35</u>	<u>12,927</u>	<u>2,551</u>

#### Notes:

- 1 Grass cutting estimates include: Chris Lane inv 9 dd 31/10/2018 – 3x general cuts (@ £50ea) and 4x playground cuts (@ £10ea) PLUS ESTIMATED 2x general cuts (@ £50ea) and 2x playground cuts (@ £10ea) to be completed before 31/03/2019
- 2 Path spraying estimates include 1x weed sprays (@ £36ea) to be completed before 31/03/2019
- 3 Strimming estimates include: Chris Lane inv 9 dd 31/10/2018 - 1x major strim (@ £75ea) PLUS ESTIMATED 1x major strim (@ £75ea) to be completed before 31/03/2019
- 4 Refuse collection estimates include 20x collections (@ £5ea) anticipated to be completed before 31/03/2019
- 5 Litter bin estimates are based on A J Products 75 litre hooded-top bin at a VAT exclusive cost of £165 + £55 (concrete ballast)