

BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Annexure to Agenda: Meeting date 11 September 2017

CLERK CONTACT DETAILS

Joanna van Tonder
e-mail: barrowgurneyclerk@gmail.com
Telephone: 07586 437769

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

This is the opportunity for Councillors to a) declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's); b) consider and c) grant any requests for dispensation received.

4. Co-opted to fill vacancy and Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Following Steve's resignation dated 26 June, a Notice of Vacancy was published. Electors had until the 14th of July to claim a poll (a minimum of ten electors is required) and thereby trigger a bye-election to fill the vacancy. In the event, a poll was not claimed and the PC may co-opt.

There have been two expressions of interest in the vacancy, both residents of Oatley Park. It is hoped both will be in attendance at the meeting.

5. **SPEAKERS: Holly Hedge / Meadow Trust Biodiversity Project co-ordinators - UPDATE**

Speakers:	Pam Bytheway	Meadow Trust Biodiversity Project Co-ordinator
	Sarah Schranz	Holly Hedge Site Manager
	Pauline Leeson	Chair of the Holly Hedge Trustees

Excerpts from Pam Bytheway's e-mail dd 22/07/2017 that details the project Holly Hedge are embarking on:

"The Trustees at Holly Hedge have given me the task of coordinating this new concept of offering the wild life that surrounds us the care and protection of our sanctuary.

With concern growing over the damage to the Woodland when felling and thinning began last Autumn, and further development planned to the land adjoining Oatley Park, we feel the need to act now to try and protect the Ancient Forest.

The Trustees have sanctioned the use of Animal Sanctuary funds to help with the purchase of a piece of land next to our entrance which lies strategically between the lane and the Woodland. This would at least stop development along the lane and prevent access across this land to woodland.

... funding would help us to buy the field and provide us with the opportunity to plant a wild flower meadow and install a pond. This would be our first step in creating a Nature Reserve to prevent strategic planning development near the Village.

The ethos of our Sanctuary is one of calm and tranquillity, the impact of tree felling and aggressive thinning in the woods has already upset the ecology of the habitat around us and we feel the only way to protect this precious wood is to gather as much land as we can into the protection of the Sanctuary.

The Developers are considering leasing Woodland to us so that we can manage the woods around the sanctuary ourselves in a more sympathetic way. 'Sustainable Management' does not necessarily mean heavy plant and machinery destroying swathes of forest as it drags 200 year old oak trees from their roots.

We have been advised that coppicing should be the way to sustain and protect this precious ancient wood."

7. Police Report

The following incidents of crime are reported on the constabulary's website:

May 2017:

- 1 x Vehicle crime on or near Barns Close (under investigation)

June 2017:

- 1 x Criminal damage and arson on or near Barns Close (under investigation)
- 1 x Vehicle crime on or near School Lane (under investigation)

The proliferation of both used and full Nitrous Oxide gas canisters found outside the Post Office and in the fishermen's car park on Bridgwater Road was reported to the police via e-mail.

8. Actions arising not addressed elsewhere

The following actions arising from the meeting of 10 July 2017 are still outstanding or addressed as follows:

- Village Tap: Clerk to approach Bristol Water with a request for funding
- Hospital site noticeboard: Clerk to ascertain ownership of Oatley Park common ground
- Star Councils Award: The Walkways Project has made it to the NALC Star Councils' Awards long list! The finalists will be decided on 14 September and the winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in Milton Keynes on 30 October.
- Barns Close barn fire:
 1. NSC have confirmed that they are not the authority responsible to ensure the environmental safety of the barn following the fire on 31 May 2017.
 2. The landowner's insurance company are responsible for ensuring the barn is cleared up and it is the Health & Safety Executive who are the overseeing body in this case.
 3. Contact has been made with the H&SE who had no record of any incident at this site. A report has now been submitted; awaiting feedback on what action is to be taken.

9. Highways, pavements, verges and footpaths

a) **Action taken by NSC**

- Barrow Street: partial gully clearance
- Barrow Street: "Barrow Gurney" village sign demolished by verge cutting contractors; post has been cut down and a works order placed for the installation of new sign
- Barrow Lane / A38: overhanging hedge obscuring the view of drivers exiting out of Barrow Lane on to the A38 - completed

Upcoming works:

- Wild Country Lane: Weight / width restrictions - to be completed as soon as resources permit

Temporary road closures / speed amendments

-

Gully Maintenance:

- Wild Country Lane – LOCAL TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
 - dig crew on site to investigate drainage issues
 - Tuesday, **12 September** and Wednesday, **13 September 2017**

b) Condition of roads, pavements, verges and footpaths

-

- c) Footpaths - general
 -
- d) Footpaths – PC owned brush cutter
 - **Training:** 1. Adrian Woolacott has advised that NSC can arrange a training session with certificates at a cost of approximately £470 for six volunteers.
2. Bridgwater College also run a *Safe Use of Brush-Cutters and Trimmers* day course fairly regularly at a rather prohibitive cost of £215 per person.
 - **Insurance:** Provided a comprehensive risk assessment is carried out and adequate training and an induction is provided, volunteers are covered both under Employers' Liability and Public Liability.
 - **Hi-viz vests:** with Barrow Gurney Parish Council printed on the back can be purchased for around £6.00 each.
- e) Footpaths - maintenance
 -
- 10. Village Walkways Committee
- a) Walkways Committee report
 -
- b) Stancombe Quarry Community Fund grant
 - The original grant received was in the amount of £8,000, however, spending is anticipated to be in the region of £1,500.
 - Councillors will be asked to agree the return of the balance of £6,500 back to the Stancombe Quarry Community Fund in advance of the next meeting of the Fund Trustees on 4 October 2017.
- 11. Conservation Area status
- 12. Village enhancements and maintenance
- a) Telephone Box
 - I have been in contact with Mr Antony Coles who has agreed to access the amount of work required to refurbish the telephone box and will revert with proposals
 - Following on from a show of interest from a number of residents, a suggestion has been made to set up a Working Group who can:
 1. Manage the restoration of the telephone box
 2. Consider the various uses put forward eg. used book depository, plant swap, local tourist information portal
 3. Ongoing management and maintenance of the telephone box according to the use/s decided upon
 4. Report back to PC
- b) Noticeboards
 - Barrow Street noticeboard on order. The Noticeboard Company has advised that the order was lost in their systems and delivery will be delayed by a few weeks.
- c) Installation of CCTV to curb fly-tipping
 -
- 13. Village Green
- a) Village Green report
 - Village Green Committee will be submitting an application to the Stancombe Quarry Fund for a grant to fund the Table Tennis table after an initial offer from a resident to fund the equipment fell through.

- b) Resurfacing of the playground and play equipment

-

- c) Tree Warden report

-

14. Planning

- a) 1. The following **planning applications** have been **received**:

- **17/P/1964/F** - Retrospective application to remove three windows to east elevation and add chimney. Add French doors to bedroom 1, between windows on south elevation at *Barrowfields Cottage, Dial Lane, Felton*

- **17/P/1977/LB** - Removal of ground floor window, replacement with natural stone. Installation of two new timber framed windows separated by a brick column, to match existing windows at ground level at *Springhead Barn, Barns Close, Barrow Gurney*

DEADLINE FOR COMMENT: **Tuesday, 26 September 2017**

2. The following **planning applications** have been granted **CONSENT** or **REFUSED**:

- **17/P/1289/TPO** - Whitebeam x 8 (3130-3133, 3136-3139 within report) - fell and replant; Scots Pine (3134) - fell and replant; Oak (3135) - fell and replant; Ash (3141) - fell and replant (all within W2 of the order) at *Former Hospital site, Wild Country Lane* – **APPLICATION WITHDRAWN**

3. The following **enforcement cases** are **pending**:

- Unauthorised airport parking at Cross Paddocks, Bridgwater Road (case 2015/0548 AND case 2017/0132 – 30/11/2015) – **Site cleared; continuing to monitor**

- Airport parking at Corner of Freemans Lane / Bridgwater Road (case 2017/0193 – 15/05/2017) – **Proceeding with enforcement action**

- Airport parking at Lakeside, Bridgwater Road (case 2017/0370 – 14/08/2017) – **New case; site visit pending**

- Airport parking at Reservoir Cottage, Bridgwater Road (case 2017/0371 – 14/08/2017) – **New case; site visit pending**

- b) NSC Settlement Profile

- The Settlement Profile as provided by NSC has been updated and revised. This draft will be circulated via e-mail and agreed before being submitted back to NSC before the deadline of 11 September 2017.

- c) Barrow Hospital – Development of the site

- No new developments

- d) Barrow Hospital – illegal dumping

- Update from NSC: **AWAITING AN UPDATE FROM NSC**

- e) Ashton Vale / Taylor Wimpey development

-

- f) Bristol Airport / PCAA

- A summary of PCAA / Bristol Airport topics requiring responses is circulated with the agenda

15. Rural Broadband

16. Finance

a) External Audit report 2016/17

- The external audit has been completed and the report circulated.

b) Receipts and Payments

- **Receipts** since the last meeting: £ -

- **Payments** since the last meeting: £328.22 Clerk's salary – July 2017

£328.22 Clerk's salary – August 2017

CLERK'S EXPENSES: A schedule of expenses incurred for the first six months of this financial year (April – September 2017) is circulated with the agenda and will be presented for payment at the meeting. For further information on any item shown, please enquire.

17. Delegation of right to represent the PC and vote at:

a) Stancombe Quarry Community Fund – Claire Arbery and Geoff Coombs

- The Fund Arrangements require any two members of the Barrow Gurney Parish Council to represent the PC on the committee. It was originally thought that Geoff (as a Barrow Court resident) and Eric (as Chairman) would be best placed to represent the PC.

- Eric would like to step down as the PC's representative and it is suggested that Claire, as Chair, takes his place.

b) ALCA AGM – Clerk

- Following a review of the ALCA Constitution (as previously circulated), a discussion ensued over the rights of a Clerk to vote at ALCA AGMs.

- Every member Town and Parish Council is permitted voting representation by either two councillors or one councillor and the Clerk.

- It has been agreed that Clerks should obtain formal authority from their respective PC's to vote on all matters at ALCA AGMs if they are to attend under the point above.

18. Open forum for the Parish Council

AGENDA ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN HELD OVER UNTIL NOVEMBER

As a result of a very full agenda this month, the following items will be held over until November:

1. Reassignment of areas of responsibility / interest
2. Village tap
3. Commemoration of the end of WWI