

BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the village hall, Barrow Gurney, on 11 January 2016.

Present: Eric Gates (Chairman), Andy Robbins, Geoff Coombs, Steve King, Claire Arbery, Phil Carnell and Joanna van Tonder (Clerk)

Distribution: The Parish Councillors plus Nick Wilton, Colin Russell and PC Martin Faithfull

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Rob McKenzie, Colin Russell (NSC, Parish Liaison Officer) and PC Martin Faithfull.

2 Declarations of Interest and dispensations

a) Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that Cllr Steve King had dispensation to discuss and vote on matters pertaining to planning applications at the Former Barrow Hospital site. The Clerk advised that Geoff Coombs had declared an interest in a planning application to be addressed under agenda item 7a), that being 15/P/2888/TPO (Barrow Court, Barrow Court Lane).

b) Receive requests for dispensations

No new requests for dispensation were received.

c) Grant requests for dispensations

No new requests for dispensation were received.

3 Minutes of the previous meetings – 4 November (Planning) and 9 November 2015

The minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 4 November and those of the Full Council Meeting on 9 November 2015, having been circulated previously were taken as a true and accurate record.

4 Police report

The Clerk reported there had been one count of burglary on School Lane during October and one count of criminal damage & arson at Barns Close during November. She confirmed both cases were still under investigation.

Eric Gates recommended that, in light of a devastating recent attack, the Barrow Gurney community should be encouraged to show support for the Long Ashton post office shop once it is up and running again.

5 Public Questions

There were no members of the public present.

6 Actions Arising

The following actions arising from the meeting of 21 September 2015 are still outstanding or addressed as follows:

- Telephone Box: Awaiting Mr Coles' availability to paint. Phil Carnell confirmed he had approached Mr Coles on a number of occasions.

- Rural Broadband: Geoff Coombs said that he was still attempting to arrange a conference for North Somerset. He advised that government proposals were expected that would encourage local schemes that could see rural communities taking advantage of available funding to seek

alternative options such as the laying of cables between inter-connecting points. Members discussed the possibility of making use of the Bristol Water pipeline works as well as including ducting in the construction of the Walkways. Members agreed to consider the setting up of a working group in time.

7 Planning

a) Planning applications, consents and refusals since the last meeting

The following planning application has been received:

- 15/P/2698/LB - Proposed replacement windows on all elevations and lime rendering of south and west elevations at The Music House, Barrow Court, Barrow Court Lane

- Council comment: No Objection

- 15/P/2704/EIA1 - Screening opinion as to whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required to be submitted with a planning application for a proposed water pipeline route and associated works along the route of pipeline on land between Cheddar and Barrow Gurney

- The Council heard that affected residents were unhappy that Bristol Water officials had begun preliminary works on their properties before the completion of formalities.

- EIA required

- 15/P/2705/F - Erection of a single storey extension to front and first floor balcony to rear at April Rise, Naish Lane

- Council comment: No Objection

- 15/P/2888/TPO - T1 to T3 - Yew - Reduce back the lateral spread on the arboretum side so the canopy is in line with the wall and clear of masonry; T4 - Atlas Cedar - Reduce the height up to 4m removing the two thinner upper leaders at Barrow Court, Barrow Court Lane

- The Clerk advised that the wording on the application notice should read "*Reduce the height BY 4m ...*" as it is the applicant's intention to remove a maximum of 4m from the height of the Cedar tree.

- It was agreed to submit a comment of "no objection". Geoff Coombs took no part in discussions, nor did he vote, on this matter.

The following planning applications have been granted consent / approval:

- 15/P/2308/F - Construction of an artificial wicket and a cricket net cage at Barrow Gurney Cricket Club, Hobbs Lane, Barrow Gurney

b) Barrow Hospital

Council noted that a decision on the two planning applications submitted in October 2015 was still awaited. Members considered petitioning Nick Wilton to request the applications be referred to a full planning committee.

Action: Eric Gates to establish from Neil Underhay the status of the above

c) South Bristol Link Road (SBLR)

Eric Gates confirmed that works to the railway line bridge would be undertaken from 12 – 14 February. It was noted that there had been a report that the A370 roundabout would become operational before Christmas but this had not happened.

d) Bristol Water Southern Resilience pipeline

Members considered the proposed route of the pipeline and were advised that, due to the requirement for an EIA, the commencement of the project would be delayed until Autumn.

e) Other

WoE's Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) and Joint Transport Study (JTS)

Andy Robbins spoke about the consultation event he had attended with the Clerk and detailed the options tabled under the JSP and JTS. Andy explained that five scenarios had been proposed to address the region's housing needs, being 1) Protection of the Greenbelt, 2) Expansion of the Bristol urban area, 3) Transport focussed strategy, 4) Expansion of existing towns and 5) New settlements. Members debated the options including the expansion of Bristol up to the SBLR and the forgoing of some Greenbelt land.

It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would support the absolute protection of the Greenbelt.

Action: Andy Robbins to circulate a draft comment for submission

8 Village Green

a) Village Green report

No report had been submitted.

Geoff Coombs confirmed the option of commissioning a joint 5 year tree survey with Barrow Court had been favourably received however, was subject to Barrow Court committee approval.

b) Village Green Committee Budget 2016 / 2017

The Clerk presented the Village Green Committee Budget as previously circulated. The increase in the cost of grass cutting, path spraying and strimming was discussed. The Clerk advised that the contract had been increased by two minor strims and one spray. Phil Carnell proposed, Steve King seconded and it was agreed that authority to spend within the confines of the Village Green Committee Budget (copy attached) be granted to the Village Green Committee represented on the Parish Council by Rob McKenzie, and subject to the Council's Financial Regulations.

9 Finance

a) Workplace Pension enrolment

The Clerk advised members that the Council's staging date for compulsory enrolment of eligible employees on to an approved pension scheme was 1 November 2016 and that the choosing of a suitable scheme would be an item for discussion at the AGM in May. She confirmed that, at present, the Council did not have any qualifying staff.

b) Transparency Code Compliance Grant

The Clerk advised the Council that, following advice from ALCA, the submission of the grant request had been suspended to allow the Village Hall Committee an opportunity to submit a quotation for the installation and one year's supply of broadband to the Village Hall, for inclusion in the grant application.

c) Budget 2016 / 2017

The Budget as presented by the Clerk and previously circulated, was discussed. It was agreed to increase the footpath maintenance budget by £500 to £900. Andy Robbins proposed, Phil Carnell seconded and the Budget (copy attached) was agreed.

Action: Andy Robbins to draft a case to support the proposed expenditure on footpaths

d) Precept 2016 / 2017

Phil Carnell proposed, Andy Robbins seconded and it was resolved that Barrow Gurney Parish Council would ask for a Precept of £7,000 for 2016 / 2017.

e) Payments

Claire Arbery proposed, Steve King seconded and it was resolved to ratify the following payments made since the last meeting:-

£321.75	Ms Joanna van Tonder / HMRC	Clerk's salary (November 2015)
£321.75	Ms Joanna van Tonder / HMRC	Clerk's salary (December 2015)

Claire Arbery proposed, Steve King seconded and it was resolved to authorise the following payments to be made:-

£100.39	North Somerset Council	2015 Election expenses
---------	------------------------	------------------------

10 Conservation Area status

Eric Gates advised he had been in contact with the newly appointed Conservation Area Officer, Kate Hudson-McAuley. Members considered the future of Lower Mill Farm, currently vacant, and within the proposed Conservation Area.

11 Highways, pavements, verges and footpaths

a) Action taken by North Somerset Council since the previous meeting

It was reported that verges along the A38 between Fox & Goose and Wagon & Horses still had not been cut back.

b) Condition of roads, pavements, verges and footpaths

The following reports were received:

- Pothole at the corner of Wild Country Lane / Hern Lane – proving a hazard for the school bus
- Pothole around the drain cover on Barrow Street
- Blocked gully opposite Hilltop, Barrow Street spilling water across the carriageway
- Water pouring from the Reservoir wall towards Dundry on A38
- Caravan parked on the pavement on the A38
- Litter in the verges along the A38
- "Barrow Gurney" sign missing from the A38 end of Barrow Street

Action: Clerk to report on Council Connect

Action: Andy Robbins to report drains at his next meeting with NSC

Members discussed the devolution of services such as hedge and verge maintenance and it was suggested Barrow Gurney could offer itself as a pilot parish.

An annual Litter Pick was suggested and members were advised that NSC could provide volunteers with litter pickers and other equipment.

c) Footpaths - general

Andy Robbins circulated an illustrative map and draft letter to Neil Underhay, NSC supporting the establishment of a Public Right of Way between Wild Country Lane and the redundant spur approaching the Barrow Hospital grounds linked to Monarch's Way, as a condition to development of the Barrow Hospital site. After discussion, it was agreed to make an amendment to the wording of the last paragraph and submit the letter.

Members discussed the footpath between the Hospital Cottages and the centre of the village and it was agreed this path should be upgraded.

Andy Robbins confirmed the recently renovated Reservoir footpaths had proven successful.

d) Link to the Future

Village Walkways

Andy Robbins circulated a summary of the results of the consultation survey showing overwhelming support for the proposals by the respondents. It was agreed to circulate the findings through the parish magazine and village e-mail.

Members discussed the options for the Village Green boundary being a stone wall, post and chain or hedge of reduced height. Andy Robbins advised he was meeting with NSC the next day.

12 Open Forum for the Parish Council

a) Meetings attended by Parish Council members and matters to report

Claire Arbery reported she and Phil Carnell had attended a meeting set up by Winford PC with Bristol Airport to discuss the Downside / A38 traffic lights. She confirmed that there had been an improvement in the flow of traffic through the lights and, with further works still to come, it was anticipated that this would continue. Claire advised there would be another meeting in April.

Claire Arbery reported she, Andy Robbins and Phil Carnell had attended the Christmas get-together held at Bristol Airport. Claire advised there had been concern voiced over the Welsh Assembly's proposed reduction to airport tax that could encourage airlines away from Bristol in favour of Cardiff Airport.

13 Future meetings

Dates of future meetings: 14 March, 9 May, 11 July, 12 September, 14 November 2016

The meeting closed at 10:20 pm.

BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

minute 8(b)

Clerk:
Ms Joanna van Tonder
151 California Road
Oldland Common
BS30 9PP
Tel: 07586 437769

VILLAGE GREEN BUDGET 2016 / 2017

	<u>Actual</u> for the year ending 31/03/12	<u>Actual</u> for the year ending 31/03/13	<u>Actual</u> for the year ending 31/03/14	<u>Actual</u> for the year ending 31/03/15	<u>Estimated</u> for the year ending 31/03/16	<u>Budget</u> for the year ending 31/03/17
Annual expenditure:						
Grass cutting	1,125	720	540	770	850	900
Path spraying		50	75	105	108	144
Strimming		15	50	105	166	206
Annual playground inspection	63	63	60	60	63	63
Remedial repairs to playground					192	300
Contingency		40			300	300
	<u>1,188</u>	<u>888</u>	<u>725</u>	<u>1,040</u>	<u>1,678</u>	<u>1,913</u>
Extraordinary expenditure:						
5 year Tree Survey	300					400
Resurfacing of paths		850		300		
Replacement swings		407	150			
	<u>300</u>	<u>1,257</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>400</u>
TOTAL	<u>1,488</u>	<u>2,145</u>	<u>875</u>	<u>1,340</u>	<u>1,678</u>	<u>2,313</u>

BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

BUDGET 2016 / 2017

	Notes	Actual for the year ending 31/03/14	Actual for the year ending 31/03/15	Estimated for the year ending 31/03/16	Budget for the year ending 31/03/17
EXPENDITURE					
Annual General expenditure:					
Clerk's Salary	1	3,777.96	3,818.99	3,861	3,861
Clerk's Telephone expenses		27.80	69.20	45	30
Clerk's Travel allowances		7.20	61.30	79	55
Training			95.00	35	120
Printing & Stationery		91.63	80.91	64	70
Postage		32.40	20.16	38	40
IT expenses				43	50
Insurance	2	410.56	317.28	343	365
Subscriptions		220.41	228.84	234	239
Data Protection Registration Fee		35.00	35.00	35	35
Grants	3	50.00	50.00	50	50
Annual Village Hall hire		350.00	350.00	350	350
Annual Audit Fees		175.00	30.17	20	25
Wreath for War Memorial		20.00	20.00	20	20
Village Green		724.95	1,039.95	1,678	1,913
Footpath Maintenance			400.00	400	900
Village Maintenance					400
War Memorial		134.36	75.00	75	75
General Contingency				0	100
Other	4	60.00			
		6,117.27	6,691.80	7,368	8,697
Extraordinary expenditure:					
Parish Council Elections				100	
Village Green: 5 year tree survey					400
Village Green: resurfacing paths			300.00		
Village Green: replacement swings		150.26			
		150.26	300.00	100	400
Projects subsidised by grants:					
A38 walkways project	5			1,860	
Website set-up (Transparency Code compliance)				159	
		0.00	0.00	2,019	0
VAT paid on expenses to be reclaimed		72.55	23.46	42	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		6,340.08	7,015.26	9,530	9,097
INCOME					
Precept		7,000.00	6,500.00	7,500	7,000
Council Tax Benefit Grant (NSC)		266.93	219.02	167	176
Village Orderly Grant		100.00	100.00	100	100
VAT reclaimed from previous year		270.80	72.55	23	42
Interest earned		18.78	22.99	7	
Grants received	5	732.50		1,925	159
TOTAL INCOME		8,389.01	6,914.56	9,723	7,477
BUDGET EXCESS / (SHORTFALL)					-1,621
RESERVES					
Anticipated Cash Balances at FYE 31/03/16	6				12,286
Less: 2016/2017 Budget Shortfall					-1,621
Less: Unspent grants received	5				-2,633
Less: Earmarked reserves	7				-250
RESERVE available for FYE 31/03/17					7,782
% of annual general expenditure					89%
EFFECT ON BAND D EQUIVALENT HOUSEHOLDS					
Tax Base (No. Band D equivalent properties)	8	155.02	160.40	183.70	207.20
£ per Band D equivalent household		45.16	40.52	40.83	33.78
				% increase	-17.25%

P1/2

BARROW GURNEY PARISH COUNCIL

minute 9(c)
cont.

BUDGET 2016 / 2017 - Notes to the Budget

1. Clerk's Salary

Clerk's Salary is based on 7.5 hours per week and on the salary scale recommended by the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks.

2. Insurance

Insurance cover has been budgeted according to an estimate provided by Came & Co. that takes into account an increase in Insurance Premium Tax from 6% to 9.5%.

3. Grants

The Grants budget has been set in line with the Grants and Charitable Donations Policy.

4. Other

5. Projects subsidised by Grants

	<u>Net surplus / (deficit) BROUGHT FORWARD</u>	<u>Grant received</u>	<u>Project expenditure</u>	<u>Net surplus / (deficit) CARRIED FORWARD</u>
Closure of Survey Fund account (FYE 31/03/13)	285.77			285.77
Bristol Airport Community Fund (FYE 31/03/13) (Link to the Future)	50.00			50.00
Cemex grant for materials (FYE 31/03/13) (A38 walkways project)	1,500.00			1,500.00
Walkways Working Group fundraising (FYE 31/03/14)	732.50			732.50
Bristol Airport Community Fund (FYE 31/03/16) - anticipated cost of A38 crossing		1,925.00	1,859.71	65.29
Anticipated Transparency Code Compliance grant - expenditure on annual Spanglefish site fee (FYE 31/03/16) - anticipated expenditure on additional wages		159.00	20.79 138.60	-0.39
	<u>2,568.27</u>	<u>2,084.00</u>	<u>2,019.10</u>	<u>2,633.17</u>

6. Anticipated Cash Balances at FYE 31/03/16

@ 30/11/2015	
Current account	17,259.95
Deposit account	<u>2.44</u>
	17,262.39
Less: unpaid estimated expenditure	-4,976.23
Add: anticipated receipts not yet banked	<u>0.00</u>
	12,286.16

7. Earmarked Reserves

	<u>Earmarked Reserves BROUGHT FORWARD</u>	<u>Unspent budget earmarked</u>	<u>Expenditure against earmarked reserves</u>	<u>Earmarked Reserves CARRIED FORWARD</u>
Footpath LA3/14: reinstate Reservoir circuit (FYE 31/03/15, Minute 11(c) 11/11/2014) - Contribution to NSC to reinstate Reservoir footpaths	400.00		400.00	0.00
Village Green: replacement of War Memorial tree (FYE 31/03/16, VGC Minute 3 07/12/2015)		250.00		250.00
	<u>400.00</u>	<u>250.00</u>	<u>400.00</u>	<u>250.00</u>

8. Tax Base (No. of Band D Equivalent Properties)

The increase in tax base from 183.70 in FYE 31/03/16 to 207.20 for FYE 31/03/17 takes into account the anticipated properties expected to be completed and sold on the Barrow Hospital site in the forthcoming financial year.

P 2/2