



MINUTES

FOR THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 18TH MARCH 2021 COMMENCING 7.00PM, VIA ZOOM

Present:	Cllrs Jean Brown (Chair), Elizabeth Kinder, Sarah Parry, Diane Chiappi
In attendance:	Mrs Victoria Wilson (Clerk), Borough Cllr David Birtwhistle and one member of the public

21/022. To receive apologies for absence and consider approval

None were received.

21/023. To receive declarations of interest

None were received.

21/024. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 28th January 2021

It was resolved to accept and sign the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 28th January 2021 (previously circulated) as a correct record. Following discussions at the last meeting, Cllr Brown raised further concerns regarding Redrow Homes' drainage into Barrow Brook and it was resolved to contact RVBC once again.

21/025. To adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion

No members of the public were present at this time.

21/026. To consider PACT issues (Police and Communities Together)

The report provided by PCSO Katie Ferguson (previously circulated) was discussed.

21/027. To consider the parish council's insurance quotation for 2021/22

The Clerk reported on three quotations provided by brokers Came & Co for the parish council's insurance policy for 2021/22. Members resolved to accept the level of cover detailed in the quotation from Pen Underwriting Ltd and authorised a payment of £838.82. It was agreed not to accept the three-year binding long-term agreement.

21/028. To consider repair works by Proludic at Barrow Playing Field

Following discussions with Proludic and the offer of a further discount for repair works to the Hip Hop play equipment on Barrow Playing Field, it was resolved to authorise the repairs rather than obtain a new piece of equipment. It was resolved to install a concrete base underneath the basketball net and the Clerk would contact the Lengthsman to carry out the work. The poor state of the picnic tables and benches was discussed, and it was agreed that the Clerk would obtain quotes for replacement items, preferably in a composite material, and the location of the items would be discussed at a later date. It was resolved that the damaged benches would be gifted to Cllr Chiappi and the Clerk.

21/029. To approve as a correct record the 2020/21 accounts to date and authorise payments

It was resolved that the 2020/21 accounts to date, together with the bank reconciliation and budget comparison as at 26th February 2021 are approved and accepted. The accounts show an opening balance of £6,770.98, receipts of £14,118.24 and expenditure of £8,399.18, leaving a balance carried forward of £12,490.04. It was resolved to formally authorise the following accounts for payment:

	Chq no.	Net £	VAT £	Gross £
RVBC 2020/21 grounds maintenance	100167	340.00	68.00	408.00
Came & Co Insurance to 31/03/2022	100168	838.82	0.00	838.82
E.On Electricity for Christmas lights	100169	41.75	2.09	43.84
Mrs V Wilson, Clerk Salary £867.30, use of home £34.66, reimbursement £77.37 January and February 2021	100170	966.43	12.90	979.33
Proludic Repairs to equipment on Barrow Playing Field	100171	1,377.13	275.43	1,652.56

21/030. To consider arrangements for the recruitment of a new parish council clerk

Cllr Brown reported on progress of the recruitment of a new parish council clerk and it was resolved that she and Cllr Street would carry out interviews via zoom, and the current clerk would also attend. If appropriate, an offer of employment would be made following interviews. It is expected that the current clerk would leave employment by 30th April 2021, but this date will depend on appointing a replacement clerk.

21/031. To receive a report on recent planning applications and RVBC decisions relating to Barrow

Cllr Brown discussed a planning report (previously circulated) on recent planning applications relating to Barrow and the tree work recently carried out on Rowland Homes land, adjacent to Barrow Brook.

21/032. To discuss correspondence received regarding the housing development by Reilly Homes

Correspondence between a resident and RVBC regarding the ongoing housing development by Reilly Homes was noted. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

21/033. To consider matters relating to the car park:**i. Request by Mulbury Homes to lease a section of the car park during construction works**

After lengthy discussions, it was resolved that the Clerk would reply to Mulbury Homes to advise that the parish council was not opposed to their request. It was noted that under the terms of the lease, the parish council was not allowed to charge parking fees but would open discussions on a contribution towards improvements to the car park, Barrow Playing Field and other green areas in the village. Members discussed the amount of contribution they would accept, based on advice from RVBC regarding car park charges.

ii. Repairs to the surfacing

It was noted that work to improve the car park surfacing and spread the road chippings had not yet been carried out due to Covid restrictions. It was resolved that the most urgent work was to fill the potholes and clear the vegetation and this should form part of discussions with Mulbury Homes.

iii. The lease of garages on the car park

The Clerk advised that the legal agreement for rental of the two garages had not yet been finalised but would be sent to the garage owner ahead of the new financial year.

Following discussions with the Bay Horse Inn and RVBC, it was resolved to allow the pub to use a small section of the car park adjacent to their property for customer tables. The permission would be subject to certain conditions and remain in place until Covid restrictions on indoor drinking are removed. The Clerk would draw up the agreement and arrange for it to be signed by the Licensee.

iv. Registration of the parish council's lease with RVBC at the Land Registry

The Clerk reported that RVBC required completion of a further legal form to register the car park lease with the Land Registry. It was resolved that Cllr Brown would act as representative for the parish council and visit a local firm of solicitors to verify the document at a cost of £35.

21/034. To discuss correspondence from RVBC in response to a request for a review of parish boundaries

It was noted that correspondence received from the Chief Executive at RVBC stated that he did not consider this an appropriate time to carry out a review of parish boundaries. Cllr Birtwhistle advised that he had been in discussions with RVBC Legal Services regarding the requirements for a residents' petition for a community governance review and would circulate the information. Further discussions were deferred to the next meeting.

21/035. To consider highway matters, including dangerous driving on Whalley Road and future highway works

Correspondence from LCC regarding future highway works was discussed and the introduction of a 30mph speed limit on Clitheroe Road and works to improve the junction of the A59 / A671 / Whalley Road were welcomed. Borough Cllr Birtwhistle advised that he had been in contact with LCC regarding dangerous driving along Whalley Road and speed monitor lines would be laid outside Trafford Gardens shortly. He had also requested RVBC's Environmental Health department monitor air quality along Whalley Road following the increase in traffic in recent years and the nearby housing developments. Borough Cllr Birtwhistle advised that he was not aware of any objections from residents to LCC's proposals for the installation of road markings for a bus stop outside Old Row.

21/036. To consider correspondence with Rowland Homes regarding the land adjacent to Barrow Brook and discuss the present condition of the land

The Clerk advised that she had not received a reply from Rowland Homes regarding the parish council's request to transfer only the pathways. It was resolved that, if it was not possible to split the land, the parish council should proceed with discussions to transfer all the land. Borough Cllr Birtwhistle reported the information he had gathered regarding tree maintenance and possible liabilities and it was agreed to investigate the possibility of grants. Cllr Brown advised that a formal request could be made for Barrow Action Group funds. It was agreed to approach Rowland Homes to request further documents to accurately assess the parish council's risk if the land is transferred.

21/037. To consider work to the grassed areas on Whalley Road, near Redrow Homes estate and at Trafford Gardens

Cllr Brown and Borough Cllr Birtwhistle agreed to obtain landscaping advice from their contacts and would report back at the next meeting. It was resolved to ask the Lengthsman to varnish the various benches around the village.

21/038. To consider entry into Lancashire's Best Kept Village Competition 2021

It was resolved that Barrow would not enter the competition in 2021 due to the issues arising from construction work on housing developments within the village.

21/039. To receive a report from Cllr Street as governor at Barrow Primary School This item was deferred as Cllr Street was not present.

21/040. To receive a report on recent activity from Whalley, Wiswell and Barrow Joint Burial Committee from Cllr Brown

Cllr Brown discussed matters arising from the last committee meeting (report previously circulated).

21/041. To receive a report on RVBC's Parish Councils Liaison Committee meeting and decide on a representative for the next meeting on 1st April 2021

There was a discussion on the minutes (previously circulated) and it was resolved that Cllr Brown would represent the parish council at the next meeting on 1st April 2021, via zoom.

21/042. To decide on the dates and arrangements for future parish council meetings

It was resolved to hold the Annual Open Parish Meeting at 7.15pm on Monday 24th May 2021, followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting, both via zoom.

21/043. To consider any other business

- i. Cllr Parry discussed the increasing number of rats witnessed in the village in recent months.
- ii. Borough Cllr Birtwhistle discussed the cost of renovations at Barrow Primary School.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Signed by Chair..... Date.....