

BARROW UPON SOAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Full Council held on
11th January 2022 at 7pm at the Methodist Church, North Street

PRESENT

Cllrs A Beckett, R Billson, C Cox, E Ellingworth, S Ellingworth, C Forrest, S Forrest, A Goater, S Gudger, A Kingham, L Kingham, P Ranson, EJ Rodgers, J Rodgers and S Sharpe

In attendance

Mrs A Gardam – Clerk & RFO
Mrs H Duxbury – Deputy Clerk

99. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

None.

100. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Councillors to declare interests relevant to agenda items
None.

101. TO CONFIRM AND SIGN OFF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 7th DECEMBER 2021

RESOLVED the minutes are signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

102. FINANCIAL MATTERS – December Financial Papers circulated via email.

- a. To receive for approval and to sign off.
 - i. Nett position by Cost Centre and Code report
 - ii. Bank Reconciliation**RESOLVED** to approve as presented.
- b. Schedule of Receipts and Payments to date
The total expenditure for December was £13,916.13.
The total income for December was £304.37.
- c. To consider/approve the following costs:
 - i. Installation of Jerusalem Island tap.
 - d. A quotation for the tap was not available but a quotation of £675 had been provided for a cupboard to go round the tap and for storing the watering can. This will be discussed further once the quotation for the tap has been received.
 - i. SLCC 3-day event for £75.
RESOLVED to approve attendance of both the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk.
 - ii. Tree Audit 2022 - £950.
RESOLVED to approve.

103. TO UPDATE ON LCC HIGWAYS FUND

Cllr H Fryer had emailed to say that the application had been submitted. LCC has over 400 applications to assess therefore it could be some time before a response is received.

104. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Planning Committee – 2nd December

Noted.

Cemetery Extension Committee – 14th December

The start time on the minutes needs amending from 2pm to 11am.

- i. To award delegated powers to the Committee to appoint a contractor.

As the next Full Council is before the contractor's response deadline it was agreed that it would not be necessary to award delegated powers.

RESOLVED to accept the recommendations.

105. POLICY AND FINANCE MEETING – 10TH JANUARY 2022

- i. To approve and sign the 2022 – 23 budget and precept application.

Cllr S Forrest and the Clerk updated on the recent correspondence with CBC regarding the S106 application for the cemetery extension and the request for an extension to the deadline for the precept submission.

Despite receiving our S106 funding application in October and constant reminders, CBC Heads of Service will not be in a position to confirm the £100,000 needed for the cemetery extension before the precept application deadline of 14th January. A request for an extension to the deadline has been refused. This has created a difficult situation for the committee in confirming the precept as if the funding for the cemetery extension is not agreed the precept would need to be adjusted to fund the extension. The agreement is subject to the approval of the developer, Jelson, as the funding source. CBC has written to Jelson to seek approval, this was only done at the beginning of January.

Simon Jackson, CBC Strategic Director of Environmental & Corporate Services, has confirmed the following in writing. The correspondence is attached and will be filed with the minutes.

- 'The £100k can be regarded as 'agreed' by the Borough Council; I have discussed this matter with both the Chief Executive and relevant Head of Service, and we have concluded that it is appropriate to authorise this sum – this is now purely an administrative process from the Borough point of view
- We think it is highly unlikely that Jelsons would object to the proposed use of the fund; additionally, we note that the legal agreement states that they must not 'unreasonably withhold approval' – so essentially, we believe that approval from Jelsons is principally a matter of administration from their side also
- We have written to Jelson seeking approval for the proposed use of the s106 funding; if we do not hear anything in the next few days, we will follow the matter up with them'

Mr Jackson continued with the following advice:

'I do not believe that the above should be any barrier to setting the precept. I strongly suggest that given the high likelihood that the £100k s106 monies will be received, that the precept be set on this basis. It is fair to say that this is an assumption, or estimate, but it is one where a key partner to the Parish Council (the Borough) is advising you that it is highly likely to materialise. I believe that in making such an assumption the Parish would be acting reasonably and in good faith. I cannot see any ethical problems in adopting such an approach.

In terms of risk management, and what would happen in the unlikely event that s106 monies are not received, I note that the lower tier councils - Towns and Parishes – are not currently subject to council tax capping rules, so if additional funds were required these could be raised by increasing the 2023/24 precept. If this created a cash flow issue over 2022/23 arising from the need to pay contractors in this financial year then, given the circumstances, the Borough Council would be prepared to offer a short-term bridging loan to cover the funding gap.'

RESOLVED to approve the Policy and Finance committee's recommendation to set the precept on the presumption that the funding will be received. (P&F minute ref 51)

It was further **RESOLVED** to accept the following precept recommendation:

Barrow upon Soar Parish Council confirms its budget for the 2022-23 financial year showing estimated payments of £415,945, estimated income of £7700 and a £175,650 contribution from reserves, resulting in a net cost to Barrow Parish Council of £232,595 and that a precept be made on Charnwood Borough Council for the sum of £232,595 to be paid in two equal instalments by 30th April and 30th September.

The Precept application forms were duly signed by the Chair, 2 Councillors and the Clerk.

Full Council also **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation to write a letter of complaint to CBC, via our Borough Councillor, Cllr Pauline Ranson, regarding the following issues:

- i. The S106 funding application process needs to be scrutinised
- ii. Better communication systems need implementing
- iii. Responses to other outstanding issues with CBC that are still awaited.

Cllrs S Gudger and P Ranson abstained.

All other recommendations from the Policy and Finance committee were approved.

106. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCIL

A report from the County Councillor had not been received.

The Health Centre is providing monthly information sheets for residents. Cllr Ranson will deliver them to the office to be displayed in the office window.

Cllr Ranson thanked the Helping Hands group for all their hard work.

Cllr C Forrest advised that there are 3 benches in Piets Close that are in a poor state of repair.

A request has been made for a sign at the Melton Road end of Shooting Close Lane (I36) stating that it is not suitable for large vehicles. An email will be sent to LCC.

107. TO DISCUSS CORRESPONDENCE

- i. Memorial Bench Application

A request has been received to install a memorial bench and trees on Willow Road.

RESOLVED to support the request.

- ii. Letter from Library Committee

The Library Committee had advised that they are experiencing issues with people parking across the entrance to their car park. They have asked if the Parish Council would support the painting of criss cross lines at the entrance to the car park. The Clerk has already advised that they would need to contact their County Cllr and LCC Highways.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the idea of painting criss cross lines and to advise the library committee to contact Cllr Fryer.

108. TO CONFIRM PLANS FOR THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The Love it Local team has been busy making arrangements for the celebrations. A meeting will be set up to confirm the plans. The Clerk suggested creating a working party to plan the event.

The following Councillors agreed to be part of the Working Party - Cllrs Chris Cox, Sue Ellingworth, Claire Forrest, Antonia Goater and Sharon Gudger. The date of the first meeting will be confirmed in due course.

For those residents who would like to close the road to hold a street party it was agreed to ask LCC if the cost of the road closure is being waived for the Jubilee.

109. TO REPORT ON ATTENDANCE AT EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Cllr Gudger advised that a meeting will be arranged soon to discuss the Thomas Rawlins Fund.

110. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 1st FEBRUARY 2022

Noted.

111. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

SIGNED.....
CHAIRMAN

DATE.....