

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2011.**

**Present:** – Elaine Philpott Chairman

Viv O'Dunne	John Russell
Sara Fearn	Tony Dodd
Steve Hall	Gareth Jones
Sheila Perkin	

**Apologies:** Peter Stevenson, Paul Fisher

**In attendance:** Ian Parry and Kerry Ashdown ( Staffordshire Newsletter)

Before the meeting opened a prayer was said for Peter Proctor who had passed away on December 26<sup>th</sup> 2010. His dedication and work for both the Parish and Borough Councils was outlined by the Chairman who hoped Councillors would attend his forthcoming funeral.

**Open Forum**

121. No parishioners turned up for this forum

**Minutes of the meeting held on December 7<sup>th</sup> 2010**

<b>122: RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes of the meeting held on December 7 <sup>th</sup> be approved and signed by the Chairman.
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**Matters arising**

123a.) Minute 109b) It was agreed that a check on gaining non urgent appointment at the Health Centre should be made during January by Councillors. It was noted that some improvements to gaining appointments within 48 hours were noted.

b.) Minute 110d.) It had not been possible to action this because of the severe cold weather.

c.) Minute 110f.) The Clerk would contact Network Rail again as there were ongoing concerns.

d.) Minute 111e.) No estimate for this work had been received to date.

**Report by Chairman**

124a.)The Chairman read out an article in the current edition of the Sentinel regarding recent comments on the stations at Wedgwood and Barlaston. She again had reiterated to the local press the Council view and felt that the letter written criticising the Council stance on the matter was ignoring the views held by the Council.

b.) It was agreed that the Council would not change their view on this matter and were not convinced as the article had suggested that there was a large body of opinion supporting the re-opening of the stations which in the current economic climate unlikely to be actioned.

125. A mock up of the proposed "green bag" was shown and the Clerk was asked to contact Wedgwood to arrange a meeting to gain possible support for the production of the bags estimated at £1700.

126. A tribute to the late Peter Proctor was agreed to be sent to the Stafford Newsletter for publication.

### **Report by County Councillor**

127. Councillor Parry outlined the priority areas for gritting being the strategic routes through the County. All roads had been kept open during the recent severe weather and grit stocks were being replenished.

128. He was aware of several local areas such as Barlaston Park where there had been problems especially with footpaths but all small strategic supplies of grit could be made available from Highways if there was a problem locally.

129. The proposed HS2 link through Staffordshire had been objected to by the County Council; it was thought the proposed route was planned to run to the east of Stone.

130. The Council agreed to keep Councillor Parry informed in relation to the success rate in gaining non urgent appointments at the Barlaston Health Centre within 48 hours.

131. Councillor Parry indicated that over the next four years budget savings of £120 million were planned across the County.

### **Report by Borough Councillor**

132. Councillor Russell reported that the Borough Council development Committee would recommend no further action over the marquee at The Villas, Old road Barlaston as it did not exceed the height limits for such a structure.

133. It was noted that the stables in the field by the Gas Governor Station were moveable and as such did not infringe the planning regulations.

134. The disruption to the bin collection across the Parish was noted and a number of problems had arisen.

135. Councillor Russell expressed his concern regarding skips of rubbish standing on Longton Road and in Flaxman Close where building renovation work to properties was ongoing.

## Finance Report

136. The following items were considered and approved

	<b>NET</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
a.) Neil Hemmings Accommodation and Telephone Rental & Postage	£48.00		£48.00

b.) The December salaries for the Clerk, Transport Co-ordinator and litter pickers have been met.

c.) A meeting of the Finance committee was arranged for 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011 to consider the Precept for 2011. The full Council would meet after this to ratify the Precept and Concurrent Allowances.

d.) The Borough Council have raised the tax base for the Parish by £2.35 to £1049.56 which will impact upon the Precept.

e.) The Concurrent Function allowance has been reduced to £2569 i.e. £659.

f.) In preparing a Budget forecast the Council will need to consider their generous subsidies to the Village Hall, Church and Cricket Club from April 2011.

g.) The possibility of an election would be expensive but at this point the costs were not known.

### Voluntary Transport Scheme

137. It was noted that there had been nine trips organised: two to Stafford Hospital, five to Stone, one to Barlaston Health Centre, one to the Londis shop.

### Village Plan

138a.) Councillor Jones reported he had undertaken some preliminary work by looking at plans for other villages that had proved worthwhile for the improvement of the area.

b.) A meeting was to be held on January 19<sup>th</sup> to consider ways forward through an audit, a sample questionnaire followed by analysis of the responses before a full questionnaire and the development and writing of a full plan for full Council approval in May 2011.

c.) There was discussion on the links between the Localism Bill and the impact Village plans could have on the Borough Council. Several sources of support to fund the plan would be sought.

d.) A full report on the work to date would be submitted to the next meeting.

### Nominations for Parish Council Elections May 2011

139a.) The vacancy for a Borough Councillor would not be filled before the May elections

b.)The Chairman asked all the Councillors to consider their position for nomination to a new Council and to inform the Clerk if they wished to decline nomination.

### **Progress report on the publication of the Heron.**

140. A meeting to discuss the next edition was being held on January 5<sup>th</sup>. 2011. It was agreed that Councillor O'Dunne would convey upto date information to the editorial meeting.

### **Certificates of Commendation Presentation Event February 19<sup>th</sup> 2011.**

141.a.) After discussion it was agreed to change the date and venue for this event.

b.)It was agreed that the event would take place on February 27<sup>th</sup> 2011 at the United Service in the Methodist Church at 12 noon.

c.)The Clerk would await confirmation of these details and then contact the recipients of the award.

### **Correspondence and Clerk's Report**

142. All the correspondence was noted as well as the actions taken by the Clerk.

### **Any other business – Agenda items for meeting to be held on February 1<sup>st</sup>. 2011**

143. It was agreed to include the Golden Jubilee Award, Children's Play Area and the development and use of the Barlaston web site as items on the Agenda.

### **Note by Clerk**

144. The Parish Council meeting closed and members re-convened as the Village Hall Trustees.

### **Village Hall Committee Report**

145a.)It was agreed that the Clerk would pursue the purchase and erection of direction signs for the Village Hall.

b.)There had been a burst in the Hall

c.)The next social event was the Steve Steinhaus Swing Band on February 19<sup>th</sup> 2011.

**Chairman**