

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 1st February 2011.**

Present: – Elaine Philpott Chairman

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

Apologies None

In attendance: Ursula Bennion, Ian Yeoman & Charlie Riley (Housing Plus), Maurice Clark, Charles Walklate & Lesley Walklate, Patrick Lineham (residents) & Terry Rushton and Zoe Hollingsworth from the Douglas McMillan Hospice.

Open Forum

146a.)The arrangements for the Douglas Macmillan 5k run/walk to be held on April 3rd. 2011 were noted. Terry and Zoe thanked the Council for their ongoing support which helped to raise substantial funds for the Hospice.

b.) It was agreed that the Council would distribute leaflets outlining the event and these would be distributed via the Clerk along with the Heron.

c.) The local First Responders would again assist and it was noted that the organisers had liaised with Wedgwood over car parking arrangements and other potential liabilities.

147a.)The representatives from **Housing Plus** outlined their generic plans relating to possible affordable housing sites in the Borough. They identified through detailed notes examples of the processes and outcomes of the scheme.

b.) They were giving presentations to local Parishes and local residents present raised the issue of a possible site that had been referred to in the recent edition of the Staffordshire Newsletter.

c.) The Chairman requested clarification on this matter and it was confirmed no site was under discussion in the Parish. The article was misleading and the information inaccurate.

d.)A housing needs survey was the next stage of the process if the Parish Council wishes to move the process forward; if a need was identified potential sites would be sought.

e.) Site appraisals would follow; sites not in the greenbelt were preferred.

f.) Full public consultation takes place in the event of a site proposal moving forward.

g.)The Council agreed to consider all the issues raised in the discussions.

Minutes of the meeting held on January 4th 2011

148: RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on January 4th 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising from the Minutes

- 149a.) With regard to Minute 123 Councillor Jones reported on the results of the survey of GP appointments carried out in January and the survey results prompted general concern at the time taken to gain non urgent appointments.
- b.) It was agreed that representation to the South Staffs. PCT be made and it was agreed that the information gained in the survey initially be shared with them and a copy sent to Councillor Parry.
- c.)Minute 123c.) The Clerk had not been contacted by Network Rail on the matter.
- d.)Minute 125- dates for a meeting with Wedgwood on support for the bags were awaited.
- e.) Minute 131 should read £120 million not £120.
- f.) Minute 139b.) It was noted that all the existing Councillors would consider re election in May 2011.
- g.)Minute 140 it was noted that the Heron would be published later in the week and that Lynne Coates had stood down as the Editor. A letter of thanks for all her work on the publication was agreed.
- h.)Minute145- it was agreed that the Clerk would pursue the erection of 3 black and white signs on Station Road and Longton Road to indicate the location of the Village Hall. The signs would be double sided approximately 70 centimetres by 25 centimetres.

Report by Chairman

- 150a.)The Chairman commented on the poor state of the grassed area in Meadow Road where vehicles had parked on the grass. The Clerk would contact Stafford & Rural Homes on the matter.
- b.)She had received a complaint about the behaviour of a new male resident from Meadow Court. The Clerk would contact Stafford & Rural Homes on the matter.
- c.)The Camper van parked on Orchard place was an ongoing issue. The Clerk would contact Stafford & Rural Homes on the matter.
- d.)Cars were being parked on the grass verges and pavement in Pear Tree Close.
- e.)Notices indicating that rat poison had been placed by the pools at Wedgwood had been noticed; the Clerk would speak to Wedgwood on the matter as the poison could be dangerous to animals.

Report by Borough Councillor

- 151a.)Councillor Russell reported that after due deliberation by Stafford B.C.'s lawyers there will be no further action on the Marquee at the Villa as new rules allow.
- b.)The application to remove the Agricultural Condition on the Nursery House has been refused.
- c.)The conversion of the old Chapel off Tittensor Road has been allowed.
- d.) The proposed new dwelling in 75 Longton Road was on the point of refusal but was withdrawn by applicant to get a bat survey.
- e.)He has asked Councillor Ian Parry to clarify the rules on Concessionary fares, with the X1 timetabled to come through before 9.30am but it is usually well after - as long as the bus is late most passengers will not have to pay, but they could be unlucky if the bus is on time.
- f.) The next Neighbourhood Watch meeting is on Tuesday February 15th. 7.30pm at Cricket Club.
- g.) The funding set aside for improvements to the Canal towpath from Barlaston to Meaford had been withdrawn.
- h.) The likely closure of the police station in Stone was noted with concern and regret.

Heron Distribution

- 152a.)It was agreed to review the existing distribution schedules as there were areas that needed additional coverage.
- b.)The Clerk would address this and noted the offers of various Councillors to deliver extra copies.
- c.)Some 70 copies would have to be posted to the outlying areas of Hartwell and Cocknage, Councillor Russell would help to post if required.
- d.)The Clerk would distribute the copies to Councillors once the leaflet from the Douglas Macmillan Hospice had been received.

Finance Report

153. The following items were considered and approved

	NET	VAT	Total Cost
a.) Neil Hemmings Accommodation and Computer Anti- virus software	£63.97		£63.97
b.) Biffa Waste Services-	£50.78	£8.89	£59.67

Cricket Club				
c.) Lynne Coates-web domain renewal	£14.09		£14.09	
d.) British Gas- Village Hall	£1016.08	£203.21	£1219.29	
e.) Civic amenity visits	£170.02	£31.93	£201.95	

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

g.) A meeting of the Finance committee had been held and the minutes of the meeting had been circulated and were discussed.

h.)The proposals to manage expenditure made at the Finance Meeting were agreed. The retention of a contingency was noted as well as the other proposed alterations in expenditure.

i.)It was resolved to set the Parish Precept for 2011/12 at £29000 and to request the full concurrent allowance.

Voluntary Transport Scheme

154a.) It was noted that there had been eight trips organised: one to Stafford Hospital, three to Stone, two to Barlaston Health Centre, one to Newcastle and one to Trent Vale.

b.) Rosa Jackson was putting up the charges as a result of the recent cost of fuel. The Clerk would ask her for the revised charges.

Village Plan

156a.)Councillor Jones reported on the progress to date

b.)A methodology for an initial survey of 100 households had been agreed and the results of this would be tabled at the next meeting.

Children's Play Area

157a.)The feasibility of a children's play area was considered but no specific location favoured.

b.)It was agreed to defer further discussion on this matter until the questionnaires for the Village Plan had been analysed.

Parish Website

158a.)Most of the Council had taken the opportunity to view the proposed live website produced by Lynne Coates in the mobile library earlier in the evening.

b.)Councillors considered a report on the village website together with a range of options to upgrade and maintain the site.

- c.) It was noted that there would be some costs to maintaining and developing a website whichever option was adopted; Lynne Coates indicated in her report that she would "be happy to remain as Webmaster".
- d.) The Chairman would contact Lynne Coates to outline the discussions at the meeting.
- e.) It was noted that there was local expertise in the Parish and Councillor Dodd indicated that Steven Parry Thomas might be able to assist.
- f.) Further discussion on the potential costs and agreed way forward was needed and the matter would be placed on the next Agenda.

Matters arising from the Open Forum

- 159a.) It was agreed that further discussion on the issue of affordable housing was needed at the next meeting.
- b.) It was agreed to consider the issue in the light of the Village Plan survey.

Certificates of Commendation Presentation Event February 27th 2011.

- 160.a.) The Clerk had only received confirmation that two of the recipients could attend; one other was on holiday and he had not heard from the fourth recipient.

Golden Jubilee Award 2011

- 161a.) There were four nominations made: Beryl Whalley, Tony Dodd, Sheila Hackney and Pam Bedford.
- b.) It was agreed to vote on the Award at the March Meeting.

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

- 162. 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 March 1st. 2011

- 163. It was agreed to include the future of the Heron, Affordable Housing, the website and the Golden Jubilee Award on the next Agenda.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

- 165a.) The next social event was sold out.
- b.) The minutes of the latest Village Hall Committee meeting would be circulated in due course.

Planning applications

166a.)The Chairman agreed to call a Planning meeting to discuss several Planning applications for Monday February 8th in the Village Hall at 7.30p.m.

Chairman