

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011.**

**Present:** – Elaine Philpott Chairman

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

**Apologies:** Sheila Perkin

**In attendance:** Mr. Day Sweet

**Open Forum**

167a). Mr Sweet a resident of Barlaston and member of the Stone Ramblers Club outlined the voluntary work undertaken by the group to repair stiles and improve local footpaths. The meeting provided him with several sites to visit and a request of repair to the problems outlined.

b). Mr. Sweet agreed to look into the requests and would liaise with the Clerk in due course. The Council thanked him for the offer of help.

**Minutes of the meeting held February 1<sup>st</sup> 2011**

**168: RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on February 1<sup>st</sup> be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters arising**

169a). Re Minute 147b – it was confirmed at the time of the Meeting in February the representatives of **Housing Plus** did not confirm the receipt of a letter regarding the suggested site of a piece of land. Subsequent contact with **Housing Plus** by Councillor Russell had suggested that there had been contact over a possible site in the village; but the location was not known.

b). Re Minute 149b- Councillor Jones updated the Council on the actions taken with regard to the delay in gaining non urgent appointments at the Barlaston Health Centre. He had forwarded the findings of the January patients experience to the South Staffs. P.C.T., who had contacted the Cumberland House Practice on the matter. A meeting was to be held on March 15<sup>th</sup> and a response from this meeting was expected from the P.C.T. and the Cumberland House Practice in due course. The Council was not invited to be involved in the meeting.

### **Report by Chairman**

170a.)The Chairman reported on the recent presentation of Certificates of Commendation to four residents in the Methodist Church Hall. She thanked the Councillors who attended and reported Mr. Steve Parry Thomas had contacted her to apologise for his absence as a result of an emergency caretaking problem in the Village Hall on the same day. Steve thanked the Council for the award.

b.)She reported that the Barlaston Allotments Association were considering a change to their rules at their 2012 A.G.M. to give preference to residents of Barlaston who were on a long waiting list and to action this in due course.

c.) The recent deaths of Councillor Doug Davies, Sir Arthur Bryan and Dorothy Clarke were noted with sadness.

d.)It was agreed to proceed to acquire further quotes from qualified tree surgeons for the proposed work on several trees at the top of the Village Green. The Clerk would ask for two further quotes to go with the existing one from Cedar Point.

e.) An outline of a planning extension at Heyfields Nursing Home for a new residential unit would be sent to the Council in due course.

f.) The Mayor's Charity appeal for 2011 was noted.

g.) A nomination for Lynne Coates to receive the 2011 Golden Jubilee Award had been received supported by a number of signatures. The Award was to be considered later in the meeting.

h.) It was agreed to donate a sum of £50 to the Barlaston Boys Brigade to plant the raised bed by the railway station with spring, summer and autumn flowering plants and bulbs.

171a.) The Chairman reported on the resignation of Rosa Jackson as the Voluntary Transport Co-ordinator. Rosa was moving to Stone on March 4<sup>th</sup>; it was noted that two current drivers were interested in taking over but not necessarily on a permanent basis.

b.) It was agreed that Mrs. Gill Dodd take over the role during March and that the post would be advertised locally and that the Clerk would arrange this.

c.) The Clerk was asked to write to Rosa thanking her for all her work and to arrange for a bouquet of flowers to be presented as a token of appreciation for all her work.

172a)It was agreed that the Cemetery Committee should meet to discuss the maintenance schedule and consider urgent matters including the mowing contract and the proposed felling of two false Acacia trees.

b.) It was agreed that Councillors Fearn, Jones and Philpott should be joined by Dennis Twigg, Church Warden and two residents Mrs. B. Carter and Mrs. E. Cashmore Thorley.

c.) The Committee would meet on March 9<sup>th</sup>2011 at 9.30a.m at the Cemetery.

173 Finally she outlined the concerns of Mr. Mike Preece expressed via email relating to a wait of eight days for an appointment at the Health Centre. This concern was noted and added to the existing data.

### **Report by Borough Councillor**

174a.)Councillor Russell updated the Council on the issues relating to a track that had been excavated on the hillside at Cocknage; this work had not been approved and both the Borough and City Council planning departments were looking into the matter.

- b.) It was noted that the Borough Council subsidy to support the **Live and Local** initiative had been withdrawn.
- c.) It was noted and welcomed that the concessionary fare rate on the local bus services would remain during peak times of travel; there had been concern expressed by residents that they may not be able to use their free passes but the proposal had been withdrawn.
- d.) He reported upon the development of a new Steering Group for Wedgwood Memorial College and that the Parish Council should nominate a representative.
- e.) It was agreed to nominate two representatives namely Councillors O'Dunne and Philpott; if only one was permitted it would be the former nominee.
- g.) He reported upon the previously mentioned Heyfields Planning application which was in the Greenbelt; he would call the application in once it was published.

### Elections 2011

- 175a.) The Clerk had attended a briefing session in Stafford on the arrangements for the forthcoming, Parish and Borough Council elections.
- b.) He had requested nomination papers and it was agreed to convene where possible all nominees to complete the forms on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall.
- c.) He outlined the deadlines that had to be met and there would be an Alternative Vote poll alongside the possibility of the other two Parish and Borough elections. The whole of the Village Hall was needed for the polling station on May 5<sup>th</sup>. 2011.

### Finance Report

176. The following items were considered and approved

	Net	VAT	Total
a.) Neil Hemmings Accommodation and repair to Parish Council Printer, 4 certificate frames	£135.96		£135.96
b.) Biffa Waste Services- cricket club	£37.94	£7.59	£45.53
c.) Ann Howard- litter bags	£7.45		£7.45
d.) Eurooffice- A4 paper and envelopes	£71.15	£14.22	£85.37
e.) Neil Hemmings- Heron postage	£23.04		£23.04
f.) N Power-electricity supply to the Village Hall	£391.44	£19.57	£411.01
g.) Staffordshire County Council- Printing of Heron	£631.10	£126.22	£757.32

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

i.) It was agreed that an allowance for printer cartridge ink should be agreed if Councillors were using their personal printers to print off Council Papers. The Clerk would provide A4 copier paper if required. A rate for this allowance, if required should be agreed at the next meeting.

### **Planning update**

177a.)The minutes of the recent Planning Meeting committee had been circulated

b.)It was agreed that the site at 8 Longton Road owned by Mr. M. Copeland was untidy and it was agreed that the Clerk write to him requesting information on when the rebuilding would commence and if the site could be tidied.

### **Affordable Housing**

178a.)A number of views on the Affordable **Housing Plus** Scheme were put forward; there may be a need and there may be a number of possible sites in the village but this was speculation.

b.)It was felt that there was no urgent need to proceed at this stage to a needs analysis and that **Housing Plus** should be informed of this.

### **Voluntary Transport Scheme**

179a.)No details of journeys made in February had been sent to the Clerk.

### **Village Plan**

180a.)Councillor Jones outlined the progress to date and the good response from the initial survey of 100 households.

b.)The three main areas identified as issues were Transport, namely speeding vehicles; parking issues and delays at the level crossing; Environmental issues, such as dog fouling and Health with access to the Health Centre and other health related services.

c.)Initial qualitative analysis carried out by Councillor O'Dunne was helpful and the results of the initial survey would be circulated to members of the Council.

d.) The policies of the Parish Council in relation to the issues raised need to be clarified as well as the level of influence the Council can bring on national organisations such as Network Rail.

e.)Some funding was now needed to develop the survey for the whole village in terms of printing, distribution, return of surveys and analysis. S.P.C.A. had identified several sources of funding to assist this and it was agreed to consider these.

f.) Councillor Russell raised the issue of the perceived need for affordable housing in the village; it was agreed to identify the need through the survey if there was one.

g.) It was agreed that the Clerk would ensure the results of the initial survey be published on the Parish website and in the Church magazine.

h.) The absence of concern over litter was a compliment to the work of the litter pickers.

## **Parish Website**

- 181a.) The Chairman indicated that Mr. Steve Parry Thomas was not interested in working on the Parish website.
- b.) It was noted that Lynne Coates had regularly updated the website since its inception.
- c.) There was a detailed discussion on the development of the website and the need to tender as well as the production of a specification for the website.
- d.) There was a need for technical advice on the format and capability of a redesigned website as well as agreement by the Council on the initial and ongoing maintenance costs.
- e.) Clarification from the initial discussions held in the Finance meeting on the development of a new website were given by Councillor O'Dunne and there was a proposal that the existing webmaster maintain this with a paid honorarium but further debate led to a second proposal that a specification for the website be drawn up against which a tender document could be sent out to any interested parties.
- f.) In the meantime whilst this specification was being drawn up it was agreed to pay an honorarium for the work involved.
- g.) It was hoped that the specification for tender could be considered at the April meeting.

## **Memorial to the late Peter Proctor**

- 182a.) After considering various suggestions it was agreed to place an inscribed plaque by the raised bed adjacent to the railway station.
- b.) The raised bed is to be planted up by the Boys Brigade with a range of flowering bulbs and the Clerk would arrange this once he had sought agreement on the idea from Mrs. Gina Proctor.

## **Golden Jubilee Award 2011**

- 183a.) Five nominations were considered by the Council.
- b.) It was agreed to present the Award in 2011 to Mr. Tony Dodd.
- c.) Guidelines as to the procedures for nominating for the Award and the Certificates of Commendation as well as dates and deadlines needed clarification.
- d.) Councillor Fearn agreed to produce a paper to clarify the two awards.

## **Barlaston Park Issues**

- 184a.) Councillor Hall had met with Anita Jones from Wedgwood regarding the drains at the bottom of the estate and some investigation into the problem was promised by Wedgwood. However no progress had been made via the proposed investigation by the County Council despite many requests.
- b.) There was an ongoing drainage problem in Bell Lane that Stafford & Rural Homes were attending to.
- c.) The recent walkabout identified a number of action points to tidy unsightly areas.

## **Matters arising from the Open Forum**

185. It was hoped that work could be undertaken by Stone Ramblers to repair broken stiles on the public footpaths locally.

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

- 186a.) All the correspondence was noted as well as the actions taken by the Clerk.
- b.) The Clerk was awaiting the results of a survey by the County Council Highways Department regarding the proposed erection of direction signs to the Village Hall.
- c.) The Clerk would again contact Stone police on the ongoing availability of a base in the Village Hall for the Police if required as a local resident had raised the matter with the Chairman.

### **Any other business – Agenda items for meeting to be held on April 5th. 2011**

187. It was agreed to include the future of the Heron and the Community News items on the next agenda.

### **Note by Clerk**

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

### **Village Hall Committee Report**

- 189a.) Councillor Jones reported that there were two new members on the Committee.
- b.) Eight new tables had been purchased for the Hall.
- c.) The Committee were following up an investigation into energy costs and the possibility of a replacement boiler which would be more efficient. The Council would consider supporting the capital costs of this boiler.

**Chairman**