

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 5th April 2011.**

Present: – Elaine Philpott Chairman

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

Apologies: None

In attendance: Hilary Mc. Entie, Sandra Getley, Frank Briggs, Susan Howard, John Howard and Patrick Linehan.

Open Forum

190a.) P.C. Dave Perry introduced himself as the new Neighbourhood Police Officer.
b.) He is working in the area with our two P.C.S.O's Emma Kempson and Rebecca Powell.
c.) He outlined his role and recent local work through "Crimestoppers". He would liaise with the Clerk in the near future.

191a.) A group of five residents from Longton Road outlined their concerns over the recent erection of a wooden fence and a large shed in the garden of 75, Longton Road Barlaston.
b.) Mr. Briggs had written a letter to the Chairman and the Borough Council outlining his concerns regarding his belief that there were infringements in the Greenbelt and the destruction of a well established hedge. The land was officially classed as garden in 2009.
c.) The Chairman understood their concerns and noted that the recent works did have a visual impact upon the rural ambiance of the area.
d.) The Stafford Borough Council Enforcement Officer, Mr. Eddie Owen had visited the property earlier in the day and had spoken to the owner and Mr. Briggs as well as the Clerk to report his findings.
e.) He had reported to them verbally that there were no breaches of the building or planning regulations and all the work was permitted development.
f.) The residents acknowledged this, but hoped the Council would comment upon any further development on the site if an application was made. The Chairman and Councillors would make comment on any further application.
g.) Mr. Howard referred to the Stafford Borough Council Development Plan that was under review. Councillor Russell and the Clerk indicated comments re the preservation of the Greenbelt pertinent to Barlaston had been submitted but the review was still ongoing as the views of all Parishes were being coordinated.
h.) After further discussion the residents thanked the Council for listening to their concerns but noted that no action by the Council at this stage could be taken.

Minutes of the meeting held March 1st 2011

192: RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on March 1st be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

193. Re Minute 167 – it was noted work to repair the stiles was to be undertaken.

194. Re Minute 169b.) Councillor Jones had circulated the letter from the Cumberland House Practice received in March. He felt there should now be a material improvement on the issues of concern as Dr. Mackinnon had agreed to act upon the points raised and had made a commitment to improve the service to the patients. It was agreed that a further survey in June 2011 should be undertaken by residents to see if there had been an improvement in access to appointments. The Primary Care Trust would be monitoring the matters raised with the Practice. The Chairman allowed all the Councillors to comment on the letter and a number of points raised by them would be incorporated in Councillor Jones' response to the Practice.

195. Re Minute 170a.) It was noted that Beryl Whalley had sent a letter of thanks for her commendation.

196. Re. Minute 170d.) Four quotes for remedial work to eight trees on the Village Green were considered by the Council. The quotes were considered and after due consideration of the quotes it was agreed to award the work to Cedar Point at a cost of £495.

197. Re Minute 170d.) Mrs. Gina Proctor agreed to the placing of a memorial plaque on the raised bed by the railway station. The Clerk outlined some practical difficulties of this and it was agreed that he would purchase a plaque suitably inscribed and that Councillor Stevenson would assist in ensuring it was secured properly. The bed had been planted up by the Boys Brigade.

198. Re Minute 172- there had been progress by the Cemetery Committee on the maintenance of the area and a new contractor engaged whose work would be monitored and reviewed monthly by the lay members on the Committee. Any additional work would be charged to the Council and the costs shared with the Church.

199. Re. Minute 174d.) Councillors O'Dunne and Russell had attended the Wedgwood Memorial Group Steering Group; the consensus of the group was that a transfer of the College by the Councils of Staffordshire and Stoke could occur in due course to the Steering group. The Council would support this development and continue to attend the meetings.

200. Re. Minute 176i.) A decision on the allowance for printing was deferred.

201. Re. Minute 177b.) It was noted that the owner of the property had tidied the site and the commencement of rebuilding on the site had begun.

202. Re. Minute 180h.) It was agreed that the Clerk would thank the litter pickers for their work.

203a.) Re. Minute 183 it was agreed to present the award to Tony Dodd at a later date in June in the Village Hall at a social function.

b.) The proposals and timescales for the Golden Jubilee Award and Certificates of commendation proposed by Councillor Fearn in her report were adopted with immediate effect. The Chairman thanked her for her report and if there were further comments to pass these back to Councillor Fearn.

204a.) Re. Minute 184- Councillor Hall reported that there had been some work on the drain undertaken by the County Council team and would follow this up.

b.) The Clerk had been told Stafford & Rural Homes had requested a contribution from the residents of Bell Lane for repairs to the damaged drain.

c.) He had again asked Sophia Hall from Stafford & Rural Homes to include items from the whole village in their next walkabout as there were ongoing issues apart from those noted in Barlaston Park.

205. Re. Minute 186b.) The Clerk had visited Stone Police Station to indicate the availability of a base for the Police in the Village Hall; he had not received a response.

Report by Chairman

206. The Chairman outlined the cost of erecting directional signs for the Village Hall at three points in the Village. It was agreed to proceed with this work at a cost of £519.62; to be paid by the Council.

Report by Borough Councillor

207a.) Councillor Russell reiterated the development strategy for the Wedgwood Memorial College and would advertise in the Newsletter their planned events.

b.) It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Councillor Parry over the fear of the loss of subsidy to the 48 Bus Service to Longton as it passed through Staffordshire County Council land.

The Chairman had to leave the meeting at this point to collect papers for later in the meeting and Councillor Jones took the Chair.

c.) The planning application for the garage on Green Farm had been called in.

d.) Councillor Russell outlined the ongoing issues relating to the Barlaston Old Road Nurseries and the certificate of lawfulness which was still under discussion.

Elections 2011

208a.) The Clerk confirmed that there were three nominations for the two Borough Council seats so that there would be an election for these on May 5th.

b.) There had been eleven nominations for the Parish Council wards three for Barlaston East that included Louise Stone from Longton Road and the two existing ward Councillors.

The Barlaston Park and West wards had received two and six nominations respectively from the existing Council so that there would be a full Council but an uncontested election. c.) The first meeting of the new Council would be after the May meeting on June 7th. 2011.

Finance Report

209. The following items were considered and approved

	NET	VAT	Total Cost
a.) Neil Hemmings Accommodation and Telephone Rental and bouquet for Rosa Jackson	£65.00		£65.00
b.) Biffa Waste Services-Village Hall	£51.22	£10.24	£61.46
c.) .) Biffa Waste Services-Cricket Club	£33.74	£6.75	£40.49
d.)C. Donohue-Boys Brigade donation re plants/bulbs	£50.00		£50.00
e.) Leggetts-felling of 2 trees in the Cemetery	£300.00		£300.00
f.) S.P.C.A.- Annual subscription	£486.50		£486.50
g.)Town and Country Services	£135.00	£27.00	£162.00
h.)Community Council of Staffordshire-Annual Subscription	£22.00		£22.00
i.)C. Hurst-Boulders & Soil Village Green	£600.00		£600.00
j.)Enterprise AOL-erection of direction signs to Village Hall	£433.02	£86.60	£519.62

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

l.)The annual salary review of the Clerk and his working hours was not actioned at the meeting.

Planning update

210. Comments on three applications had been posted on the Borough Council website Four applications were to be considered at the Planning Meeting following the Council meeting.

Voluntary Transport Scheme

211a.)Councillor Dodd indicated that his wife Gill Dodd would take up the permanent role as Coordinator for the scheme.

b.)He reported that there had been eight lifts in March

c.)Rosa Jackson had written to the Chairman thanking the Council for the bouquet of flowers.

The Chairman returned to take the Chair.

Village Plan

212a.)Councillor Jones outlined the proposal to focus on the four main areas of concern.

b.) It was agreed that sub committees looking at each of the issues should be formed and to include all the Councillors and the Clerk as action groups. Councillor Jones noted individual's preferences and would produce the composition and purpose of each group.

c.)The timetable to progress the plan was to ensure that each group could achieve some success but also to focus upon the larger organisations to apply pressure for support.

d.)It was hoped that the new Council would be able to action a full survey based upon the known issues in June or earlier.

Parish Website

213a.)The proposed website specification had been circulated and was considered to include all the necessary information; perhaps a link to tourist sites such as the Wedgwood Museum could be added.

b.)It was agreed that an advertisement be placed in the Sentinel requesting tenders by the end of April and that a special meeting be called to consider the tenders which all Councillors would be invited to.

The Heron

214. After discussion it was agreed to continue with the publication of the Heron with Councillor O'Dunne serving as the Editor. The publication would be twice a year and no more than eight pages of A4. The Council expressed their thanks to Councillor O' Dunne for volunteering to edit the publication.

Matters arising from the Open Forum

215a.) The Clerk outlined the detail of the conversation he had with the Stafford Borough Council Enforcement officer that there was no action the Parish Council could take on the complaints by residents regarding the complaints made.

b.) No further action by the Council was agreed.

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

216. All the actions of the Clerk were noted and agreed.

Any other business – Agenda items for meeting to be held on May 3rd. 2011

217. It was agreed to include on the next agenda the standard items for the May meeting.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

219a.) Councillor Jones reported that the Police were involved in dealing with an incident on the Village Hall Car Park in 2010 when a vehicle allegedly injured a child. He had spoken to the Police on the policy of the Village Hall regarding visitors using the car park at their own risk but wanted the trustees to be aware of the possible court case between the parties involved.

b.) The Committee were considering ways to conserve energy following the report on fuel efficiency and were obtaining quotes for a more efficient boiler; the likely cost of a replacement would be between £3000 and £5000. It was agreed that this was a good long term investment and a proposal would be made at the next meeting.

c.) The Committee were also considering the possibility of a false ceiling which might cost in the region of £2000.

d.) The extended usage of the Hall by the Proscenium Players in the spring meant a loss of income and disappointment to the regular hirer; they were hoping to offset this with an alternative venue for some activities at the Lakeside Tavern, but also to renegotiate the terms and hiring fees for the Proscenium Players in the light of changed demand by hirers.

e.) The Village Hall Committee A.G.M. was on Thursday 20th May 2011.

Chairman