

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 3rd May 2011.**

Present: – Elaine Philpott
Chairman

Paul Fisher	John Russell
Tony Dodd	Peter Steventon
Sara Fearn	Viv O'Dunne
Gareth Jones	

Apologies: Steve Hall, Sheila Perkin

In attendance: Louise Stone, Lynne Bakker Collier, Patrick Linehan, P.C. David Perry.

Open Forum

1. The Chairman invited P.C. Perry to update the members on a recent crime in the car park to the Downs Banks and he was speaking to car owners who were leaving valuables visible in parked vehicles. He also outlined how the Police respond to calls and there was a discussion over a recent problem on Barlaston Park.
2. After discussion and clarification it was agreed to proceed with the meeting as members were still in office until Monday. All the members had been re-elected in an uncontested election and Louise Stone, a new Councillor was welcomed by the Chair.

Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2011/2012

3. **RESOLVED:** That the appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman be deferred until the June 2011 meeting when the newly elected full Parish Council would meet for the first time.

Minutes of the meeting held on April 5th 2011

4: **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th April be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

- 5a.) Minute 193. Councillor Stevenson reported that two new stiles had been erected on the Downs Banks by the Stone Ramblers.
- b.) Minute 194. Councillor Jones had sent a detailed response to the Cumberland House Practice.
- c.) Minute 197. The Clerk agreed the wording for the memorial plaque with the Council.
- d.) Minute 198. Improvements were noted at the Cemetery and a regular liaison with the contractor should be made by a member of the Cemetery Committee.

e.)Minute 199.Councillor O'Dunne suggested a rewording of the minute which was amended. It was noted with some concern that many of the plants in the Sensory Garden at the College had died.

Appointment of Members to Committees

6. It was agreed to defer this item until the next full meeting of the newly elected Parish Council.

Report by Chairman

7a.) The Chairman outlined the contents of four letters written by residents to the Planning Department at Stafford Borough Council regarding the fence and large shed at 75 Longton Road Barlaston.

b.) The ongoing concerns of the residents were noted and the Clerk would contact the Council to establish their response to the correspondence.

8. Ray Hayward had contacted the Chairman regarding the large amount of dandelions and weeds in the Village; he suggested selective weed killing but this was not the agreed policy of the Council and it was hoped normal mowing would tidy the area in due course.

9. It was noted that there were two tree preservation orders on yew trees at the property of Mrs. Val Shaw in Bedcroft. Mrs. Shaw wants to fell the two trees.The Parish Council were powerless to assist in this matter as the order had been made by the Borough Council. Mrs. Shaw had been advised to appeal against the orders.

Report by Borough Councillor

10. Planning permission for development of a new house at 84 Longton Road had been granted after an appeal was upheld.

11a.) Councillor Russell had spoken with several residents from Barlaston Park regarding noise and vandalism in recent weeks near the Flaxman Close play area. Councillor Dodd was aware of some of the problems and had spoken to some of the youngsters involved.

b.) The Police had been made aware of the problems earlier and they would be monitoring the area. There was also an issue with the regular dumping of rubbish at the junction of Ivyhouse Drive and Ramsay Close.

12. The response from Network Rail regarding the problems at Barlaston level crossing were noted and it was agreed were generic comments rather than specific comments on the issues raised. The response should be followed up in due course by the working group for the village plan.

Elections 2011

13a.) The Clerk updated the meeting regarding the uncontested Parish Council election and the election of Ms.Louise Stone.

b.) The election of two Borough Councillors would take place on May 5th; they would be invited to the June meeting.

Finance Report

14. The following items were considered and approved

	NET	VAT	Total Cost
a.) Neil Hemmings Accommodation and Telephone Rental; postage and travel expenses	£60.72		£60.72
b.) Biffa Waste Services-Cricket Club	£35.42	£7.08	£42.50
c.) Lynne Coates-Web Maintenance March	£25.00		£25.00
d.) Evening Sentinel Advertisement re. website tender	£61.75	£12.35	£74.10
e.) Greenfingers-grass cutting	£400.00	£80.00	£480.00
f.) Town & Country Services-grass-cutting	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00
g.) C. Hurst-Cemetery maintenance	£145.00		£145.00
h.) British Gas-Village Hall	£617.36	£123.47	£740.83

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

j.) The proposal for the renewal of the Parish Insurance was discussed and the Clerk was instructed to renew with Came & Co at a cost of £1135.72.

k.)The Annual Governance Statement was read out and agreed; the Chairman and the Clerk signed the statement in the meeting as required.

Planning Update

15a.) No objection to increased parking facilities at the Dougie Macmillan House had been made

b.)The minutes of the April Planning Meeting had been circulated.

Voluntary Transport Scheme

16. There had been ten lifts during April.

Village Plan

17a.) Councillor Jones reported that there was action being taken in various ways in relation to the four main areas of concern that had been identified in the initial survey. These actions and other planned actions would be co-ordinated by the newly formed working groups in due course.

b.) He cited the response by the Health Centre, the letter from Network Rail and the monitoring of traffic speeds in the village.

c.) With regard to dog fouling and environmental problems a local scheme in the Staffordshire Moorlands villages using local volunteers as wardens to catch offenders should be considered. The views on implementing a local scheme varied as to its legitimacy and the volunteers were open to abuse and may not have any legal authority to fine offenders.

The Parish Website

18a.)The advert for tenders had been placed in the Sentinel on April 13th 2011.

b.)The Clerk had received one enquiry by email but no tender was submitted and one tender delivered on April 24th.

c.)The Chairman opened the tender which was detailed and in agreement with the specification.

d.)There was due consideration of the package on offer and it was agreed to accept the tender from Quick & Simple Web Design of Stafford for 2011.

e.)The terms of the package were acceptable at an initial cost of £599 for the first year and a renewal cost Of £200 per annum.

f.)The Clerk would contact the company to make arrangements for the website to be upgraded as soon as possible.

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

19a.) The Clerk's actions were noted and agreed.

b.) Leaflets advertising free bus transport for people aged under 20 were distributed.

c.) The Clerk clarified the arrangements for the June meeting.

Any other business – Agenda items for meeting to be held on June 7th 2011

20a.)An item regarding support for residents who were in need of personal support or housebound in the Parish should be included.

b.) It was agreed that the Church Magazine's section Useful Telephone Numbers would be updated by Councillor Jones in relation to the Council contact details in due course but urgently in relation to the Voluntary Transport Co-ordinator and the Barlaston Health Centre.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

22. The A.G.M. is to be held on May 19th and the Trustees are invited.

23. It was agreed in principle that the Parish Council would purchase a new boiler for the Village Hall and that the Village Hall Committee would pay for several insulation projects. It was agreed these projects and a new boiler should substantially improve the efficient use of energy in the building and the Committee would provide detail quotations for the Trustees at the next meeting in June.

24. Councillor Jones outlined difficulties with the current letting arrangements of the Proscenium Players and a conflict with other users. A meeting had taken place but despite trying to solve the problem with a variety of suggestions to satisfy all the parties the Proscenium Players had not agreed a way forward. The Village Hall was losing a considerable amount of income with the existing arrangements.

25. It was agreed that the Trustees empowered the Village Hall Committee to manage this problem and would support their decision in due course.

Chairman