

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011.**

**Present:** – Gareth Jones  
Chairman

Paul Fisher	John Russell
Tony Dodd	Peter Steventon
Sara Fearn	Elaine Philpott
Sheila Perkin	Viv O'Dunne
Steve Hall	Louise Stone

**Apologies:** Ian Parry

**In attendance:** Lynne Bakker-Collier, P.C.S.O. Rebecca Powell

**Open Forum**

26a.) P.C.S.O. Rebecca Powell answered various questions regarding current issues in the Parish.

b.) She promised to follow up the developments on speed checks in the village and any proposals for improving the crossroads at the junction of Old Road and Station Road following two recent accidents.

**Appointment of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2011/2012**

27. **RESOLVED:** That Councillor Gareth Jones be elected as Chairman and Councillor Paul Fisher as Vice Chairman for the next year until May 2012.

The elected Chairman paid tribute to the tireless work of Councillor Philpott in her 10 years as Chairman of the Council, noting her success in bringing about many improvements in the Parish and most recently gaining support from Wedgwood. She was presented with a floral bouquet as a token of the Councillors thanks for her work.

**Minutes of the meeting held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. 2011**

28: **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup>. May be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters arising**

29a.) Minute 194: Councillor Jones outlined the progress that had been made in gaining prompt appointments at the Health Centre, which several other Councillors concurred with and then read out a letter from Dr. Payne that identified the way the practice was approaching the matters raised in the previous letter from Councillor Jones.

b.) Minute 197: The Clerk thanked Councillor Stevenson for erecting the memorial plaque to Peter Proctor by the railway station.

c.) Minute 198: There was a detailed discussion regarding the maintenance of the Cemetery. Councillor Jones had visited the Cemetery on several occasions and had spoken

to the contractor who had given firm assurances that the Cemetery would be in neat and satisfactory order by the end of June 2011.

Several Councillors felt that the work was below an acceptable standard and the main tasks of mowing and strimming had not been completed regularly as per the schedule.

It was agreed that the Church should continue to monitor the situation and the next meeting would review the progress before taking any action against the contractor.

d.) Minute 199: There were limited resources to maintain the grounds and gardens at the College and there was disappointment expressed at the current state of the Sensory Garden.

e.) Minute 12: This was a continuing problem that the Parish Council had no control over but would seek to have a site meeting to discuss the problems raised by the Clerk back in December 2010.

f.) Minute 13a.): Councillor Louise Stone was formally welcomed onto the Parish Council.

### **Appointment of Members to Committees**

30. Following discussions the Committee Membership for the next year was agreed.

<b>Planning Committee-meets as required</b>	
Tony Dodd	
Sara Fearn	
Paul Fisher- Chair	
John Russell	
Sheila Perkin	
Elaine Philpott	
Pete Stevenson	
Steve Hall	

<b>Joint Playing Fields Committee-meets twice a year</b>	
Sara Fearn	
Paul Fisher	
Gareth Jones	
Elaine Philpott	
John Russell	
Louise Stone	
Lynne-Bakker Collier (Rep. S.B.C)	
Peter Taylor Barlaston C.C.	
Graham Vernon Barlaston C.C.	
Neil Davies Barlaston C.C.	

<b>Finance Committee- meets once a year</b>	
Viv O'Dunne	
Sheila Perkin	
Elaine Philpott	
Gareth Jones Chair	
Steve Hall	
Paul Fisher	
Louise Stone	

<b>Health and Safety Committee- meets as necessary</b>	
Tony Dodd	
Gareth Jones	
Louise Stone	
John Russell	

<b>Cemetery Committee- meets twice a year</b>	
Sara Fearn	
Gareth Jones	
Elaine Philpott	
Paul Fisher	
Dennis Twigg	
Barbara Carter	
Elaine Cashmore Thorley	

<b>Rights of Way Committee-meets as necessary</b>	
Tony Dodd	
Gareth Jones	
Viv O'Dunne	
John Russell	
Sara Fearn	
Paul Fisher	
Pete Stevenson	

### **Report by Chairman**

31.The retiring Chairman Councillor Philpott reported on a complaint regarding the number of signs on the Village Green; it was felt that no further signs in this area were needed.

32. The Chairman Councillor Jones had agreed to attend a meeting relating to transport and highways with the County Council in Stafford; Councillors Fisher and Philpott would also try to attend.

### **Report by Borough Councillors**

33. It was noted that Councillor Bakker-Collier would attend Parish Council meetings but only report if invited to speak on a particular matter.

34. The two Borough Councillors had attended several induction meetings and been allocated to serve on several committees.

35. Both Councillors hoped to be able to report in fuller detail at the next meeting and would aim to give a full representation for the Barlaston and Oulton Ward.

## Finance Report

36.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 and miscellaneous	£44.72		£44.72
b.) Biffa Waste Services- Cricket Club	£41.10	£8.22	£49.32
c.) Nigel Ferguson- web tender fee	£599.00		£599.00
d.) Gill Dodd- VTS March & April wage	£56.00		£56.00
e.) Staffordshire C.C.- Allotment Rental 2010/11 & 2011/12	£1675.00		£1675.00
f.) Cedar Point- tree surgery on the Green	£495.00		£495.00
g.) Ann Howard- refuse bags	£4.96		£4.96
h.) N. Power- Electricity- Village Hall	£277.95	£13.90	£291.85
i.) Peter Plant Jewellers- Memorial Plaque for Peter Proctor	£125.00	£25.00	£150.00
j.)Greenfingers-grass cutting- April	£400.00	£80.00	£480.00
k.) Biffa Waste Services- Cricket Club & Village Hall	£172.32	£34.46	£206.78
l.)Greenfingers-grass cutting-May	£400.00	£80.00	£480.00
m.) Town & country Services- grass cutting Flaxman Close	£135.00	£27.00	£162.00

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

## Planning Update

37a.)The Chairman and ex Chairman had considered two applications and had asked the Clerk to forward comments on these applications.

b.)It was noted that the planning application relating to The Granary had been refused and was going to appeal.

- c.)Councillors Jones and Councillor Bakker-Collier had visited the site of a planning application in Cocknage and advised the applicant to resubmit a variation on the original application. The Parish Council had already objected to the original plans.
- d.)Two other applications were to be considered in a separate Planning Committee meeting.

### **Voluntary Transport Scheme**

- 38. There had been 12 lifts during May. Three residents had taken up the opportunity of the service for the first time.
- 39. It was confirmed that the scheme was only for residents of the Barlaston Parish.

### **Village Plan**

- 40a.)Now the new Council was functioning it was agreed that the four suggested working groups would meet and identify ways to proceed.
- b.)Councillor Jones would prepare an update on the progress to date and allocate Councillors to the groups.
- c.)Councillor Hall agreed to act as co-ordinator for the working groups and a report would be given at the next meeting.

### **A support scheme for elderly and needy residents.**

- 41. Councillor Russell outlined reasons why a support scheme was needed to give carers a break and to assist needy residents. He gave several examples of the way in which help could be given.
- 42. Volunteers would be needed and it was felt it could become part of the Voluntary Transport Scheme's work. It was agreed to advertise the possibility of such support in the Heron and on the website.

### **Wedgwood**

- 43. The Clerk had reported on the recent meeting with Wedgwood especially with reference to their tree planting and tree maintenance programmes.
- 44. A statement from Wedgwood was to be requested on this matter by the Clerk from Wedgwood that would then be posted on the Parish website.
- 45. The progress on the sponsorship of the "green bags" by Wedgwood was noted.

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

- 46. The Clerk's actions were noted and agreed.
- 47a.) A donation of upto £150 would be given to the Boys Brigade once a request had been made for new football kit.
- b.) The Clerk would report the dangerous state of the steps by the shop in Ivyhouse Drive to Sophia Hall of Stafford and Rural Homes.
- c.) The recent road resurfacing in the Village had been part of the Highways annual maintenance work.

## **Any other business – Agenda items for meeting to be held on July 5<sup>th</sup> 2011**

48. The following items would be added to the July Agenda for consideration: Additional off-site parking for the Village Hall- Ecogrid; The Heron; a Review of the Cemetery Grounds Maintenance.

### **Note by Clerk**

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

### **Village Hall Committee Report**

50. The minutes of the 2011 A.G.M. had been circulated and were received.

51. It was noted that the attendance of all the Councillors as Trustees would be welcomed in 2012.

52. The minutes of the May meeting were noted and Councillor Jones outlined the recommendation by the Village Hall Committee for a new gas boiler.

53. The preferred quotation was from Shore Mechanical at a cost of £3465 and it was agreed that this should be purchased by the Parish Council as a capital item.

54. The Village Hall Committee would undertake work on improving the overall insulation of the Hall at a cost of approximately £3000.

55. The discussions with the Proscenium Players were ongoing.

56. It was noted that a private prosecution had been successful following an accident on the Village Hall Car Park in 2010.

**Chairman**