

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

Present: – Gareth Jones
Chairman

Paul Fisher	John Russell
Steve Hall	Peter Steventon
Sheila Perkin	Elaine Philpott

Apologies: Ian Parry, Sara Fearn, Tony Dodd, Louise Stone, Viv O'Dunne.

In attendance: Lynne Bakker-Collier, Bob Bowers, Jayne Keeling, Steve Watson and A. Davies

Open Forum

57a). Mr Bob Bowers from Station Road spoke on behalf of several residents outlining their opposition to a "minor alteration " to the entertainment licence at the Wedgwood Memorial College.

b.) He wanted to make the Council aware of the strength of feeling relating to the negative implications of this proposal and he gave a detailed background to the recent events leading to the application. He cited the likely nuisance of noise and traffic arising from the granting of an extended entertainments licence at the College. This would be a disturbance to the local neighbourhood.

c.) He referred to an agreement made by Stafford Borough Council back in 2006 which had now been broken by the College in submitting the application. The current application had not been displayed properly or given the required amount of time for public consultation.

d.)The application had been withdrawn earlier in the day.

e.) The Council considered the written comments of local residents objecting to the application as well as verbal comments from the residents present. A large number of objections had been forwarded to the licensing department at Stafford B.C.

f.) The Chairman noted all the valid points that had been made and identified that there would have to be a new process for any further submission which would require a consultation period of 28 days. He thanked the residents for their efforts in stopping the application progressing further.

g.) Mr. Bowers hoped that the residents and the Parish Council would be involved in any future proposals.

h.) He identified a number of recent incidents of anti-social behaviour at the College which were noted.

i.) The Chairman agreed to raise this matter with the Police.

Minutes of the meeting held on June 7th. 2011

58: RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on June 7 th . be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

59. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Report by Chairman

60. The Chairman discussed the structure and role of the Open Forum.

61. It was agreed that the Forum was valuable and it was agreed prior to the Forum the Clerk would identify the topic to be raised the key speaker and advise on the length of time available for discussion.

62. If no one attended the Forum the Council meeting would start at 7.30p.m.

63. The Chairman emphasised the need for a stronger relationship with the County Council representative- Councillor Parry. The increased commitments of Councillor Parry had impacted on his attendance at meetings. The Chairman had suggested the idea of a monthly meeting with Councillor Parry and the Clerk at a mutually convenient time. A date for a meeting before September is to be made and Councillors would be invited to attend.

64. A team approach to actions by the Parish Council was advocated as part of the development of the Village Plan. He suggested that the four teams discuss relevant issues and consider this. Individual Councillors could then take on the responsibility and representation for certain key issues such as the Cemetery or Planning.

65. A provisional list of the key areas was circulated for consideration and names of Councillors had been placed against the headings. The general purpose of the list and ideas were agreed. The Chairman would support the list with a document in due course.

66. He then took comments from the Councillors present. It was noted that the existing committee structure may need to be reviewed in due course. If the working groups kept detailed notes on the action points relating to the Village Plan these could be brought to the Council for ratification at a full Council meeting.

67. Once the Stafford B.C. Local Development Framework was available it should help to inform the Council and the Village Plan for achievable actions.

68. The Clerk's review would take place at the end of the Council meeting.

69. Councillor Russell would be attending the strategic group meeting of the Wedgwood Memorial College; if Councillor O'Dunne could not attend then Councillor Fisher would attend on this occasion. If an opportunity arose at the meeting the feelings of local residents should be raised regarding matters discussed in the Open Forum.

Report by Borough Councillors

70. Councillor Bakker-Collier noted the planning application for a new residential development at number 2 Lakewood Drive had been submitted; this application was on the agenda for the Planning Committee meeting.

Finance Report

71. The following items were considered and approved:

	NET	VAT	Total Cost
a.) Neil Hemmings Accommodation and postage and bouquet for Councillor Philpott	£69.32		£69.32
b.) Cedar Point- tree surgery on the Green	£150.00		£150.00
c.) Greenfingers- grass cutting	£465.00	£93.00	£558.00
d.) Town & Country Services- Flaxman Close	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00
e.) Chris Hurst- Cemetery grass cutting	£310.00		£310.00

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

Village Plan

72. The composition of the four working groups had been identified.

73. A questionnaire covering the main issues was being developed by the leaders of the working groups.

Additional off-site parking for the Village Hall- Ecogrid.

74. It was agreed to defer this discussion to the next meeting.

75. It was noted that planning permission for additional parking might be required if an area was developed for parking.

The Heron

76. Articles for inclusion should be sent to Councillor O'Dunne as soon as possible for a publication date in early September.

77. Councillor Jones would assist in the editorial process.

78. It was hoped that the free cloth shopping bags could be distributed at the same time as the Heron and the Village Plan questionnaire. Wedgwood had generously agreed to subsidise the cost of production.

Cemetery Grounds Maintenance Report.

79. The Chairman reported that there had been some progress but the overall condition of the Cemetery was not satisfactory. Councillor Fearn would report in more detail at the September meeting.

80. The Clerk reported that the contractor had been taken ill and had been unable to work for a week; he has now returned to work.

Matters arising from the Open Forum.

81. Following the earlier discussions regarding the Wedgwood Memorial College it was agreed to monitor closely developments at the College.

82. The issue of noise from the College needs to be reported if it is causing annoyance and to ensure safeguards are put in place by the College to prevent any nuisance.

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

83. The Clerk's actions were noted and agreed.

84. The Clerk had reported the incidents of anti-social behaviour by a group of youths visiting the Upper House Hotel during the last weekend to the Police and the Council hoped the matter would be taken further in due course.

85. The Clerk was awaiting an update on several matters raised with Stafford & Rural Homes that he had reported on in his notes.

Any other business – Agenda items for meeting to be held on September 4th. 2011

86. Councillor Perkin raised the ongoing problem of parking on the grass verges in Meadow Road were noted and the Clerk would contact Stafford & Rural Homes regarding possible signing of the area. The repair to the fence alongside the Plume of Feathers was noted; it was hoped the adjacent footpath would be weeded in the near future by the County Council.

87. Councillor Philpott identified that there were areas in the village where weeds were out of control and it was agreed to put this on the next Agenda for discussion.

88. Councillor Russell reported that some of the buses carrying schoolchildren to and from school were reversing into Ash Grove which was regarded as a potentially dangerous manoeuvre as there were children and vehicles in the vicinity.

89. It was agreed to accept an invitation to the Council from Wedgwood to visit Wedgwood for a factory tour in the near future. Councillor Philpott would liaise with Wedgwood for a mutually convenient date possibly in a morning on a Wednesday.

90. The following agenda items were agreed: Additional off-site parking for the Village Hall- Ecogrid, Work of Stone Ramblers, Cemetery Grounds Maintenance Report and the treatment of weeds in public areas

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

92. The order for the new gas boiler had been placed.

93. The work to improve the insulation in the Hall was being planned.

94. The Chairman undertook to monitor the noise levels on a Sunday morning from the Zumba class as it was reported to be loud and with the doors to the Hall open an intrusion to the privacy of local residents.

Chairman

