

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 8th November 2011.**

Present: – Gareth Jones
Chairman

Tony Dodd	Viv O'Dunne
Paul Fisher	John Russell
Steve Hall	

Apologies: Sara Fearn, Elaine Philpott, Louise Stone.

In attendance: Lynne Bakker-Collier, Ian Parry, Ian Macmillan, Sue Macmillan and Pam Graham.

Open Forum

214. Mr. Ian Macmillan spoke on behalf of his wife and neighbour, Mrs. Graham to outline the need to preserve the greenbelt and to stop any potential development to the west of Old Road Barlaston. In particular, the parcel of land behind 15, 17 and 19 Old Road Barlaston might be affected as part of the gardens of these properties sit within the existing Residential Development Boundary. There had been several attempts to build on the land in the past that had always been opposed by residents and the Parish Council as any development it was felt would spoil the open aspect for this part of Barlaston.

215. It was pointed out that when this boundary was drawn it was thought an error occurred and a straight line was drawn across the area leaving some shorter gardens exposed to the possibility of development.

216. The Council was asked to ensure that when the Village Plan was written that it specifically precludes this land and others like it from development.

217. The Council was asked to seek to amend the Residential Development Boundary at the earliest opportunity and place this parcel of land into the Greenbelt. The Chairman agreed to follow this matter up.

218. The Chairman thanked the residents for their comments and outlined that the Stafford Local Development Framework had not highlighted Barlaston for any residential development and agreed that the Parish Council should take a stance against any possible development in this area.

Minutes of the meeting held on October 4th. 2011

219: RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on October 4 th be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

220. Re Minute 163c.) It was noted that Mr. Kent Bagguley was the lead in the Community Asset Transfer Group.

221. Re Minute 173. It was noted there were issues for the owners of boats on the canal also.

Report by Borough Councillor

222. Councillor Bakker Collier reported that the planning application for 2, Lakewood Close had been refused but a further application was anticipated in due course.

223. She reported that comments on the Local Development framework had been noted and were being assimilated.

224. She raised the issue of the proposed closure of the Barlaston Level Crossing which was to be discussed later in the Chairman's report.

Report by Chairman

225. The Chairman had circulated notes which were discussed.

226. It was noted that the website was being used more and that the Chairman's Blog would be used to communicate news items and comment.

227. The trustees of the Village Hall would like to consider the options for a new clock outside the Village Hall and the Chairman would arrange this in due course. He had submitted a request to support the funding from the County Council which was likely to gain approval.

228 It was agreed that the Open Afternoon at the Village Hall on December 17th. would be organised as a joint venture between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee. The Chairman outlined the provisional arrangements and timings and hoped the members of the Council would support the event.

229. The closure of the Barlaston Level Crossing, for line repairs, at Christmas and the New Year had been challenged by the Clerk as it would present significant difficulties for many residents. The Chairman and the Clerk outlined the current position hoping some opportunity would be created for the crossing to be open whilst the work was undertaken on the railway lines if there were no trains passing. Wedgwood crossing should not be affected and that should give local residents an easier option than the official diversion through Trentham.

230. It was agreed to publicise accurate information once Network Rail had responded to the Clerk's requests. Recent publicity on the matter needed to be clarified once the true

position was known in December. It was agreed that the crossings were likely to remain closed if there were any safety concerns.

231. The Chairman reported that there would be a strong police escort to support the Remembrance Day Parade through the village.

Report by County Councillor

232. Councillor Parry reported that the new County Council offices- Staffordshire Place had been opened at a cost of £35 million. There would be some retail development in the area and Marks and Spencer would move to the same location which he believed would have a positive impact upon Stafford.

233. A number of county buildings such as Riverway would be sold which should lead to net savings in the budget in due course as staff were being moved to the new offices; Martin Street would still be the main location for full County Council meetings.

234. The County Highways Department had written to outline their proposed gritting policy for the winter in the event of very cold conditions. The main road network would be the priority but if parishes requested small stocks of grit these could be dropped off by Highways for local use as well as the grit bins which would be replenished. The Parish would consider taking up this offer if necessary.

235. A flag bearing the County emblem would be accepted for the village and it was agreed to consider locating the flag outside St. John's Church or the Village Hall.

236. Councillor Parry reported that there would be better supervision of the tasks completed by the local neighbourhood teams and that it would be for the Parish to identify the priority of the jobs to be considered. The Clerk would address this in his next request to the team.

237. Following a discussion regarding the likely future of the Wedgwood Memorial College it was still not known whether it might become a community asset transfer or might be sold for other uses. The Parish Council would register an interest in the matter as they had many ideas for its use if it was an option.

238. Councillor Fisher would attend a meeting on November 9th at the College and report any developments.

Finance Report

239. The following items were considered and approved:

Item 7: Finance Report.			
	NET	VAT	Total Cost
a.) Neil Hemmings Accommodation allowance.	£40.00		£40.00
b.) Greenfingers-grass cutting-	£400.00	£80.00	£480.00

c.) Biffa Waste Services- waste collection- Cricket Club	£42.78	£8.56	£51.34
d.) British Gas- Village Hall	£69.95	£3.49	£73.44
e.) Stafford B.C.- Civic amenity Visit	£87.08	£17.42	£104.50
f.) PJS Landscapes- Cemetery grass cut	£134.00	£26.80	£160.80
g.)A.J. Philpott- fencing for Cricket Club	£89.93	£18.49	£110.94
h.) S.P.C.A- A.G.M. lunch Councillor Russell	£10.00		£10.00
i.) PJS Landscapes- Cemetery grass cut	£134.00	£26.80	£160.80
j.)Parton Agriplant- work in Cemetery	£350.00	£70.00	£420.00
k.) Biffa Waste Services- Cricket Club	£41.10	£8.22	£49.32
l.)Town & Country Services- Flaxman Close	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00

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

n.) A request from Stone Rural Parish Council to pay half the costs for a Golden Jubilee Beacon was agreed. The cost would be £150.00 and it was planned to light the beacon on the Millennium Point on the Downs Banks.

o.) A meeting of the Finance committee would be arranged in late November to discuss a preliminary budget for the next financial year.

p.) It was agreed that Streetscene would repair the Flaxman Close M.U.G.A at a cost of £100and then continue a quarterly inspection at a cost of £50 per visit. The existing inspection contract with Playsafety would be cancelled. Streetscene would sweep away any debris such as leaves, litter and glass as part of their visit.

Planning Update

240. There would be a Planning Committee meeting later in the evening to consider one current application.

Voluntary Transport Scheme.

241. Councillor Dodd reported 12 trips had been organised in the month. There were some new requests for lifts from residents.

242. it was agreed to limit the number of lifts for an individual, in one week, if they were felt to be excessive demands and not vital for health reasons but only shopping trips.

Village Plan

243. The Chairman had circulated a paper on a possible way forward for the use of Wedgwood Memorial College for Parish and resident use. It was agreed that the Village Plan should incorporate reference to the future use of the College and we would declare an interest in the facilities in the grounds as well as the need to preserve the arboretum and other landscape features.

244. Councillor Hall reported that the issue of maintaining confidentiality to responses had been addressed and a way to undertake the analysis of the 300 questionnaires was being developed.

245. A list of the volunteers had been prepared and would be forwarded by the Clerk to the co-ordinators of the groups:

- Marie Goodhall- First Responders
- John Russell/ Ash Connor- Neighbourhood Watch
- Gill Dodd- Voluntary Transport
- Charles Aked- Speedwatch

246. Finally he hoped to produce a short concise plan with clear action points that could be developed into a Local Neighbourhood Plan in due course. He would report progress at the December meeting.

Remembrance Day arrangements

247. The Clerk reported that there would be six police officers in attendance to support the parade and those wreaths had been delivered for presentation. It was noted that the Police and Councillor Parry would also lay wreaths.

248. He pointed out that following confirmation of support for this year the Police had advised less support, if any in 2012, and that the parade route and service need to be considered as an event that the organisations would have to "police" themselves.

249. This would need consideration for all parties in due course.

Barlaston allotments

250. Following a meeting with members of the Barlaston allotments Association, the Chairman had circulated a paper outlining the current position of letting and vacancies on the site. It was noted that there was a waiting list with 17 people requesting a plot. Allotments were allocated on a "first on- first off" basis and preference was not given to residents of Barlaston.

251. The terms of the current lease would be in force for the next four years and a discussion followed to enable more plots to be on offer with the development of another area in the Parish for allotments or an easing for the allocation of vacant plots to residents of Barlaston.

252. The Clerk reported that he had noted in reading the questionnaires submitted a high demand from residents of Barlaston for a plot which should be reported to the Allotments Association by the Chairman when he hopes to attend their A.G.M. in January 2012.

253. In the meantime it was left in abeyance until this meeting when the views of the Allotments Association Committee could be sought and a change in the policy of allocating plots might be reviewed and actioned in favour of local residents.

Matters arising from the Open Forum.

254. The discussions from the Open Forum were noted and would be taken forward by the Borough Councillors to Stafford B.C. Planning Department.

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

255. The Clerk's actions identified in his written report were noted and agreed. The meeting dates for 2012 were agreed and would be circulated.

256. It was noted that the Olympic Torch Route would pass through Stafford; it was not yet known if the route to Stoke would pass through the local area.

257. The Clerk had requested repairs to potholes on Orchard Place and the clearance of conifer growth around a street light in Park Drive.

258. The Stafford B.C. Enforcement Officer had been informed of a wooden building being erected on land off Meaford Road for which planning permission had previously been refused.

259. The Clerk would warn residents of the large number of spam notices, phone calls and emails currently being reported.

260. The Clerk reported that there were many out of date notices posted around the village which it was agreed should be removed by the Clerk and Councillors if seen. He would remove any notices from the notice boards as well if out of date or not placed properly.

261. Discussion over ongoing parking problems on Longton Road were hampered as the police could not report on their response to several complaints from Mr. Seabridge and a resident. There were a variety of views on the problems raised and the Clerk indicated many comments had been given in responses through the recent questionnaire. Councillor Russell indicated that he had asked the Borough Council parking committee to look at the problem raised by Mr. Seabridge. It was agreed that this was an issue of concern for all the residents of that stretch of Longton Road for parking, obstruction for farm vehicles and the milk wagon and difficulties in passing through the narrow sections of the road.

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

262. Councillor Dodd reported that he had met with a representative of Wedgwood along with Councillor Hall to confirm Wedgwood were spending money to improve the interior facilities of the Sports Pavilion.

263. Senior representatives of Wedgwood had been invited to the December Open Forum to have an open discussion on their plans and management of the estate. The Chairman would collate a list of topics to be explored at the meeting.

264. The Christmas lights on the tree outside the old library would be lit from December 1st.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

266. The Council had received the most recent minutes of the Village Hall Committee.

267. The insulation of the Village Hall roof had been completed.

268. The trustees would be consulted on the final design of the new clock that was to be purchased.

269. The recent Kel Elliot show had been poorly attended and a loss had been incurred.

270. The outcome of several bids to secure funding for improvements were awaited. It was noted that an asbestos survey would be undertaken as a safety precaution relating to the building.

Chairman