

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 10th January 2012**

Present: – Gareth Jones
Chairman

Tony Dodd	Viv O'Dunne
Paul Fisher	John Russell
Steve Hall	Elaine Philpott
Sara Fearn	

Apologies: Peter Stevenson & Sheila Perkin

In attendance: Lynne Bakker-Collier, Kerry Ashdown (Staffordshire Newsletter)

Open Forum

314. In the absence of any member of the public there was an open discussion before the meeting opened regarding recent news items regarding proposed developments at the Strongford Treatment Plant.

315. There had been many concerns raised by residents from Trentham and Barlaston regarding the likely impact of increased traffic along Old Road from Trentham to the plant and the likely impact upon the local environment.

316. The suggestion of a link road from the plant directly to the A34 would be welcomed as an alternative to reduce traffic.

317. It was agreed that the Chairman would contact the Strongford works to try to identify the detail of the proposals as they might impact upon the Parish. He would also attend a public meeting in Longton that had been arranged to discuss the proposals.

Minutes of the meeting held on December 6th. 2011

318: RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on December 6 th be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

319. Re Minute 297- it was confirmed that Councillor Russell would collate returns of the volunteers for a renewed Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

320. Re Minute 306- The Clerk reported on the problem with the stile at the rear of the score box at the Cricket Club. Derek Sweet from Stone Ramblers had written concerning this and the County Rights of Way Officer had viewed the alteration made to the stile by the local farmer, Mr. Buxton. The Council agreed to leave the matter in abeyance until the

Playing Fields Committee view the site in March. One Councillor had looked at the stile and thought the height was still reasonable. It was agreed the containment of stock from parish land was important.

321. Re Minute 307- the Finance Committee had not recommended any initial expenditure on a trial of Ecogrid for the Village Green to provide additional parking for the Village Hall. It was noted the cost was quite high for a small area and the use of similar material at Yockerton seemed to be only partially successful. Councillor Russell thought a trial would be helpful but it was suggested there would be additional costs with ground works to prepare the site. It was agreed that this should be kept as a possible future expenditure item.

Report by Chairman

322. It was agreed that the Open Afternoon in the Village Hall had been a worthwhile event although representation from residents could have been higher.

323. It was felt the event should be repeated in 2012 but advertised well in advance.

324 The Chairman had circulated details of two meetings regarding the future of the Wedgwood Memorial College that had clarified the current position and timing of the programme to decide future action by Stoke-on-Trent Council.

325. He outlined an interest that had been declared by a local training organisation that might be seeking a short term lease on the College.

326. The work of the Save WMC group was noted and that a public meeting was being held in the Parish Church on January 25th so that local opinion could be gauged. It was agreed to publicise the meeting.

327. The Save WMC group were in the process of producing a revised business plan and had attracted pledges of over £30,000 to date.

Report by County Councillor

328. In the absence of Councillor Parry the Chairman reported that the County Council had reported ongoing retention of all services for 2012 despite the ongoing financial cuts.

Report by Borough Councillor

329. Councillor Jones had posted information on the Parish website regarding the recent power cuts during the high winds. He was satisfied that there was sufficient investment in the local infrastructure. It was noted that there were plans approved for a new substation by the telephone exchange that had never been actioned by Western Power although it was noted they had indicated that they may be running the power cables along the canal side underground; they had also trimmed any tree branches that may interfere with the power lines.

Finance Report

330. 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. Stafford B.C.- Election Recharges	£252.95		£252.95
c.) Royal British Legion-donation	£250.00		£250.00
d.) Biffa Waste Services-Cricket Club	£59.97	£11.99	£71.96
e.) Stafford B.C.- Civic Amenity Visits	£174.17	£34.83	£209.00

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

g.) The Clerk had provided all the Councillors of the proposed budget for 2012/13. He outlined the basis of these proposals and that the finance Committee had met on January 5th and had agreed to adopt these proposals.

h.) The Council resolved to retain the Precept for 2012/13 at £29000 and to take the full amount of the Concurrent Allowance of £2053.

i.) The Finance Committee had identified a number of action points that were also agreed. These were:

- To initiate a discussion over reducing the energy subsidy to the Village Hall
- To have a dialogue on future plans and the distribution of monies between the Village Hall Committee and the Trustees
- To agree to maintain the Cemetery maintenance with the Church sharing the costs.
- To retain a contingency of £10,000
- To consider raising the weekly hours of the litter pickers to 4 each if they agreed and to target particular areas of the village.
- To maintain the subsidies on waste collection
- To set aside £3,000 for the development of the Village Plan and to create a separate budget line.
- To support the Canal Towpath improvements with a donation of upto £250.
- To seek support from the Localism Bill for the implementation of the Village Plan.

j.) There was a discussion over the proposed contingency and the possible cost of eventual repairs to the Village Hall roof; this was an example not a definite issue that the Trustees thought relevant to the discussions. Councillor Hall felt all the risks such as the roof and diseased trees should be looked at and costed so that provision can be planned.

k.) It was agreed that the matter of Village Hall priorities, subsidies from the Parish Council and long term improvements should be discussed jointly between the Village Hall Committee and the Trustees at the A.G.M. in 2012. Councillor Dodd agreed to take the Chair for this discussion.

Planning Update

331. There had been no objections to the last two planning applications that had been submitted.

Voluntary Transport Scheme.

332. Councillor Dodd reported 17 trips had been organised in the month. These were mostly local trips.

Village Plan

333. Councillor Hall reported upon the ongoing analysis of the 310 questionnaires. It was a laborious task with each question taking several hours to record the comments which would be taken into account. Assistance with this task was welcomed.

334. A summary of the progress to date would be published in January in the Church magazine and on the website.

335. Councillor Hall was aiming to produce a concise summary focusing upon action points that could be achieved.

336. He thanked Councillor Baker Collier for her offer to run dog training sessions to train dogs and their owners to respect the problems created by dog fouling. Councillor Dodd volunteered to act as a Dog Warden.

Barlaston East Ward- Councillor Vacancy

337. The Clerk reported that the Council could now co-opt and that he would publish notices to advertise the vacancy. This action was agreed.

338. The Council would discuss any declarations of interest at the February meeting.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

339. It was confirmed that a joint venture with the Stone Rural Parish would see the lighting of a gas-fired beacon the Millennium Viewpoint in June. It was anticipated that the

Stone Rural Council would make the necessary arrangements and that the costs were shared.

340. It was agreed that the Parish Council should try to coordinate any celebrations for the Jubilee that were being arranged in the village- it was envisaged that the school would be involved in the celebrations.

341. It was likely several groups were arranging a celebration, together with the likelihood of street parties.

342. The Parish Council agreed to organise a celebration based on the Village Hall and possibly the Village Green. The Wedgwood Sports Fields might also be a suitable venue.

343. Councillors Jones and Philpott would discuss this and circulate their ideas to Councillors before the next meeting.

344. It was agreed that the Village Hall Committee would bid for a grant of upto £10,000 to improve the kitchen at the Village Hall from a fund established by Stafford Borough Council for Capital Works in the Diamond Jubilee year.

Remembrance Day 2012 arrangements

345. The Clerk reaffirmed that the Police had indicated that they would not be able to marshal the parade through the village in 2012.

346. Proposals from the Churches to parade should be discussed with the Police long before the service in 2012. The suggestion was the parade would be marshalled by representatives of the groups involved in the parade.

347. It was noted the Police did not have the jurisdiction to stop vehicles on occasions such as this.

348. When the Police next were represented at the Parish Council meeting the outline proposals for a parade would be made for them to consider.

Nominations for Certificate(s) of Commendation and Golden Jubilee Award 2012- agreement of process and dates.

349. It was agreed to seek written nominations for the Golden Jubilee Award 2012 by March 1st. The Clerk had already received one nomination.

350. It was agreed to present the Award at the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations together with a number of Certificate of Commendation for residents. The Clerk confirmed he had already received three nominations.

351. The Clerk would publicise the arrangements in due course.

Matters arising from the Open Forum.

352. There were no matters to discuss.

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

353. The Clerk's actions identified in his written report were noted and agreed.

Any other business – Agenda items for meeting to be held February 7th. 2012.

354. It was agreed members would submit articles for the next edition of the Heron to Councillor O'Dunne as soon as possible.

355. The date of the next publication would be after March 2012 when the details of local Diamond Jubilee Celebrations had been confirmed.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

357. The ongoing issue of noise from the Zumba classes was raised by Councillor Fearnas as she believed it was still a problem. Councillor Jones reported that he believed there had been a reduction in the noise and the matter was being kept under review.

358. The Village Hall had recorded record takings from lettings in December 2011.

359. It was agreed to inform the school of the need to ask parents to keep clear of the area for parking the mobile library at the front of the Village Hall. There had been an issue when there was a school function on during the day when the mobile library was also trying to park there. Councillors O'Dunne and Fisher would speak to the school.

Chairman

