

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday February 7th. 2012**

Present: – Gareth Jones
Chairman

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

Apologies: Peter Stevenson

In attendance: Lynne Bakker-Collier, Ian Parry, Graham Morris & Simon Oakden from S.T.W.A.- Strongford, Kerry Ashdown, D.Bonsall, Tony Bonsall, Peter Hayward, & Sheila Weightman,

Open Forum

- 360a.) The Chairman welcomed Mr. Simon Oakden and Mr. Graham Morris representing Severn Trent Water Authority - Strongford and three residents from Barlaston Old Road also Mr. Peter Hayward. (a City of Stoke-on-Trent Councillor)
- b.) The representatives from Severn Trent gave a detailed presentation on the development proposals at the Strongford Works; this was supported by notes and plans.
- c.) Planning permission for the work had recently been granted by Stoke-on-Trent City Council.
- d.) The operational basis of the works was outlined. The issue of occasional unpleasant odours from the works was noted.
- e.) H.G.V. access would remain along Barlaston Old Road from Trentham throughout the works which would commence in March 2012 and should be complete by April 2014. Currently H.G.V.s travel this route everyday bringing waste to be treated at the works from various locations around the country.
- f.) The planned developments are a response to new E.U. Directives to reduce the phosphorus content of effluent entering the River Trent by the year 2014. The existing plant is not capable of this process so compliance with this directive is necessary.
- g.) To reduce traffic the excavated soil and spoil would be kept on site and moved internally to a section to the north east of the works and this mound would be landscaped at the completion of the work.
- h.) Local objections had been made by a number of residents from Barlaston Old Road. During the construction work it was noted that the expected increase of H.G.V. traffic on a daily basis could be up to 70% spread throughout the working day, but would return to current levels at the completion of the works.
- i.) There was no intention to bring H.G.V. traffic through Barlaston but there would be vehicular access for cars for construction workers from Old Road Barlaston.

j.) There is no plan to provide a new access to the site from the A34. The issue at the request of local residents is being considered by the Board of Directors of the Company.

k.) The issue of possible degradation of the road through additional traffic was noted.

l.) The presentation closed and Messrs. Morris and Oakden were thanked for their clear presentation.

m.) It was agreed that the residents in the Open Forum could ask questions and a number of their points regarding noise and traffic were noted. The possibility of a temporary road to the A34 was regarded by Severn Trent as impractical and costly. A possible route could be across land owned by Trentham Golf Club- this had not been discussed by Severn Trent.

n.) Stoke-on-Trent Councillor Mr. Peter Hayward, who represented the residents pointed out that as a statutory utility provider Severn Trent was allowed the permitted development but any future developments plans could be stopped if they went to a planning application.

o.) It was agreed that a visit to the works would be welcomed in the summer months and the Clerk would arrange this.

Minutes of the meeting held on January 10th 2012

361: RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on January 10 th be approved and signed by the Chairman.
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Matters arising

362. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Report by Chairman

363. The Chairman reported that the Wedgwood family graves in the Churchyard had been cleared of weed and debris and that the Wedgwood family were grateful for the significant improvements. The full cost of the work was being reclaimed from WWRD.

364. It was agreed that the Churchyard was looking much better as a result of recent maintenance and there were plans to make further improvements.

365. Councillor Fearn is meeting with Church representatives to discuss plans for 2012 and it was agreed that the removal of the small mound of accumulated soil and debris could go ahead at a cost of £100 that would be shared with the Church.

366. The Chairman reported on the recent meeting held by the Save WMC Group, the attendance was disappointing but upto £50,000 had been pledged to the group. This finance was needed to enable the proposed Business Plan to materialise if accepted by the Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

367. The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting with Mr. Derek Tatton from the Save WMC group and Mr. Bob Bowers to consider a range of options to improve the business plan which was still being considered by the Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

368. The Chairman had received no support on his "blog" that the Parish Council should consider a pledge of finance to the Save WMC Group but felt that there was a local wish to save the site from possible closure and development.

Report by County Councillor

369a.)Councillor Parry outlined some of the issues regarding the current position of Wedgwood Memorial College from the viewpoint of the County Council.

b.)It was agreed at this point to move the meeting into a private discussion for the Council members only. The representative from the local newspaper left the meeting.

Wedgwood Memorial College

370.) It was agreed to wait until the outcome of the efforts of the Save WMC Group's submissions were known and in summary that the Parish Council would continue to look at WMC site wanting to preserve the buildings and grounds for the benefit of the local community.

Report by Borough Councillors

371.There was nothing to report that would not be covered in the meeting.

Finance Report

372. The following items were considered and approved:

	NET	VAT	Total Co
a.) Neil Hemmings - Accommodation allowance.	£40.00		£78.
b.) Postage Stamps	£9.84		
c.) P.C. security renewal	£24.99		

d.) British Gas- Village Hall-gas supply	£273.48	£13.67	£287.15
e.)British Gas-Village Hall-electricity supply	£467.56	£93.51	£561.07
f.) Stafford B.C.- repairs to MUGA- Flaxman Close	£100.00	£20.00	£120.00
g.) PJS Landscapes- work in Cemetery	£775.00*	£155.00	£930.00
h.) Stafford B.C.- quarterly inspection of MUGA- Flaxman Close	£50.00	£10.00	£60.00
i.) Audit Commission- annual audit fee	£285.00	£57.00	£342.00
j.) Biffa Waste Services- Cricket Club	£36.11	£7.22	£43.33
k.) Barlaston P.C.- donation to Church Magazine	£250.00		£250.00
* being reclaimed from WWRD			

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

m.) The Clerk outlined the reduction in charges for gas supply but increased charges for electricity. He identified there was a clear and effective monitoring system in place and he believed the charges would gradually reduce as a result of the increased heat insulation and the new boiler.

Planning Update

373. There had been no objections to the last two planning applications. A current application for a rear extension at 14 Park Drive would be considered by the Planning Committee in a separate meeting later in the evening.

Voluntary Transport Scheme.

374. Councillor Dodd reported 15 trips had been organised in the month. These were mostly local trips.

Village Plan

375. Councillor Hall reported that all the questionnaires had been analysed and each question had been investigated. He provided an example of the issue of traffic and outlined via graphs the implications of the responses bearing in mind there might be a small response on this or the other topics.

376. Councillor O'Dunne had produced graphs for all the topics that now needed a commentary and a series of agreed action points.

377. It was hoped a final plan could be produced with action points and the graphs as an appendix.

378. It was suggested that a summary could be placed on the website but a note of caution was expressed that they were basic statistics which could be misinterpreted without any background detail.

379. It was noted that there were 33 volunteers for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme but no meeting had been arranged.

380. Training was being organised for six volunteers for the Speedwatch Scheme.

Barlaston East Ward- Councillor Vacancy

381. The Clerk reported that he had received an email from Patrick Linehan indicating an interest in the vacancy.

382. It was agreed to consider his interest at the March meeting together with any other nominees that were proposed before co-opting onto the Council.

.Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

383. Councillor Philpott reported on an initial meeting to discuss possible celebration events.

384. Eight volunteers from the village had met and identified a number of events to suit all age groups and these could be spread over the weekend of the Jubilee Celebrations.

385. The likely expenditure would be for food and cakes, decorations and bunting and 60 trees to be planted around the village. Sponsors for a commemorative mug were being sought.

386. It was agreed that once an agreed series of events had been agreed and costed the Parish Council would support the financing of these activities upto the limit of £2000.

387. Councillor Parry had also been approached to support the celebrations and it was hoped upto £1,000 could be granted from the Community Fund.

388. A more detailed programme of events and costs would be produced for the next meeting.

Nominations for Certificate(s) of Commendation and Golden Jubilee Award 2012

389. The Clerk reported no further nominations.

390. It was agreed to pursue any nomination which should be with the Clerk by March 1st 2012.

Matters arising from the Open Forum.

391. It was agreed that the meeting with the representatives from Severn Trent-Strongford had proved valuable and had alleviated any major concerns.

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

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

393. It was hoped that in the near future the Council would enter the Best Kept Village Competition.

394. It was agreed that seven Councillors wanted to visit the new Staffordshire County Council Offices and a date of February 20th at 5p.m. was to be suggested.

395. The Clerk read out a copy of an email from Peter Hedley regarding the possible location of the new County flag in the Church grounds. It was agreed that based upon the factual information provided the Church was an inappropriate location.

Any other business – Agenda items for meeting to be held March 6th. 2012.

396. It was agreed to invite the new local Staffordshire Newsletter Community News Correspondent to the next meeting.

397. It was agreed that if there was to be a presentation at the beginning of a meeting the meeting would commence at 7.00 p.m. not 7.15 p.m.

398. It was agreed to place Broadband Speed and Access in Barlaston onto the March Agenda.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

400. The next social event was on March 10th and it was hoped it would be a success.

401. There was an identified problem with the electricity supply which had tripped out on several occasions, this was being corrected.

402. The minutes of the Village Hall Committee were accepted and the Trustees passed on their congratulations for the high level of income which had led to a healthy surplus.

403. The outstanding Babbacombe Cottage wayleave payment was noted and action was being taken. It was agreed the two wayleave payments remain with the Village Hall Committee.

Chairman