

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday April 3rd. 2012**

Present: – Gareth Jones
Chairman

Tony Dodd	John Russell
Sara Fearn	Elaine Philpott
Paul Fisher	Sheila Perkin

Apologies: Lynne Bakker-Collier, Steve Hall, Viv O'Dunne, Peter Stevenson

In attendance: C.Donahue, J. Edwards, L.Coates, K.Ashdown.

Open Forum

457. Christine Donahue gave a personal thank you for the recent donation for new football kit for the Boys Brigade. She explained how important this donation was and a letter of thanks was received.

458. Mr. Edwards requested information regarding the planning process in relation to his property which was for sale. The application for change of use to a Dental Surgery was noted and clarification was sought on the parking provision and number of staff to be employed if the application was passed for change of use.

459. The Chairman outlined the procedure and a decision should be made within eight weeks of the application. The Council's Planning Committee would be considering this application.

460. Mr. Edwards had spoken to several of his neighbours regarding the application and he looked forward to the decision in due course.

461. The Chairman closed the Open Forum and welcomed Patrick Linehan to the Council as the new Councillor for Barlaston East.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

462. Councillor Philpott reported on the plans and the notes of the planned events were discussed.

463. The Sing-along on Saturday June 2nd. and the Treasure Hunt on Sunday the 3rd. were being planned and agreement had been reached with all the venues involved.

464. The Fun Day on Monday 4th was outlined based at the Cricket Club with the possibility of a parade by the Boys Brigade through the village.

465. Lynne Coates had produced advertisements which were to be displayed on the notice boards and local shops as well as on the website. She had organised registration forms for children to participate in the Fun Day and these were to be placed locally as well as the possibility of online registration. All local children were to be welcomed to participate.

466. A public address system was needed and the one from the Village Hall was available.

467. Councillor Parry had provided a grant of £500 to support the activities and expenditure on balloons and the web form were agreed.

468. The Clerk would undertake a risk assessment of the Cricket Club before the Fun Day and advised on the need for separate insurance for the Bouncy Castle.

469. There would be a Church Service on the Village Green celebrating the Jubilee on Sunday June 3rd.

470. It was hoped to involve all the children from the school with the celebrations possibly in the week prior to the events and it was hoped a time capsule could be planted on the Green adjacent to the road leading upto the Upper House in a suitable spot where bulbs and wildflower seeds could be planted. The details of this were not finalised.

471. Councillor Philpott had asked Ted Poultney to purchase and plant a number of trees that would be spread around the village. She suggested an oak tree and two silver birches on the Green by the site of the time capsule and spring bulbs. Advice re the planting and watering of trees was given by Councillor Russell and noted.

472. A number of established fruit trees were to be planted at several sites and it was hoped that the Scouts, Boys Brigade and Church tots would be involved in the planting before the Jubilee Weekend. The suggested sites were by the Church, on Barlaston Park off Wedgwood Drive, in Pear Tree Close, by the Scout and Guides Hut and in the Cemetery grounds. Exact site details would be confirmed with the relevant landowners.

473. There was to be a shop display competition for local shops.

474. Thanks were expressed to Elaine and Lynne and the other members of the organising committee for their work. Lynne was thanked for her work on the website which had proved increasingly popular as a means of communication.

Minutes of the meeting held on March 6th. 2012

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

Matters arising

476Re: Minute 407 there was ongoing instances of anti-social behaviour around the village which the Clerk had reported to the Police. Several of the alleged culprits had been identified and it was hoped that any repetition would be reported immediately to the Police. The Chairman agreed to investigate the framework for an alcohol ban in public places in the Parish.

478: Re Minute 429- The Clerk reported an increase in the broadband speed for Virgin that is likely to be followed by other providers.

479: Re Minute 432: It was agreed that the Golden Jubilee Award would be presented at a Church Service on a date to be agreed.

480. After a long discussion it was agreed to make three Certificates of Commendation in 2012; these would be to Mavis Eardley, Barbara Carter and Pam Bedford. These presentations would be made on a different occasion to the Golden Jubilee Award.

481. The Chairman reported on a recent meeting with representatives from the Barlaston Health Centre. He and Councillor Dodd had attended and reported on a positive response to the issues raised including the slippage on waiting times for appointments.

482. Councillor Dodd reported upon positive progress by the Barlaston Youth Association who had recently formed and had been supported by the Parish Council to organise a four a side football competition. The competition had raised £20 for the Association. He had arranged a meeting with Phil Richens from WWRD to discuss the possibility of using the Wedgwood Social Club for the Association as well as a playing base for football.

483. It was agreed to support the development of the Association; the Clerk pointing out the need for proper insurance and risk assessment in advance of any activities.

Report by Chairman

484. The Chairman reported that the interest of a local businessman in supporting Wedgwood Memorial College had been considered by Stoke-on-Trent Council but it was unlikely to proceed further. The College had closed at the end of March as the Stoke –on-Trent city Council had again rejected the latest bid from Save WMC.

485. The security of the Wedgwood Memorial College buildings would be paramount following the closure and would lead to careful consideration of any planning or future development proposals.

486. He reported on the Stafford Borough Council special Olympic celebrations for Stafford.

487. He noted that there was Borough Council concern about the demise of retail and other business in Stafford town centre in the light of new retail development and other market trends.

Finance Report

488. The following items were considered and approved:

	NET	VAT	Total Cost
a.) Neil Hemmings - Accommodation allowance	£40.00		£40.00
b.) British Gas- Electricity supply- Village Hall	£244.75	£48.95	£293.70
c.) P.J.S. Landscapes- Cemetery Mowing	£141.00	£28.20	£169.20
d.) Eurooffice- litter pickers	£34.92	£6.98	£41.90
e.) Stafford B.C.- MUGA Inspection	£50.00	£10.00	£60.00
f.) Tony Dodd- equipment for Barlaston Youth Association	£58.00		£58.00
g.) Nigel Ferguson- web form	£50.00		£50.00
h.)S.P.C.A. –annual subscription	£461.29		£461.29
i.) Community council of Staffordshire- annual subscription	£22.00		£22.00
k.) P.J.S. Landscapes- Cemetery Mowing	£141.00	£28.20	£169.20
l.)Not Just Balloons Ltd.	£12.33		£12.33
m.)Town & country Services- Flaxman Close	£45.00	£9.00	£54.00

489. The Clerk reported upon the additional cost of grass cutting on Barlaston Park if undertaken with the Parish Council contractors, Greenfingers. He explained that he could instruct highways to undertake this work in the knowledge that there would be fewer cuts of the verges; it was noted that the position with other verges in the

village previously undertaken by Stafford & Rural Homes by Greenfingers still had not been clarified by the time of the meeting.

490. It was agreed to decline the responsibility of cutting the verges on Barlaston Park for the current year and the Clerk would notify the Highways Department.

491. It was agreed that the recharges for waste collection at the Cricket Club and energy costs at the Village Hall would be called in by the Clerk and that the the amounts of £250 and £500 respectively would remain for 2012/13.

Planning Update

492. It was agreed to review the communication and working procedures for Planning Applications.

493. A full discussion followed on the optimum arrangements for all parties involved in any application.

494. The Clerk outlined that there had been problems with postal delays from the Borough Council; that viewing controversial plans on line proved difficult for several Councillors and that more open Planning Committee meetings were to be encouraged.

495. It was agreed that as necessary there would be a Planning Committee meeting in the Village Hall prior to the Open Forum at 7.00 p.m. or earlier if there were several applications to be considered and a second monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of the month again in the Village Hall at 7.00 p.m.

496. On receipt of any application the Clerk would circulate the plans for written comments before any meeting that would be advertised in Orchard Place.

497. It was agreed that the Chairman could attend any of these meetings and would be kept in the communication loop for his information and consideration.

498. The recent application relating to Oaklands had been amended with a statement from the applicant clarifying the use of the proposed development.

499. The application for Meadow view was likely to be approved as the development could not be opposed on the previous restriction that applied to the agricultural tie and the development was regarded as a reasonable development in the green belt.

500. The latest Stafford Borough Council Development Framework proposals were noted and the document passed to Councillor Fisher for consideration.

Voluntary Transport Scheme.

501. Councillor Dodd reported 14 trips had been organised in the month. These were mostly local trips. Mrs. Beryl Whalley had resigned as a volunteer driver.

Village Plan

502. In the absence of Councillors Hall and O'Dunne the Chairman reported that Councillor Hall was hoping to provide a series of proposals following the analysis of the questionnaires in the form of a number of achievable action points.

Barlaston Youth Association

503. Following the earlier discussion the Councillors were delighted with the progress of the group and the mature approach of the elected Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary to the initial work of the group.

504. Councillor Dodd reported on the successful football tournament on April 1st.

Matters arising from the Open Forum.

505. The Planning Committee would convene to discuss the planning application for change of use at Robin Hill, 7 Old Road Barlaston.

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

506. The points from the Clerk's report were accepted and in addition he raised a number of issues. These included details of the consultation process for the joint Staffordshire and Stoke Waste Strategy and the proposed Norton Bridge Rail junction rail improvements. Councillor Russell agreed to consider these.

507. Details of the Community Watchdog scheme were noted it was hoped Charles Aked would continue to represent Barlaston at these meetings.

508. Several Councillors indicated they wanted to attend the Mayor's event at the Upper House in May; the Chairman would co-ordinate the reply to book places.

509. The Playing Fields Committee had met and the Cricket Club agreed to address a number of issues including the replanting of a tree that had been felled.

510. It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on April 26th in the Village Hall meeting room.

Any other business – Agenda items for meeting to be held May 1st 2012.

511. The untidy nature of the damaged railings and verges by the former Meaford Power Station was noted along with some fly tipping. The Chairman agreed to raise this with the Stone Rural Parish Council.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

513. Councillor Jones reported on the purchase of a large impressive clock for £60 that would be erected outside the Village Hall in due course. It was hoped the order for the other clock could be cancelled.

514. It was noted that the small plaque presented to the Parish Council by Wedgwood had been erected in the meeting room. The humidifier in the ladies toilet was now working.

515. The date of the Village Hall Committee A.G.M. was confirmed as May 24th 2012.

Chairman

