

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>. June 2012.**

**Present:** – Gareth Jones  
Chairman

Paul Fisher	John Russell
Tony Dodd	Peter Steventon
Elaine Philpott	Patrick Linehan
Sheila Perkin	Steve Hall

**Apologies:** Lynne Bakker Collier, Sara Fearn, Viv O'Dunne

**In attendance:** Ian Parry & Kerry Ashdown (Stafford Newsletter)

**Minutes of the meeting held on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2012**

**46: RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> May be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters arising**

47. Re Minute 15k. A three year long term agreement had been agreed with the insurance Company- Came & Co.

48. Re. Minute 36- this was unlikely to happen as the group had no funding for instruments.

**Report by Chairman**

49. The Chairman reported on the need to consider a detailed response to 'The Plan for Stafford Borough - Strategic Policy Choices'. The Planning Committee had discussed this earlier and the Chairman called for clear ideas over the way in which the Plan might impact upon Barlaston being portrayed.

50. Clearly the closure of the Wedgwood Memorial College and the uncertainty of its future was cause for concern in the village and it was hoped that the planning brief being undertaken on our behalf took on board the Parish Council's beliefs to try to resist wholesale redevelopment of the College site.

**Report by Borough Councillor**

51. The Canal towpath from Barlaston to Meaford would be upgraded once the full approval of the Borough Council had been granted.

52. It was noted that there had been little publicity regarding the Jubilee Beacon on the Downs Banks and few had seen it lit.

## Report by County Councillor

53. Councillor Parry wanted to support the Parish Council in forming a view over the future of the Wedgwood Memorial College and took on board earlier comments from the meeting.

54. He reported that the use of the Children's Centre had risen recently as the school had been allowed to make more use of the area. The Daily Programme was not fully utilised and was patchy for some activities.

55. The Clerk requested clarification regarding the possibility of some street lights being dimmed during darkness. Councillor Parry would look into the outline proposals and contact the Clerk.

56. The Clerk indicated that there was still some confusion over the mowing of verges in Barlaston Park- the County Council had undertaken the responsibility for this from May but it appeared Greenfingers were still cutting the grass.

### Finance Report

57. The following items were considered and approved

<b>Item 7: Finance Report.AS OF 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2012</b>			
The following items need consideration and approval:			
	<b>NET</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
a.) Neil Hemmings - Accommodation allowance	£40.00		£46.00
Postage	£6.00		
b.) Biffa Waste Services- Cricket Club	£37.13	£7.43	£44.56
c.) PJS Landscapes- Cemetery Mowing	£141.00	£28.20	£169.20
d.) A.J. Philpott & Sons- tree stakes *	£12.35	£2.47	£14.82
e.) Broker Network (Came & Co.)-Annual Insurance Renewal	£1136.79		£1136.79
f.) Party Packs- Bowler Hats *	£75.00	£15.00	£90.00
g.) Lynne Coates- A1 Posters- Diamond jubilee *	£60.45	£12.09	£72.54
h.) Party Packs-Union Jacks and Food boxes *	£35.20	£6.25	£41.45

i.) Lynne Coates- Novelty Ball point pens- Diamond Jubilee *	£65.32		£65.32
j.) PJS Landscapes- Cemetery Mowing	£141.00	£28.20	£169.20
k.) Stafford B.C. – quarterly inspection of the MUGA- Flaxman Close	£50.00	£10.00	£60.00
l.)Kilmington Rosettes- Diamond Jubilee *	£22.75	£4.55	£27.30
m.) Peter Plant Jewellers- Golden Jubilee Bowl Engraving	£35.00		£30.00
n.) Greenfingers- grass cutting	£412.00	£82.40	£494.40
o).Bubbly Bouncers- Bouncy Castle *			£50.00
p.)Extremes- Balloons*	£30.00		£30.00
q.) Ashley Mellor- Music *	£100.00		£100.00
r). Sideshows Entertainment- Punch & Judy*	£75.00		£75.00
s).Andy Harrison -Band*	£150.00		£150.00
t.)Town &Country Services- Flaxman Close	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00
u.)A.J. Philpott & Sons Ltd.- Safe for time capsule *	£80.59	£16.11	£96.70
v.)Biffa Waste collection- the Village Hall	£136.16	£27.23	£163.39
w.) Biffa Waste collection- Cricket Club	£53.83	£8.97	£53.83
x).Lynne Coates- materials re Diamond Jubilee*	£59.60		£59.60
y). Duke of York (Sandra Clarke)*	£60.00		£60.00

z). PJS Landscapes- Cemetery Mowing	£141.00	£28.20	£169.20
A1.) Longton Cake Supplies *	£134.00		£134.00
A2.) Lynne Coates- Gazebo *	£14.00		£14.00
A3). J. Poultney- trees and plants *	£228.00		£228.00
A4). Claire Cashmore – Thorley- gazebo *	£13.00		£13.00
A5).Elaine Philpott- various Jubilee *	£239.53		£239.53

\* Diamond Jubilee charges. See the separate table below of all the Diamond Jubilee Charges

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

bb.)I submit the following financial information as requested:

Balance as of June 1 <sup>st</sup> . 2012	Concurrent Functions	Section 137 Donations		
£23,706.37	£2053	£0		

cc .Credit has been received from British Gas re the Village Hall energy usage; I have submitted accurate meter readings for May.

dd. A grant for £500 has been received from the County Community Fund via Ian Parry to support the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

ee. The Chairman will discuss the Clerk's Annual Pay Review.

### **Diamond Jubilee Income and Expenditure 2012**

#### **Income**

County Council Grant	£500.00
Treasure Hunt	£112.10
Horse Racing	£47.00
Sale of Mugs	£257.50

Total = £916.60

Some of the cash taken on the Fun Day is to be split between local charities (to be agreed)

### **Diamond Jubilee Income and Expenditure 2012**

#### **Expenditure**

Party Packs- Diamond Jubilee Celebration materials	£246.68	£49.34	£296.02
Not Just Balloons Ltd.	£12.33		£12.33

A.J. Philpott & Sons- tree stakes	£12.35	£2.47	£14.82
Party Packs– Bowler Hats	£75.00	£15.00	£90.00
Lynne Coates- A1 Posters- Diamond jubilee	£60.45	£12.09	£72.54
Party Packs–Union Jacks and Food boxes	£35.20	£6.25	£41.45
Lynne Coates- Novelty Ball point pens- Diamond Jubilee	£65.32		£65.32
Kilmington Rosettes- Diamond Jubilee	£22.75	£4.55	£27.30
Lynne Coates- materials re Diamond Jubilee	£59.60	(£3.31)	£59.60
Duke of York - refreshments(Sandra Clarke)	£60.00		£60.00
A.J. Philpott & Sons Ltd.- Safe for time capsule	£80.59	£16.11	£96.70
Bubbly Bouncers- Bouncy Castle	£50.00		£50.00
Extremes- Balloons	£30.00		£30.00
Ashley Mellor- music.	£100.00		£100.00
Sideshow Entertainment – Punch & Judy	£75.00		£75.00
Andy Harrison - Band	£150.00		£150.00
Longton Cake Supplies and biscuits	£134.00		£134.00
Lynne Coates- Gazebo	£14.00		£14.00
J. Poultney- trees and plants	£228.00		£228.00
Claire Cashmore – Thorley- gazebo	£13.00		£13.00
Elaine Philpott- various Jubilee – trophy and picnic box contents	£239.53		£239.53
Chipped Bark- Village Green	£5.97		£5.97

J. Gent- Diamond Jubilee Celebrations (food)	£113.00		£113.00
Still to be received WWRD Mugs est. £450			
Total expenditure=		£ 1988.60	
Expected additional expenditure		+450.00	
Overall total =		£2438.60	
Less VAT to be reclaimed		£109.12	
=		£2216.48	
Total Income		£916.60	
Less donation(s) to local groups	circa	£400.00	
Total expenditure less income			
	=	£2438.48-£504.60	
<b>Cost to Barlaston P.C = £1824.88</b>			

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

### Planning Update

58. The Planning Committee had met earlier in the evening and had agreed the following comments regarding the outstanding applications:

1. The Committee had seen the plans for the three planning applications:-

a)12/17193/FUL

**Address:** Stoke On Trent Rugby Union Football Club Hartwell Lane Hartwell Stone Staffordshire ST15 8TL

**Proposal:** Single storey kitchen extension to include elevational alterations to the rear (south) and side (east)

b) 12/17172/OUT

**Address:** The Winghouse Land At Winghouse Lane Tittensor Stoke On Trent Staffordshire

**Proposal:** Demolition of public house; construct 13 houses (outline) with details of access, scale, layout and appearance to be determined

c.). 12/17043/HOU

**Address:** 1 Meaford Road Barlaston Stoke On Trent Staffordshire ST12 9EE

**Proposal:** Retention of boundary fencing and proposed gates

2. After discussion the following comments were agreed.

a) No objection- A modest extension to a local amenity

b.) As a neighbouring Parish members of Barlaston Parish Council planning committee are disappointed at the loss of a local amenity and the closure of the Public House.

Trees have already been cut down and the proposal sets a precedent for the local area and threatens the existence of local public houses to be replaced by houses.

In this instance the business has failed but to fill the site with houses adjacent to a busy dual carriageway needs careful planning and consideration.  
c.) Barlaston Parish Council Planning Committee has considered this retrospective application and object on the basis of the visual impact on the local streetscene. The fence is not in keeping with the local area and is higher from the actual ground level than the wall it is erected upon.  
Local residents feel that the fence is too high and a visual intrusion to the road.

### **Voluntary Transport Scheme**

59. There had been 13 lifts during May. A number of drivers were on holiday over the next few weeks causing some difficulties.

### **Village Plan**

60. Councillor Hall suggested it would be appropriate now to publish the findings of the Village Plan. It was agreed this could be printed and sent out as an insert in the next edition of the "Heron".

61. As the original questionnaire had not included the opportunity to comment on the Wedgwood Memorial College it was felt with the recent closure of the College some detail on the current position should be included.

62. Discussion then centred around the best way in which to include views on such matters and to incorporate these into a neighbourhood plan; possibly as an Addendum to the Village Plan.

63. 'The Plan for Stafford Borough - Strategic Policy Choices'

Earlier discussion on the strategic plan by the Planning Committee was reviewed with concern to ensure the views of the Parish Council were reported through the consultation.

64. The choice options mostly concern housing development and range from committing to build 250 new houses a year to 750 houses per year in the whole Borough. The recent level of growth has averaged 500 new houses per year. The plan is intended to cover the period to 2031. The favoured option seems to centre on the 500 new houses per year proposal. The bulk of the development is scheduled for Stafford (72%).

65. Key service villages, of which Barlaston is one, are earmarked for 12% of the total or an average of 60 new houses per year. This could mean that Barlaston would be allocated about 3 or 4 new house builds per year (reduced to take notice of its position in the Green Belt).

66. It seems that Barlaston is very vulnerable without a well thought out and considered neighbourhood plan which would need to be discussed fully at the next meeting.

67. Councillor Dodd and Councillor Stevenson establish which Councillors would serve in each working group. The Groups would report at the next meeting in July.

### **Diamond Jubilee Celebrations**

68. Councillor Philpott reported on the success of all the events over the Jubilee weekend .An excellent community spirit helped to make the Celebrations a success and Councillor Philpott and her team were thanked for all their hard work and dedication.

69. Letters of thanks had been sent from the organising Committee to all who had helped or donated and several individuals were noted for their generosity in particular.

70. The Clerk had outlined all the issues of known income and expenditure in his Finance Report earlier and had agreed all the necessary payments; the expenditure was in line with the budget. It was agreed the Council would pay for a lost gazebo cover belonging to the Church.

71a.) Councillor Parry was thanked for the grant received and it was agreed to produce a scrapbook of the weekend with photographs and memorabilia for posterity and the grant certificate would be included in this.

b.) Barlaston Youth Association had raised £550 at the Fun Day.

### **Certificates of Commendation 2012**

72. It was agreed to present the Certificates on September 8<sup>th</sup> at the Village Show.

### **Correspondence and Clerk's Report**

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

74. The Neighbourhood Highways Teams were in the Village on June 21 & 22 and the Clerk had provided them with work along Station Road.

75. The tenant of the field along Old Road had not cut his hedge earlier in the year and this was causing an obstruction to pedestrians which the Clerk had reported to the landowners Inglewood Estates on several occasions.

76. The Clerk had noticed weedkiller had been applied to several highways verges. He believed this had been carried out by Staffordshire Highways and regarded as unnecessary and he was seeking a response.

77. Stafford & Rural homes had installed solar panels to two bungalows on Station Road as a trial.

78. It was noted a gentleman was using a metal detector on the Village Green but was causing no disruption to the grass and seemed to be finding old coins.



79. An email from a resident of Tittensor road, Mr. P. Hedley was read by the Clerk. It was agreed to ask County Highways to review the visibility of the road sign for the crossroads and take any appropriate action. The Council did not regard the overhanging trees as obstructive.

80. It was expected that the Speedwatch Campaign in the village would begin soon as several volunteers had now received full training.

**Any other business – Agenda items for meeting to be held on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. 2012**

81. No additional items were raised for inclusion.

**Note by Clerk**

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

**Village Hall Committee Report**

83. Councillor Hall reported upon the recent A.G.M.

84. The progress of the Village Hall had been noted as well as the ongoing need to provide a permanent improvement to the ventilation problems and the need to upgrade the kitchen facilities.

85. The supply of power to the Hall also needed consideration.

86. There was now a cash balance which the Trustees agreed should be set aside by the Management Committee to help to finance the improvements. The Trustees confirmed they would continue to subsidise the costs of energy and waste collection.

87. Once the improvements mentioned as priorities had been achieved the Trustees would reconsider the situation.

88. The new clock for the Hall would be erected as soon as the necessary tractor and equipment to reach the height above the door became available.

**Chairman**