

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

Present: – Gareth Jones
Chairman

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Peter Steventon | John Russell |
| Sara Fearn | Patrick Linehan |
| Viv O'Dunne | Steve Hall |

Apologies: Paul Fisher, Sheila Perkin, Elaine Philpott , Tony Dodd

In attendance: Lynne Bakker Collier

Minutes of the meeting held on June 12th 2012

89: RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th June be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

90. Re Minutes 76 & 79: There had been no response to date from County Highways on these issues.

Report by Chairman

91. The Chairman reported that the proposal to improve the canal towpath from Barlaston to Meaford had still not been approved.

92. The Chairman reported on a meeting he had with Phil Richens of WWRD regarding the press release relating to planned developments on the Wedgwood Estate. All residents within 1.5 kilometres of the factory would be invited to a consultation event in the Wedgwood Museum on Tuesday 17th. July 2012.

93. The plans he had seen revealed a rationalisation on the use of the factory site using capital investment as well as a number of regeneration grants that had been applied for.

94. There would be disposal of some land to be sold to developers for executive housing alongside the canal.

95. It was a plan that Stafford B.C. were aware of and had been consulted upon.

96. Councillors commented upon the briefing given by the Chairman and agreed to attend the consultation event before making final comments relating to access, increased traffic and impact upon the greenbelt. As the plans had not been seen the matter was left in abeyance for further discussion. The Chairman agreed to contact WWRD to see if they

would attend a Parish Council meeting later in the year once there plans had been submitted to the Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

97. It was agreed to present the Certificates of Achievement to Barbara Carter and Pam Bedford at the Village Show and to Mavis Eardley at a Proscenium Players production before the end of 2012.

98. The Council agreed to meet the Headteacher of Barlaston First School at 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday 18th July for an update on the school's activities.

99. The School was looking for an alternative venue in case of an emergency closure now that Wedgwood Memorial College had closed; it was thought that the Village Hall was not fit for purpose in respect of an alternative location.

100. The Chairman agreed to pursue recent complaints regarding delays in appointment times at the Health Centre by seeking a meeting with the practice manager.

Report by Borough Councillor

101. Councillor Bakker-Collier gave her support to the policy of the Parish Council in respect of recent planning applications and response to the Strategic Choices consultation.

Finance Report

| 102. The following items were considered and approved | NET | VAT | Total Cost |
|--|------------|------------|-------------------|
| a.) Neil Hemmings - Accommodation allowance | £48.00 | | £59.66 |
| Picture Frames-Certificates Of Commendation | £5.69 | | |
| Chipped Bark for the Green | £5.97 | | |
| b.) PJS Landscapes- Cemetery Mowing | £141.00 | £28.20 | £169.20 |
| c.) PC world- Parish laptop and software | £389.17 | £77.83 | £467.00 |
| d.) Greenfingers- grass cutting | £412.00 | £82.40 | £494.40 |
| e.) Town & country Services- grass cutting Flaxman Close | £90.00 | £18.00 | £108.00 |
| f.) PJS Landscapes- Cemetery Mowing | £141.00 | £28.20 | £169.20 |

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

Planning Update

103. There had been a Planning Committee meeting earlier in the evening that had considered two applications

a.12/17246/HOU

Address: 2 Bell Lane Barlaston Stoke-On-Trent ST12 9BG

Proposal: Single storey rear extension

Comments: Barlaston Parish Council Planning Committee has considered this application and has no objection provided there is no loss of light for the neighbours.

b.12/17332/FUL

Address: Land Adjoining Meaford Road Barlaston Stoke On Trent Staffordshire

Proposal: Retention of field shelter and erection of implement store

Comments: As an adjoining Parish the Barlaston Parish Planning Committee would wish to submit a comment. They have no objection to the proposal providing the shed and store are for agricultural use and allow the rural area to remain tidy. There are a number of unrelated items in the field which the Committee view as untidy and hopefully would be removed in order to maintain the rural landscape on the edge of Barlaston.

Plan for Stafford Borough - Strategic Policy Choices

104. The Chairman had circulated a draft response that the Council considered to be completely acceptable for submission to the consultation with one small amendment regarding affordable housing in the village. The Clerk would submit these comments in due course. It was noted that a representative from Stafford B.C. had made a preliminary visit to the Wedgwood Memorial College to begin the formulation of a Planning and Design Brief for the Parish Council. It was also noted a rapid deterioration in the grounds of the College as no maintenance or gardening was being undertaken.

105. Recent implications arising from the Localism Bill suggested urgent development of the Village (Neighbourhood) Plan.

Village Plan

106. It was hoped to publish the next edition of the Heron in August and the edition would include a summary of the findings of the village questionnaire that would update residents on the main issues.

107. Councillor O' Dunne outlined the range of articles to be included in the Heron.

108. The two sub committees had formed and would meet before the next meeting of the Council to discuss the development of the Village (Neighbourhood) Plan.

Code of Conduct and Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

109. The Clerk explained the need to adopt a revised Code of Conduct to be in line with the legal requirements of the Localism Act. He had circulated a draft from NALC but explained that Stafford B.C. were producing their own version later in the month which should also be considered once available.

110. It was agreed to wait until the next meeting before agreeing which revised Code of Conduct to accept.

111. Council members were made aware of the need to declare any pecuniary interests on a regular basis.

Voluntary Transport Scheme

112. There had been 10 lifts during June. However there were only now three regular drivers as one had resigned due to personal reasons. Rose Worthington was looking after the requests whilst Gill Dodd was on holiday

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

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

114. No contribution to Age Concern was agreed. The Chairman asked for a breakdown of recent donations to charities and other requests. The Clerk would provide this detail in due course.

115. There was a general discussion regarding a series of disturbing events in the village notably three burglaries, a police search for a gentleman, a cash scam on a gentleman and a serious assault. The Neighbourhood Watch team were communicating details to the village but the number of cold callers, "rag and bone" vehicles and unknown visitors to houses was a cause for concern. The Clerk had spoken to PCSO Powell and she was aware of the known problems.

116. It was agreed not to publicise the Daisy's Dream charity appeal as this was not local and it was felt local requests should be given priority.

117. Councillor Linehan would attend a SPCA training session for new Councillors.

118. The Clerk had inspected a fallen Elderberry tree on the Village Green adjacent to the gate off Vicarage Lane. It was agreed to employ Cedar Point to remove the tree as soon as possible.

119. The recent storms had caused damage to the power cable alongside the canal which had caused some local problems.

Any other business
Agenda items for meeting to be held on September 4th. 2012

120. Councillor O Dunne was organising a BHF Heartstart course to take place in Barlaston at the Children's Centre on the 19th July 9.30-11.30. It was hoped that eventually there would be defibrillation sites in the Parish.

121. It was agreed to discuss the progress of the Barlaston Youth Association at the next meeting.

122. Councillor Russell asked the Clerk to contact Network Rail to support their latest proposals regarding the improvement of the Norton Bridge Junction.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

124. The clock had been installed and the new public address system was working well.

125. Councillor Jones noted the need for more volunteers to assist the Village Hall Management Committee.

Chairman