

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2012.**

**Present:** – Gareth Jones  
Chairman

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

**Apologies:** Ian Parry

**In attendance:** Lynne Bakker Collier, P.A. Bradbeer, Ian Macmillan, Chris Donohoe, Julian Shaw, Derek Dawson, Anne Howard, Karl Hartley.

**Open Forum**

126. Karl Hartley raised the issue of a permanent Community Centre on the Barlaston Park estate. He produced a plan and documentation relating to his ideas and work he had carried out as a feasibility study.

127. The site he suggested was on a strip of land owned by Stafford B.C. behind Henley Close.

128. He cited recent instances of disturbances by youths playing football in the street to which the police had visited on numerous occasions.

129. He suggested funding could be found for a Community Centre and he left his files for the Council to consider later in the meeting.

130. Chris Donohoe spoke to thank the Parish Council for the recent support for the donation regarding the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations for the Boys Brigade baton relay.

131. Julian Shaw, speaking on behalf of a number of residents from Longton Road, outlined his concerns regarding several noisy disturbances from a property off Longton Road when parties were being held; this had led to several reports of damage to private property, anti-social behaviour and alcohol abuse.

132. The Council were aware of the disturbances that raised many legal issues that the police had noted and the Council promised to support the residents in the area in order to ensure no repeat of this type of social networking party. It was hoped that the Stafford B.C. Enforcement Officer would follow up the complaints with the individual who had organised the events.

133. Councillor Linehan noted that Philip Edge from the Borough Council (Out of Hours Team) had indicated a colleague from the team had visited the site and found the noise level unacceptable and a letter would be sent to the householder.

134. The police had been called to the last incident and following the return from holiday the parents of the young man organising the parties had been reprimanded by his parents. Subsequently a personal apology from the young man had been given in person to neighbours and was ongoing.

135. In conclusion it was hoped that the matter was closed but it was agreed any further or similar incident in the village should be acted upon quickly by calling the police and the Borough Council.

136. A number of residents from Old Road were present to update the Parish Council on the likely resubmission of a planning application for a change of use from a residential property into a dental surgery.

137. On behalf of the residents Mr. Ian Macmillan outlined the ongoing concerns relating to this application relating to traffic congestion, noise and nuisance for residents and full opposition to commercial development of residential properties.

138. It was noted by the Chairman that any application in relation to change of use would have to be considered by the Highways Department, Environmental Health and the Planning Committee itself.

139. Once a revised application was received it would allow the Parish Planning Committee to reconsider its position and submit agreed comments in relation to the objective concerns raised at the meeting.

140. The Open Forum raised the issue of additional houses mentioned in the findings of the Village Plan. The Chairman indicated that the Local Framework had not identified Barlaston as a site for substantial additional housing but some small scale additional housing could not be ruled out. In developing the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan the working group would continue to restrict development and to protect the greenbelt but any plan would be circulated to residents for further consultation.

141. A complaint was registered regarding the narrow footpath on Tittensor Road suggesting in parts it was too narrow and very dark, as there was little street lighting. It was noted the big improvement on Mount Road Stone where a chicane had been located to prioritise traffic flow. The Clerk outlined that Highways were kept informed of our concerns regarding traffic and that any major improvements such as the one mentioned in the discussion were undertaken by the Highways Department at a large cost to themselves-one which the Parish could not afford.

### **Minutes of the meeting held on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. 2012**

**142: RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. be approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **Matters arising**

143. Re Minute 104: It was noted that there were many valuable items located in the grounds of the Wedgwood Memorial College that needed protection; it was pointed out that these were generally privately owned and hopefully the security measures in place would ensure no damage or theft to the grounds and buildings.

## **Report by Chairman**

144. The Chairman reported on the latest publication of the Heron and thanked Councillor O'Dunne for her work on the edition. It was hoped that the next edition would be in the early part of 2013. It was agreed to post copies to the outlying parts of the Parish at a cost of £40 approximately.

145. The design brief for Wedgwood Memorial College had been delayed. Comments to the Consultation document had been submitted including the issue of applying for tree preservation orders for the arboretum. The land between the railway line and the College was noted as a possible area for future development.

146. After discussion it was agreed to donate £150 each to the Barlaston Scout Group and Barlaston Boys Brigade from the income from the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. A small number of commemorative mugs were available for sale.

147. The Clerk would write and send a cheque for £20 to the winner of the Balloon Prize as a balloon had reached Berkhamstead and Councillor Philpott would present the owner of the winning balloon with a prize of £10 at the Village Show.

148. The Chairman reported upon current highways issues and singled out the overgrown hedge at the frontage of the Memorial College and that he would contact Stoke-on-Trent Council with a request that they undertake some maintenance of the hedge and grounds.

149. The Chairman reported upon a recent meeting with the Cumberland House Practice regarding issues at the local Health Centre. The Clerk had received a promise of some resurfacing of the car park following his letter to the Primary Health Care Trust. The meeting had concluded that waiting times for appointments were equitable and the local N.H.S. was undergoing further re-organisation.

150. It was agreed to donate £100 to Barlaston Boys Brigade for the provision of refreshments earlier in the week for the Diamond Jubilee baton relay that had been held in the Methodist Church.

151. It was noted that the Barlaston Old Road Garden Centre was advertising bathrooms and that the Borough Council needs to look at any change of use for the property along with issues relating to the catering facilities. The Chairman would contact Philip Atkins from Stafford B.C. to look into the matters raised.

152. The following dates for activities were noted:

- Village Show 8<sup>th</sup> September to be opened by Councillor Philpott.

- Presentation of Certificate of Commendation to Pam Bedford 3p.m 10<sup>th</sup> September
- Presentation of Certificate of Commendation to Barbara Carter at the Cemetery Committee on September 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Presentation of Certificate of Commendation to Mavis Eardley at the interval of the next Proscenium Players production.

153. A consultation on the fitness for purpose of the village post office had begun as part of an overall review of post offices in the borough. It was expected that the Parish Council would be consulted as part of this ongoing consultation.

154. It was noted that the intake at the First School had increased and that the school were making greater use of the facilities in the Children’s Centre.

### **Report by Borough Councillor**

155. Councillor Bakker Collier had nothing further to report.

### **Barlaston West Ward- Parish Council Vacancy**

156. The Clerk read the letter of resignation from Sheila Perkin which was accepted by the Council. It was agreed that a gift token for £25.00 be presented to Sheila as a token of appreciation for her contribution to the work of the Council over many years. The Chairman would arrange this and the presentation would take place at the Village Show.

157. The Clerk indicated that the vacancy would be advertised on the noticeboard in Orchard Place until the 27<sup>th</sup> September by which time notification of a possible election would be known.

158. Depending on the outcome of the notice of vacancy the issue would be an agenda item for the October meeting.

### **Finance Report**

159. The following items were considered and approved

	<b>NET</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
a.) Neil Hemmings - Accommodation allowance 2 months	£96.00		£96.00
Heron Postage & Distribution	£62.00		£62.00
Batteries-card reader	£8.00		£8.00
b.)PJS Landscapes – Cemetery Mowing	£141.00	£28.20	£169.20
c.)Biffa Waste Collection- Cricket Club	£124.86	£24.97	£149.83

d.) Town & Country Services- grass cutting Flaxman Close	135.00	£27.00	£162.00
e.)Stafford B.C.- Civic Amenity visit	£125.00	£25.00	£150.00
f.)Greenfingers- grass cutting	£412.00	£82.40	£494.40
g.)PJS Landscapes – Cemetery Mowing	£141.00	£28.20	£169.20
h.)Cedar Point- tree removal village green	£95.00		£95.00
i.)SPCA- new councillor training	£20.00		£20.00
j.)Staffordshire C.C.- printing re Diamond Jubilee	£64.00	£12.80	£76.80
k.)PJS Landscapes – Cemetery Mowing	£141.00	£28.20	£169.20
l.)Greenfingers- grass cutting	£412.00	£82.40	£494.40
m.)Panda Press- Heron printing	£500.00		£500.00
n.)PJS Landscapes – Cemetery Mowing	£141.00	£28.20	£169.20
o.) Town & Country Services- grass cutting Flaxman Close	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00
p.)Eurooffice – Printer cartridges and A5 Envelopes	£201.94	£40.38	£242.32
q.) Balloon prize- Diamond Jubilee	£10.00		£10.00
r.) H.K. Hall-Balloon prize- Diamond Jubilee	£20.00		£20.00
s.) Barlaston Scout Association- Donation	£150.00		£150.00
t.) Barlaston Boys Brigade- Donations	£250.00		£250.00

u.)The July and August salaries for the Clerk, Transport Co-ordinator and litter pickers have been met.

v.) Councillor O'Dunne would become a new cheque signatory to replace Sheila Perkin.

### **Planning Update**

160. There had been a Planning Committee meeting earlier in the evening that had considered two applications. Comments would be submitted by the Clerk.

161. It was agreed that a balanced view of the comments with as much detail as possible would be submitted by the Clerk based upon the Chairman of the Planning Committee's overall judgement.

### **Village Plan**

162. The two working groups still had to meet and dates would be agreed by the respective group leaders at the close of the meeting so that reports could be given in October.

163. Councillors Hall and O'Dunne were available to assist with the groups and would sit on the different groups namely transport and environment.

164. The analysis of the questionnaire findings were to be placed on line with hard copies in shops around the village for access to all.

165. It was noted that before the Neighbourhood Plan could be submitted the boundary of the area to be covered by the plan had to go for consultation via the Stafford Borough Council; Sandon and Burston Parish had begun this process.

### **Barlaston Youth Association**

166. Councillor Dodd confirmed he still held the balance raised by the Association that amounted to £550.

167. He reported disappointing progress since June as a number of the original committee had lost interest in developing further activities.

### **Code of Conduct and Declaration of Pecuniary Interests**

168. The Council had received a draft copy of the proposed Code of Conduct that was based upon the Stafford B.C. draft. Each Councillor had looked at the proposed code.

169. It was agreed to adopt the code for Barlaston and to adhere to its identified principles.

170. Advice regarding the Declaration of Pecuniary Interests was noted and the final draft from the Borough Council was awaited for consideration.

### **Voluntary Transport Scheme**

171. There had been 16 lifts during July and August.

### **Playing Fields Committee**

172. Councillor Fearn suggested that the Committee should meet four times a year. This would be raised with the Cricket Club at the next meeting of the Committee.

173. It was felt there had been a disappointing response to the Council this year from the Cricket Club.

174. A request for financial support to the Club for the annual firework display was deferred until the October meeting.

### **Staffordshire Newsletter**

175. Councillor Fearn felt that the coverage of local events in the Community News section of the Newsletter by the correspondent was disappointing.

176. The Clerk had advised to contact him on a regular basis for an update but to date she had not done so.

### **Matters arising from the Open Forum**

177. The details of the proposed Youth Centre plan were considered but not feasible as there was no clear indication of a funding source.

178. The village wanted to develop either the Village Hall or the Methodist Church Hall as a possible centre but there were insufficient guarantees of suitable volunteers or youth workers at the moment.

179. The documents would be returned to Mr. Hartley and the Clerk would write to him thanking him for his contribution to the Open Forum.

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

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

181. It was agreed that a donation of £100 could be sent to Age Concern- Stone Branch if the Clerk could identify their local support. He agreed to contact them for examples of local involvement.

182. It had been agreed by the landlord of the Plume of Feathers and the Library bus to park on the bowling green car park to ease congestion and access on the car park by the canal.

183. The Barlaston Park walkabout was on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 10.00a.m.

184. There is to be an open day at Meadow court and an invitation to the Council details to follow.

185. The AGM notice for the Staffordshire Playing Fields Association had been received; no representative would attend.

186. It was noted that there would be some road closures in the village when the Tour of Britain cycle race passed through on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

187. The report of the Community Council of Staffordshire was noted.

188. Permission was granted for Tim Cockin to organise the 2012 Wassail.

189. Members of the Oak Tree Farm project had been directed to approach WWRD to erect bird and bat boxes in the woodland by the pools.

190. The 350 bus service was now being run by Wardle and there were teething problems with the timings.

191. Members of the Speedwatch team had started activities in the village.

**Any other business – Agenda items for meeting to be held on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
2012**

192. Councillor Russell requested an agenda item regarding a possible footpath from Old Road to Orchard Place.

193. Councillor O'Dunne thanked Councillors Fearn and Fisher for attending the recent Heartstart group.

194. It was agreed to discuss the matter of metal detectors at the next meeting.

**Note by Clerk**

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

**Village Hall Committee Report**

196. Councillor Jones reported upon recent resignations from the Committee and the likely addition of at least one new committee member.

197. There was a conflict over the use of the car park when there were activities going on in the Village Hall and when the school was open leading to congestion with parents dropping off and picking up children.

**Chairman**

