

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012.**

**Present:** – Gareth Jones  
Chairman

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

**Apologies:** Peter Stevenson, Lynne Bakker Collier

**In attendance:** Karen Carlin

**Open Forum**

197. Karen Carlin a member of the Save WMC group asked for an update from the Council regarding the development of the College site.

198. The Chairman gave a detailed response indicating he was not in a position to advise on any known interest but believed that there were ongoing discussions between Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council. He confirmed that Stafford Borough Council had been asked to produce a planning and design statement for the College grounds but he was concerned as the condition of the site was deteriorating.

199. Karen indicated that the Save WMC group were still active and a proposal had been submitted for use of the Estoril site to establish a college for the benefit of the community. There had been no response to date on this proposal.

200. The Chairman concluded the discussion hoping that any proposal would include local consultation with all interested parties.

**Before the Council Meeting was opened the Council wished to place on record their sorrow following the tragic death of Stephen Holding in a plane crash in Nepal; he was a popular resident of Longton Road and the Council expressed a wish to extend condolences to his wife Maggie.**

**Minutes of the meeting held on September 4th. 2012**

**201: RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on September 4th. be approved and signed by the Chairman.

## **Matters arising**

202. Re. Minute 126 Councillor Dodd reported that he had spoken to Mr Hartley.
203. Re. Minute 145 the Chairman reported that he had spoken to Stafford B.C. regarding the commission brief for Wedgwood Memorial College that was to be drafted by Lichfield Council as soon as possible.
204. Re. Minute 146 the Clerk reported that letters of thanks had been received from the Boys Brigade and the Boy Scouts group regarding recent donations.
205. Re. Minute 148 it was noted that some action to the grounds had taken place.
206. Re. Minute 149. The Chairman noted no action had been undertaken to repair the Car Park.
207. Re. minute 151 it was noted that there would be no objection from the Borough Council on the retail developments at the Garden Centre.
208. Re Minute 152 the Chairman reported two of the presentations had taken place as planned.
209. Re. Minute 154 the Chairman had received a letter from the Chair of Governors at the School which he read to the Council. It contained encouraging news on the overall progress of the school and there was optimism for the new academic year.
210. Re. Minute 165 it was noted that the Chairman and the Clerk had attended a briefing on the Localism Act and they felt that the Parish was making progress and that only one Parish had to date submitted a Neighbourhood Plan to the Borough. The process of developing the Neighbourhood Plan was a complex one that needed time to develop.
211. Re. Minute 166. Councillor Dodd indicated no funds could be taken from the account without his and the Council's approval. It may arise in the future that the funds might have to be dispersed to the Parish Council.
212. Re' Minute 181. The Clerk had received a letter of thanks from the Stone Branch of Age Concern and he identified how the funds were being used locally to support local residents.

## **Report by Chairman**

213. The Chairman had nothing further to report following the items he raised in the matters arising from the September meeting.

## **Report by Borough Councillor**

214. Councillor Bakker Collier was ill and Councillor Jones had nothing further to report.

## Barlaston West Ward- Parish Council Vacancy

215. The Clerk read the letter of thanks from Sheila Perkin for the gift token she had received.

216. The Clerk confirmed that no election was to be held and it was now in order to co-opt for the vacancy and that he would display a notice in Orchard Place asking interested parties to write to him in order that interest could be gauged and a selection process agreed.

217. The Council were made aware of five potential candidates who it was hoped would now confirm their application in writing.

218. The Clerk would provide information on an informal basis to interested parties before the end of October and the Council could then convene a selection meeting. It was agreed that candidates should be interviewed personally and they should be given a chance to speak to the whole Council before a co-option was made.

219. The Clerk outlined that fairness, consistency and transparency should be clearly apparent in this process

### Finance Report

220. The following items were considered and approved

	<b>NET</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
a.) Neil Hemmings- Allowance	£48.00		£48.00
b.) Biffa Waste Collection- Cricket Club	£52.57	£10.51	£63.08
c.) Biffa Waste Collection- Village Hall	£56.16	£11.23	£67.39
d.) Age Concern Stone- donation	£100.00		£100.00
e.) Gareth Jones- gift voucher for Sheila Perkin	£27.30		£27.30
f.) PJS Landscapes – Cemetery Mowing	£141.00	£28.20	£169.20
g.) St. John's PCC- half of Cemetery Chapel insurance	£403.94		£403.94

h.)PJS Landscapes – Cemetery Mowing	£141.00	£28.20	£169.20
i.) Greenfingers- Grass cutting	£412.00	£82.40	£494.40
j.) Town & country Services- grass cutting Flaxman Close	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00
k.) Barlaston Cricket Club- donation for fireworks	£200.00		£200.00

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

m.) The Chairman outlined proposals from the Cemetery Committee following their recent meeting.

n.) It was agreed that minor works totalling a cost of £500 be carried out and costs shared with the Church.

o.)A proposal to improve the tidiness and organisation of the area for interred remains had not yet been approved by the Church and the costs of £7600 plus VAT were not feasible to be budgeted for at the moment for either party.

p.) A working group of volunteers to tackle overgrown areas in the Cemetery was to be convened on either the 12<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of November. The Clerk pointed out the issues related to the risk assessment he had undertaken and that he would advise the Church Warden on the issues involved.

q.) Councillor Fisher pointed out that there were decaying timbers in the Cemetery Chapel that would need attention and would be costly to remedy as it was a Grade 2 listed building.

r.) The Church was proceeding with the purchase of a noticeboard for the Cemetery.

s.) The Clerk was satisfied that the donation to Age Concern Stone was being used to support residents in Barlaston and the Council listened to the facts he had been given on this matter and were satisfied it was a good local cause to support.

t.) The Council agreed to donate £200 to Barlaston Cricket Club to support the firework display as it was a village event and there was unlikely to be any other similar event locally on that evening.

### **Planning Update**

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

222. The Clerk circulated the tree preservation orders for the Limes and Estoril sites of the Memorial College. It was noted large numbers of trees were included in the orders including the arboretum.

### **Village Plan**

223. The Transport Group were still to meet.

224. Councillor Dodd reported on the actions of the Environment Group and the priorities that they had identified: these included fly-tipping, litter and dog mess and areas of concern.

225. It was hoped to involve local school children and community groups in a poster competition to raise awareness on environmental issues.

226. He suggested the handing out of leaflets, the use of high visibility jackets and notices should be used particularly in areas such as the Canal Towpath, he undertook to develop these plans at the next meeting of the group.

### **Voluntary Transport Scheme**

227. There had been 15 lifts during September. Councillor Dodd was concerned that there was a shortage of volunteer drivers at the moment.

### **Footpath- Orchard Place**

228. Councillor Russell outlined a proposal to establish a permanent footpath from Old Road to the car park on Orchard Place. This was not supported by the Council for several reasons including health and safety issues that had been discussed previously.

229. The proposal was not practicable as the proposed path would lead to a car park and potential danger for pedestrians; no further action was proposed.

### **Metal Detectors in the Parish**

230. The Clerk pointed out that Byelaw 14 prohibited the use of metal detectors and where possible it was agreed to uphold this byelaw.

### **Barlaston Allotments**

231. It was agreed that the Council should continue to press for preferential treatment for Barlaston residents in the allocation of vacant plots as they arose.

232. The existing lease had another three years to run and the earliest opportunity to discuss the matter would be a rule change at the Allotments Association A.G.M. in 2013.

233. Councillor Linehan would look into the issues and hope to meet with the committee of the Allotments Association in due course.

234. There had been a recent dispute regarding the erection of a shelter which had subsequently been removed; it was felt a sub-lease detailing the Council's priorities re the letting and use of the site should be considered.

### **Playing Fields Committee**

235. The minutes of the September meeting had been circulated and accepted.

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

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

237. The Stafford & Rural Homes Neighbourhood Officer has changed again. The name of the new officer is Denise Foster but she is being replaced by another person at the end of the month.

238. The walkabout on Barlaston Park again raised the perennial issues of blocked drains, poor road surfaces and some anti social behaviour .The next walkabout in March may be covering the other parts of Barlaston.

239. The Clerk reported on issues raised at the Parish Council's forum.

240. The Clerk confirmed he had requested police support for the Remembrance Day Parade and service on the Village Green on November 11th.

241. The Clerk distributed explanatory notes and forms for completion regarding Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. He explained how the forms were to be completed and returned to him by the 28<sup>th</sup> October.

242. The Highways Department had promised to deal with identified problems regarding overgrown hedges, blocked grids and gulleys. The Canal Bridge would be painted by April 2013.

243. The Clerk outlined the 2013 Volunteer Staffordshire Awards and hoped nominations would be made.

244. There was further consultation on the Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Core Strategy 2010-2026 Development Plan.

245. It was noted that there were on-going meetings of the Community Watchdog Scheme with a local meeting in Stone

### **Any other business – Agenda items for meeting to be held on November 6th. 2012**

246. The Clerk was trying to identify the owner of the strip of land alongside the telephone exchange as there were problems with several overgrown conifer trees that caused concern for the resident of 10 Pear Tree Close.

247. It was agreed to consider the location of Christmas lights at the next meeting.

248. It was agreed to discuss the condition of the Canal Towpath at the November meeting.

### **Note by Clerk**

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

### **Village Hall Committee Report**

250. Councillor Jones indicated that proposals for improvements to the ventilation in the Hall were being prepared.

251. Quotes for redecoration were being obtained.

252. A concern was raised regarding the limited cleaning equipment available to hirers using the Hall.

253. Power hand driers had been fitted in the toilets.

**Chairman**

