

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 4th December 2012.**

Present: – Gareth Jones
Chairman

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

Apologies: Lynne Bakker Collier, Rebecca Powell P.C.S.O.

In attendance: Carol Earley, Tim Earley, John King, Paul Harper, George Powell, Stephen Parry Thomas, Lloyd Brown, A. Bloor & G. Piland.

There were no declarations of interest made before the meeting began.

Open Forum

299. Stephen Parry Thomas representing the Barlaston First School as a member of staff and governor requested that the Parish Council apply for a Dog Control Order to apply to a five square metre area adjoining each of the three entrances to the school. He raised this matter over concerns of dogs being allowed to roam free and health and safety implications for pupils. His proposal was for a 5 square metre area outside the three entrances where dogs would have to be on a lead. He passed on details of how such an order could be achieved; it was agreed to look into the matter and discuss the matter at the January meeting.

300. Tim Earley brought to the attention of the council the growing problem with ivy growing from the base of many trees in the Parish and jeopardising the life of the tree. Simple removal of the lower roots of the ivy prevents further harm to the tree and he hoped the Council could encourage local landowners to carry out action to reduce the problem; it was agreed that he would provide further information and costs to the Clerk for inclusion in the next edition of the Heron.

301. A number of residents were in attendance to discuss the WWRD plans for the development of their estate that included new housing. George Powell outlined the formation of the Wedgwood and Barlaston Conservation Group and their plans to conserve the local environment. A meeting was arranged for December 12th. in the Methodist Church. This group wanted to note their opposition to the WWRD proposals.

302. This matter led to a full discussion on the potential concern over impact upon the environment that the WWRD proposals re housing and a marina might cause. It was noted that the planning process was in the hands of Stoke-on-Trent City Council not Stafford Borough Council. John King identified that more houses would cause problems with the road and drainage infrastructure and identified the canal bridge as inadequate.

Another resident reiterated this concern and felt that the plans in reality would focus upon housing development.

303. Councillor Dodd suggested that the agenda item on the agenda relating to WWRD should be brought forward and this was agreed. The Chairman indicated that to date no planning application had been made but when it was the Parish Council would have a full discussion on the proposals, he felt WWRD had a good and open relationship with the Council. He noted the inadequacy of the canal bridge and the infrastructure and the relevant concerns of residents and agreed to communicate any development to the residents.

304. It was pointed out by Councillor Russell that when the Wedgwood factory was in full production the roads coped and Councillor Fisher indicated that the local school could cope with additional pupils.

305. It was also noted that there could also be an impact on additional demand at the Health Centre. WWRD had not as yet closed the private roads on their estate and the height restriction on the canal bridge meant more traffic used the Longton Road route.

306. In conclusion to the discussion it was agreed that the Council would keep a careful note of any planning proposals and communicate with all interested parties; the residents were thanked for their attendance at the Open Forum.

307. Councillor Macmillan was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman.

308. The Chairman agreed to contact the new Police Commissioner Mathew Ellis regarding local policing.

Minutes of the meeting held on November 6th. 2012

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

Matters arising

310. Re. Minute 255 & 256- the invoice had been paid and the working party had been successful.

311. Re. Minute 257- it was agreed that the Chairman would request a meeting with the new Chairman of the Barlaston Allotments Association, Mr Paul Bennion before their A.G.M. in January. The main issue that had been identified was the desire for more local residents from the Parish gaining a plot. Councillor Linehan had attended a conference held locally and raised the legality of the Association's current policies which could be discussed at the meeting with the Allotments Association. The Clerk clarified the composition of the Association's committee and the terms of the lease and sub-let.

312. Re. Minute 259- Councillor Fisher had obtained a land registry search regarding the strip of land and the ownership seemed to lie with the County Council. The Clerk would contact Highways as it was felt the conifers needed attention.

313. Re. Minute 264- the Chairman confirmed that Lichfield Council would undertake the development plan beginning in January it was agreed that the Council should be consulted during the process of writing a plan re Wedgwood Memorial College.

314. Re. Minute 271- Peter Stevenson had received a gift of appreciation and had written a thank-you note to the Council.

315. Re. Minute 284- the Clerk had arranged a meeting with an engineer from the Canals and Rivers Trust and local contractor FMF Construction to consider improvement to the canal towpath north of the Plume of Feathers and to seek permission for the work to be undertaken. It was agreed that a sum of up to £1000 be allocated for this project. He also reported on the imminent work going south on the towpath and the details of the proposals indicating the points of access for the contractors Enterprise. It was noted that width restrictions to slow down cyclists could not be fitted as wheelchair and pushchair access had to be available.

316. Re. Minute 289- the letter had been acknowledged by Bill Cash.

317. Re. Minute 291- the Chairman had received a reply on the fence from Phil Richens of WWRD noting their actions they felt were ecologically sound and the local farmer had agreed to the change in the area of land he let for his cattle.

318. Re. Minutes 296 & 297 improvements had been made.

319. Re. Minute 298- the police had been thanked by the Clerk. It was agreed that the war memorial needed some attention regarding the removal of moss and the cleaning on the stone. It was agreed that a wire be attached around the memorial to retain the wreaths and crosses.

Report by Chairman

320. The Chairman reported upon a positive meeting with representatives of Stafford & Rural Homes. The new neighbourhood services officer Katherine Hindmarsh had reacted positively to the outstanding matters requiring action.

321. The consultation period for the relocation of the Post Office to the Londis Store was discussed and Councillors were urged to seek the local views before submitting a constructive response. It was agreed to circulate a draft response before the next meeting before a final submission.

322. The planning application relating to the change of use to a Dental Surgery at 7 Old Road was to be discussed by the Borough Council Planning Committee on December 19th. It was agreed to continue to oppose this application.

323. The Chairman outlined the Borough Council proposals for the development of the Westbridge Park recreation area and the possibility of another supermarket in Stone. The

loss of leisure space in the town was something the majority of the Parish Council oppose as well as questioning the need for another supermarket in the town.

324. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support the Church's appeal to English Heritage for grant aid for the restoration and repair of their 17th Century pewter flagons.

325. The working party for the cemetery had been successful.

326. Members were encouraged to participate in the Health Centre patient survey.

327. The arrangements for the Dog Awareness Day were outlined.

328. The Certificate of Commendation had been presented to Mavis Eardley.

329. Councillor Russell raised the issue of the problems of significant flooding in Meaford and requested that an investigation by Highways be requested as the problem impacted upon local residents. The Chairman and Clerk would pursue this.

Barlaston West Ward- Parish Council Vacancies

330. The Clerk outlined the process that had taken place on November 19th. to co-opt Ian Macmillan. It was agreed this procedure should form the standard procedure in the event of a similar situation.

331. The notice of the vacancy created by Peter Stevenson's resignation had been posted and no new applicants had applied leaving the three previous applicants eligible.

332. After discussion it was agreed to co-opt at the meeting from the three known candidates who had all confirmed their interest and eligibility.

333. It was agreed to co-opt Sarah Broome onto the Parish Council. The Clerk would undertake the necessary administration and contact Sarah.

Finance Report

334. The following items were considered and approved

	NET	VAT	Total Cost
a.) Neil Hemmings- Allowance	£48.00		£48.00
Postage	£9.60		£9.60
Photocopying	£5.00		£5.00

b.)PJS Landscapes – Cemetery Pruning	£510.00	£102.00	£612.00
c.)British gas- village hall- electricity-	£105.96	£5.30	£111.26
d.)British Gas- Village Hall- gas-	£118.74	£5.93	£124.67
e.) British Legion - donation	£250.00		£250.00
f.) EGR Jones- gift to P. Stevenson	£22.00		£22.00
g.) Barlaston P.C.C.- donation re Church Magazine	£250.00		£250.00

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

i.) The Clerk reported that the likely balance at the end of the financial year would be £18000.

j.) He outlined the anticipated expenditure until the end of the current financial year and details of likely expenditure for 2013/14. His predictions indicated that the current precept of £29000 was adequate but additional expenditure would reduce the balance.

k.) It was agreed some funding be set aside for the entry into the Best Kept Village Competition and that the Cemetery Maintenance budget be extended to include monthly maintenance alongside grass cutting.

l.) Councillor Fearn confirmed that the total cost of the cemetery maintenance would rise to £2820 per year to be shared with the Church. It was noted that the condition of the Chapel would need consideration by the Church.

m.) The Clerk would build these proposals into the draft budget and correct several budget lines based upon observations and agreements at the meeting.

n.) The Parish Council would consider funding the improvements to the Village Hall ventilation estimated at up to £8000 and that the Village Hall funds would fund the kitchen refurbishment.

Planning Update

335. There had been a Planning Committee meeting earlier in the evening that had considered three applications.

336. It was agreed that Councillors Broome and Macmillan will sit on the Planning and Finance Committees.

Village Plan

337. Councillor Dodd reported upon the plans for the Dog Awareness Day to be held on December 6th.

338. Councillor Jones would undertake to enlist a Chair for the Transport group.

339. It was agreed that once the WWRD proposals had been submitted to planning in Stoke a meeting to discuss a response was needed.

Voluntary Transport Scheme

340. There had been 14 lifts during October. Gill Dodd needs a replacement as soon as possible and Councillors Dodd and Jones would action this.

Ordnance Survey Mapping

341. The Clerk confirmed the Council were registered with the O.S. (P.S.M.A.) opportunities.

Matters arising from the Open Forum

342. The Clerk would investigate the procedures for obtaining a Dog Control Order and Councillor Fisher would speak to the Headteacher at the school to establish the school's view.

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

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

344. The meeting in October 2013 was moved to October 1st.

345. The annual Douglas Macmillan Hospice Walk was to be held on April 7th. 2013. The name of the new fund raising manager was Nicola Hancock and the Clerk would liaise with her and write a polite response to her request to attend a Council meeting as the Council felt this was not necessary.

346. A letter from Highways pointed out that 43% of the County's roads were gritted and that there was local provision of grit in the Parish as well as several new grit bins.

Any other business – Agenda items for meeting to be held on January 8th.2013.

347. It was agreed to discuss- Dog Control Orders, The Heron, Post Office Consultation and Annual Cemetery Maintenance.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

349. The minutes of the November meeting were noted. Councillor Fisher updated the Trustees on the proposals for improving ventilation in the Hall.

Chairman

