

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 8th. January 2013.**

Present: – Gareth Jones
Chairman

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

Apologies: Elaine Philpott

In attendance: Lynne Bakker Collier, Ian Parry, Chris Philipson from Western Power Distribution.

Open Forum

350. PCSO Emma Kempson was welcomed and there was a general discussion of perceived problems of anti-social behaviour in the Parish. It was hoped that complaints would be directed to the Police directly rather than through a third party.

351. Chris Philipson from Western Power Distribution outlined the detail of the work being carried out in the Parish over the next few months to remove overhead power lines and to relocate the main substation. He provided detailed maps of the work and its likely progress from Meaford Road through to Brookhouse Drive. It was hoped that once complete the work would improve supplies of electricity and reduce interruptions to the service. A new sub-station was to be built at the end of Pear Tree Close it was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with the company on this matter.

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

352. It was resolved that it was in order for all Parish Councillors to participate in any discussions relating to the setting of the Parish Precept in 2013.

353. Councillor Broome was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman.

Report by County Councillor

354. Councillor Parry gave a detailed account of the difficulties caused by the recent flooding at Meaford on the A34. It had been a very serious flood with complex causes with water running through private land that the Highways Department were not responsible for.

355. Councillor Russell challenged the effectiveness of the response by the Highways teams suggesting that the response had been slow and costly.

356. It was noted that there were on-going investigations on the causes of the flooding that included a blocked culvert and the passage of the drains under Meaford Hall.

357. It was agreed to focus on local flooding problems that included parts of the Parish in Old Road and to the north of Brookhouse Drive.

358. Councillor Parry indicated that there would be no rise in Council Tax for 2013 and that it may be reduced.

Minutes of the meeting held on December 5th. 2012

359: RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on December 5th. be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

360. Re Minute 301: it was agreed to keep note of the group's activities.

361. Re Minute 308: The Chairman had made contact to raise local concerns.

Report by Chairman

362. The Chairman referred to notes that he had circulated prior to the meeting and these formed the basis of his report and subsequent discussions.

363. It was confirmed that on January 22nd Phil Richens from WWRD would speak to the Council at 7p.m. regarding proposed developments on the Wedgwood factory site.

364. It was agreed that Ted Manders from Stafford B.C. Planning Department would attend on the same evening at 8.00p.m. to discuss the planning process and to enlighten the Council on the development of Neighbourhood Plans and potential planning issues. Planning issues as identified in the notes were a major concern on the perimeter of the village as well as potential sites in the village.

365. The initial Development and Design Guide for the former Wedgwood Memorial College had been circulated, it was agreed that the Parish Council should be represented on the contract team and that certain errors in the brief be rectified. The Chairman agreed to address this.

366. The proposed relocation of the Post Office was discussed and the overall view was it was preferable to retain a Post Office in the village even though the proposed location was not ideal for all.

367. Councillor Fearn felt that the process of consultation had been rushed and the outcome for a move was predictable.

368. It was agreed to submit a composite response to the Post Office which the Chairman and Clerk would organise. Individual comments had been submitted and would be considered.

369. The work on improving the towpath along the Canal south to Meaford would begin soon; it was felt the Council should look at restricting speeding by inconsiderate cyclists as well as the possibility of motor cycles by width restrictions.

370. The revised contract of maintenance for the Churchyard extension had been agreed. It was noted four conifers needed lopping at a cost of £500 that would be shared with the Church.

371. Councillor Linehan outlined the rules and regulations for the Best Kept Village Competition; a meeting with the organiser was to be held on January 16th at 11.00a.m to seek advice and he would report back in February on proposals to action.

372. Councillor Linehan would attend the A.G.M. of the Barlaston Allotments Association on February 4th.

373. Councillor Macmillan agreed to lead the Transport Group for the Village Plan, Councillor Hall would co-ordinate the overall response and Councillor Dodd would continue to work with the Environment Group. Problems of extreme heavy loads breaching weight restrictions through the village should be reported to V.O.S.A.

374. The success of the Village Hall does lead to problems with parking and occasional complaints from residents. Consideration should be given to the possibility of a new Village Hall in a more central location serving the whole community including those groups whose current venues may be unsuitable or in danger of disappearing.

375. Councillor O'Dunne explained the development of a "twitter" feed for the council and explained how it could be used. It was felt this could be useful in generating effective communication across the community in conjunction with existing means such as the website and the publication of the Heron.

Finance Report

376. The following items were considered and approved

	NET	VAT	Total Cost
a.) Neil Hemmings- Allowance &P.C Repair	£48.00 £30.00		£48.00 £30.00
b.) Biffa Waste Services- Cricket Club	£41.01	£8.20	£49.21

c.) Biffa Waste Services- Village Hall	£232.12	£46.42	£278.54	
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d.) A meeting of the Finance Committee would be called for Tuesday January 22nd at 6.00 p.m. The Clerk would circulate papers in due course.

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

Planning Update

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

Voluntary Transport Scheme

378. There had been 12 lifts during December. Gill Dodd had resigned her position as co-ordinator and rose Kingsbury has taken over the role. The Chairman would write thanking Gill for her work and it was agreed to send her a bouquet as a token of appreciation.

The Heron 2013

379. It was hoped to publish three editions during the year.

380. Councillor O'Dunne outlined the topics to be included in the next edition

Matters arising from the Open Forum

381. The contributions from representatives of the police and Western Power distribution were welcomed.

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

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

383. Councillor Jones would attend the meeting regarding the on-going work at the Strongford site.

384. The details for the Civic amenity visits on Barlaston Park were agreed as the same as in 2012.

385. It was agreed that Ann Howard take on the additional hours for litter picking as Nikki Evans wished to be relieved of the role.

386. F.M.F. Construction had been instructed to undertake repairs to the towpath north of the Plume of Feathers at a cost of £865.

387. The Chairman would circulate details of the consultation dates regarding proposals to develop the Westbridge Park site in Stone.

Any other business – Agenda items for meeting to be held on February 5th.2013.

388. No new Agenda items were suggested.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

390. Councillor Jones reported final quotes for the refurbishment of the kitchen and improvements to the Hall ventilation were still awaited.

391. Some issues relating to internal electrics had been addressed to conform with current requirements.

392. Measures had been taken to reduce issues relating to the booking and late use of the Hall by Stokies.

393. The on-going issue of parking was discussed and whilst providing additional car parking on the village Green might be a costly alternative and advice regarding the use of the Downs Car Park should still be encouraged. The closure of venues across Stoke meant that the Village Hall was a popular and cheap venue.

394. The Trustees suggested that the rate for letting the Hall by some organisations should be reviewed.

Chairman

