

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 5th March 2013.**

Present: – Gareth Jones
Chairman

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

Apologies: Sara Fearn, Steve Hall, Sarah Broome, Lynne Bakker Collier, P.C. Dave Perry

In attendance: Tim Cockin

Open Forum

444. Tim Cockin outlined the recent difficulties of the Wassail walk over the Downs Banks and the concerns of the National Trust regarding insurance. Details of a revised route for the Wassail walk which had been circulated avoiding the Downs Banks were discussed and agreed in principle. The route from the Green to the old Church across to Adderley Place, Bedcroft, the Cricket club and Malthouse Lane and back via Longton Road to the Green would be checked by the organiser and residents along the route would be informed of the procession via a polite note prior to the event. The Clerk would undertake his usual risk assessment of the Green for the Wassail.

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

Minutes of the meeting held on February 5th. 2013

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

Matters arising

447. Re. Minute 397: The Clerk had reported on advice from the Council's insurers not to maintain trees on private land with work such as the removal of ivy. It was agreed not to undertake any removal of ivy from trees at the moment based upon the information to hand and the advice from our insurers. An article from Mr Earley on the subject for the Heron was awaited.

448. Re. Minute 402: It was felt that the solution to the problem of flooding in Meaford was an on-going issue and no clear explanation had been given by the County Council to date.

449. Re. Minute 403: This matter was still being investigated by Stafford & Rural Homes regarding responsibility over the drainage of the flooded area to the north of Brookhouse Drive.

450. Re. Minute 420: A letter of thanks for the donation had been received from Samaritans Stafford Branch.

451. Re. Minute 437: Councillor Russell outlined that funding was available to improve footpaths in particular to provide circular routes for walking. The funding had been announced by a Joint Local Access Forum that he had attended and it was suggested that a circular route from the gas supply station over private land onto the Downs Banks, then back to the Village Green could be created if the landowner agreed. Councillor Jones agreed to speak to the landowner regarding the proposal before further action to seek funding.

Report by Chairman & Borough Councillor

452. It was noted that the conifers at the end of Pear Tree Close had been removed and a new substation would be built there soon.

453. The Chairman had requested from Chris Mitchell of County Highways some yellow hatching markings on either side of the level crossing to reduce the risk of accidents with cars turning into the Londis store or Rock house Drive. Highways had declined this request despite the noted concerns given to the consultation process regarding the relocation of the Post office at the Londis. It was confirmed that the Post office would be relocated in the Londis in the spring.

454. The planning application for a new residential property at Lakewood Drive had been called in and despite local opposition had been permitted by the Borough Planning Committee, again an example that the planning environment had changed and sustainability and growth seemed to be more important than local concerns.

455. There had been extensive local consultation over the plans to redevelop Westbridge Park it was unclear whether the proposals would be accepted.

456. The Heron had been distributed and had been welcomed by many villagers. Councillor O'Dunne was thanked for her work in producing the edition.

457. A meeting of the Cumberland House Practice to discuss the findings of the recent patient satisfaction survey was to be held on March 6th. The Chairman would attend with Councillor Russell.

458. The Chairman had submitted a letter regarding the planning application appeal for Hartwell Farm.

459. The issue of residents trading from home would be discussed later in the meeting.

460. Robert Gatensbury would attend the April meeting to present the report relating to the development brief for Wedgwood Memorial College.

461. Bill Cash M.P. had called a meeting at the Village Hall regarding local rail safety and several Councillors had attended along with some residents as well as senior staff from Network Rail, the Samaritans, British Transport Police and the Chief Inspector of Railways.

462. Councillor O'Dunne reported on the outcomes of the meeting.

463. The possibility of a footbridge over the railway line at Barlaston had been raised and Mr Steve Parry Thomas was to write on behalf of parents often delayed by the delays at the crossing on their journey to and from school with their children. This would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

464. It was agreed that the media should use sensitive reporting methods to reduce the possibility of copycat incidents of fatalities on the line identified as suicides.

465. The Samaritans has placed notices on both local crossings and had suggested supporting local residents in noticing individuals who may be in need of support in the vicinity of the line. Councillor O'Dunne had agreed to be the local contact.

466. Network Rail had agreed to look into the matter of restricting access to the lines at Wedgwood and was to trial new technology and sensors that could detect trespass and unusual movement by the crossings.

467. The use of the Bertie School Play bus had been limited and may have to be cut from the services provided by Stafford & Rural Homes.

468. The police were not in favour of reducing the illuminated areas around the garages owned by Stafford & Rural Homes on Barlaston Park.

469. Councillors Jones and Dodd would attend the next Stafford & Rural Homes estate walkabout.

Finance Report

470. The following items were considered and approved

	NET	VAT	Total Cost
a.) Neil Hemmings- Allowance	£48.00		£48.00
	£89.99		£89.99
b.) HP Printer	£20.00		£20.00
c.) Old HP Printer repair	£30.00		£30.00
d.) Heron Postage			
e.) PJS Landscapes- monthly Cemetery Maintenance	£235.00	£47.00	£282.00

f.) JJ Tree Services- Cemetery Maintenance	£450.00		£450.00
g.) Community Council of Staffordshire re BKV Competition	£19.50		£19.50
h.) Panda Press- Printing of the Heron	£500.00		£500.00
i.) Eurooffice- litter pickers and stationery	£50.69	£10.10	£60.79
j.) Biffa Waste Collection- Village Hall	£155.40	£31.08	£186.48
k.) Biffa Waste Collection- Cricket Club	£26.07	£5.21	£31.28

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

Planning Update

471. There had been a Planning Committee meeting earlier in the evening that had considered one application.

472. Councillor Russell reported on the recent discussions by the Council on how the future development of Barlaston might be managed by the Council.

473. The Clerk distributed notes taken at the meeting.

474. There was a discussion over the salient issues which focussed upon agreement to oppose development in the green belt, to consider sites for affordable housing, to preserve the character and pleasant environment of the village and to aim to secure some control with sensitive and appropriate development for the Wedgwood memorial College site.

475. Further ideas related to resurrecting discussions relating to a footbridge over the railway line and improving traffic flow around the station with the possibility of a mini roundabout adjacent to Rock House Drive. The long term aim might to develop a site for a

new Village Hall with other community facilities if some existing facilities closed. Traffic calming and better traffic management through new speed limits or alterations to roads was also a concern; more footpaths, although desirable, might not be a feasible proposition with County Highways.

476. It was noted that planning applications that were in the pipeline would gain permission that might fulfil the quota for new housing in the Borough Plan but there were sites that might be suitable for further housing development within the Parish. The Council were united to resist ad hoc development in the village.

477. The full Council had considered the notes taken at the earlier meeting and noted the areas of conflict relating to planning issues.

478. S.P.C.A. were organising a meeting in Gnosall relating to Neighbourhood Plans that the Council could attend to consider a group of parish councils collaborating with the Borough Council to write alternative cost free Development Plans. If no one from the Council did attend the Chairman and Clerk would pursue the proposals and outcomes.

Voluntary Transport Scheme

479. There had been 10 lifts during February.

Village Plan

480. There had been no more meetings of the working groups. Liaison regarding the Speedwatch initiative was on-going.

Best Kept Village Competition

481. Councillor Linehan reported on progress to date, an entry was to be made and posters advertising our entry would be posted.

482. It was agreed to hold a meeting seeking ideas and volunteers at the Plume of Feathers on March 18th.

Barlaston Health Centre

483. Councillor Philpott urged the Councillors attending the meeting at Cumberland House to raise the matter of the Health Centre in Barlaston being open five days a week.

Tree Planting.

484. It was agreed to plant up to 12 trees throughout the village each year and not to spend on treatment of ivy on trees at this moment.

Village Green issues: resident's contractors causing damage, vehicles on the Green & enforcement of the Byelaws

485. Councillor Fisher outlined concerns over recent damage by the contractors for two residents on the Village Green. He provided visual evidence of this damage that the Council agreed was not acceptable.

486. The Clerk had drafted a letter to residents around the Green that Councillor Fisher proposed is posted to the residents. This was agreed and the Clerk would action this. It was noted that the residents whose contractors had caused the damage said that they would repair the ruts at the weekend; Councillor Fisher would speak to them to request their support and to clarify the Village Byelaws.

487. The Council also agreed that a restriction on hedge cutting around the Green should be made between March 1st and July 1st. Councillor Linehan agreed to contract the main contractor for hedge cutting to convey this decision.

Matters arising from the Open Forum

488. No action required.

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

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

490. Dates of events in the village were to be sent to the Community council of Staffordshire but there was no interest in a recycling scheme they were advertising as the existing arrangements were adequate.

491. A resident from Tittensor road had raised the issue of sale of garden related products from garden gates in Barlaston. The full email had been considered by the Council and the discussion centred on actions that could be taken legitimately by the Parish Council other than to ask residents to complain or the Parish Council to complain to the Enforcement Officer at the Borough Council.

492. It was noted that trading from a property in Tittensor Road was part of an on-going investigation by the Borough Council and that other examples that were noted should be monitored closely. One alleged instance of running a business from a garage was to be reported by a resident and it was noted to keep an eye on any other reported complaints.

493. The Clerk would reply to the author of the original email.

Any other business – Agenda items for meeting to be held on April 2nd. 2013.

494. The following Agenda items were agreed- Golden Jubilee award and Certificates of Commendation; Footbridge in Station Road.

495. It was noted that a blue recycling bin had been stolen from a resident in Bell Lane and the contents fly tipped to the rear of Flaxman close, Councillor Dodd had followed this matter up and the Enforcement Officer for the Borough Council had investigated.

496. Councillor O'Dunne agreed to form a group to look at the formation of a new Play park for young children somewhere in the village.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

498. Councillor Jones outlined the progress relating to the improvement of ventilation in the Village Hall as well as the refurbishment of the kitchen.

499. It was agreed to accept a quotation from S.E.I electrical contractors of £8800 for the work to the ventilation in the Hall. This work as a capital project would be financed by the Parish Council.

500. It was agreed that the electricity supply needed to be updated as a result of this work to three phases at a cost of £1166.

501. There were problems of parking congestion by users of the Children's Centre on the Village Hall car park. It was proposed notices should be posted restricting parking to users of the Village Hall only. Councillor Jones would report back to the management committee on this proposal.

Chairman

