

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013.**

**Present:** – Gareth Jones  
Chairman

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

**Apologies:** Ian Macmillan, Sarah Broome & Tony Dodd

**In attendance:** Lynne Bakker Collier & Graham Hill.

**Open Forum**

118. No one in attendance.

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

**Minutes of the meeting held on June 4<sup>th</sup>. 2013**

**120: RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on June 4<sup>th</sup>. be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters arising**

121. Re. Minute 58b: It was agreed to produce a list of trees in the Parish for which tree preservation orders could be applied for. Councillors agreed to submit the location of such trees which the Chairman would forward to Craig Watkins at the Borough Council for consideration.

122. Re Minute 72: It was noted that some of the verges on the WWRD estate belong to the farmer not WWRD. However WWRD had now cut them.

123. Re. Minute 74: Two meetings/drop in sessions had been arranged by the Community council of Staffordshire for July 9 and 30.

124. Re. Minute 79: It was confirmed there was no further known development on the sale of the College site.

125. Re. Minute 81: It was noted that the old post office post-box would be replaced by a post-box opposite the Vicarage in Longton Road and a new post-box would be located in the Londis store and the one by Orsett House removed in the near future.

126. Re. Minute 83: It was noted that Mrs Pamela Wright had written to the Clerk declining the nomination.

127. Re. Minute 107: The Clerk reported that Stafford & Rural Homes had refused permission to site a bench by the shops in Orchard Place

### **Report by Chairman**

128. The Chairman outlined the proposed arrangements for the presentation of the Golden Jubilee Award and presentation of the Certificates of Achievement. It was agreed that the presentations would take place during the Church Service on Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup> from 10.30. It was hoped the Boys Brigade would be in attendance. WWRD had again provided a replica bowl for the Golden Jubilee Award.

129. It was agreed that the Council should take into consideration the views of the village and devise a process to identify suitable candidates for the annual awards. It was agreed the Council would write to all local organisations to seek nominations in November, each year, before deciding who to make an award to. A list of the clubs and groups would be prepared by the Chairman.

130. The recent accident in Tittensor Road had caused a lot of concern for local residents and a reply to the Chairman's letter to Highways asking for assistance with traffic calming was disappointing. There was discussion regarding several more recent accidents which may be attributed to excess speed, poor road surfaces and potholes. Councillor Hall suggested it was important to focus on the causes and build a dossier of evidence to lobby the Highways department with to precipitate action re. traffic calming measures around the village.

131. It was noted that Western Power were working in the area to replace overhead cables.

132. The progress on the Neighbourhood Plan with the designated area having received approval was stalled until the Local Development Framework Plan was approved. It was noted that financial support to develop the Neighbourhood Plan was likely to be available.

133. The Chairman thanked Councillor O' Dunne for her work in producing and editing the latest edition of the Heron.

134. There was a problem with moles burrowing in the cemetery it was thought some treatment was needed and the Church were to discuss this matter.

### **Report by Borough Councillor**

135. Councillor Bakker Collier reported that the priority highway improvement was on the A520 near Stone on the Waterworks bend; this work had been in the planning stage for 7 years and sadly it seemed funding for improvements were based on the number of fatalities at noted accident black spots.

### **Report by County Councillor**

136. No report.

### Finance Report

137. 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
	£3.60		£3.60
b.) Postage stamps	£9.20		£9.20
c.) Picture frames- Golden Jubilee & Certificates of Commendation			
d.) Grass seed BKV	£3.98		£3.98
e.) PJS Landscapes- monthly Cemetery Maintenance	£235.00	£47.00	£282.00
f.) Peter Hedley- BKV materials	£34.30		£34.30
g.) British Gas- new meter connection charge	£120.00		£120.00
h.) Greenfingers- grass cutting	£424.00	£84.80	£508.80
i.) Town & Country Services- grass cutting Flaxman Close	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00
j.) Panda Press- Heron	£540.00	£8.00	£548.00

138. The June salaries for the Clerk, Transport Co-ordinator and litter pickers have been met.

### **Planning Update**

139. There had been a Planning Committee meeting earlier in the evening that had considered one current application. The WWRD application had been responded to with a number of comments from the Council. Councillor Russell voiced his concerns over the adequacy of the Canal Bridge if the additional houses were built.

### **Village Plan**

140. Nothing to report

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

141. Nothing further to report

### **Best Kept Village Competition**

142. There had been no report as to whether the Village had been placed into the final selection.

### **Playing Fields**

143. Councillor Fearn was concerned that the Cricket Club had not actioned any of the points agreed at the March meeting of the Playing Fields Committee. It was agreed this situation was unsatisfactory and that the Clerk should write expressing a response to the letter by ensuring actions had been taken within 14 days. It was agreed that the charges for waste collection paid on behalf of the Cricket Club be withdrawn by the Council if no positive response was forthcoming. The action points ranged from the repair of a picket fence to the planting of a tree and attention to other parts of the grounds.

### **Voluntary Transport Scheme**

144. There had been 10 lifts during June; there was a shortage of volunteer drivers. Adverts requesting help had been placed in the village.

### **Postal addresses in Parkfields and Tittensor Road**

145. Councillor Russell outlined the discrepancies of postal addresses ST12 9DN being Barlaston and ST12 9HQ being Tittensor, it was not known how the addresses were allocated as both were in Barlaston not Tittensor. It was requested that the Clerk could investigate the matter.

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

146. None

## Correspondence and Clerk's Report

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

148. The Clerk reported on the proposals to manage the Green following a meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup>. These were

- a. That the triangular area at the top of the Green be managed in the following ways
  - To remove the growth of vegetation in November to within two yards of the eastern hedgerow and to remove the debris in order for grasses and flowers to grow through.
  - To seed the area in spring 2014 with wild flowers hoping they will form an attractive ground layer.
  - To repeat the cutting in November 2014 and annually thereafter.
- b. To cut the vegetation from around the large Lime tree on the Green in November and to remove the debris.  
To repeat the cutting in November 2014 and annually thereafter.
- c. On the Green adjacent to the Car Park to allow the vegetation to grow wild in a line from the western edge of the Car Park to the area that is currently left wild.
- d. For the Clerk to obtain quotes for a. & b.

These proposals were agreed.

149. Quotes for the work for a. & b. had been obtained from two contractors had been obtained and were considered. After discussion it was agreed to accept the quotation from PJS Landscapes.

150. It was agreed that Councillors Fisher and Philpott would liaise with the contractor, PJS Landscapes, on the work and clarify the detail timing and exact cost of the work before approval for the expenditure to be given at the next meeting. The Clerk would inform Mrs Black of these proposals which should see an improvement in the management of the Green within the next year.

151. After discussion it was agreed that Greenfingers trim around the trees on the edge of the Green but take care not to damage the trunk and that Greenfingers cut the grass on the triangle on the crossroads from their next visit.

152. It was agreed to make more of a feature of the triangle by building a rock feature that could be planted up next year.

153. The Clerk would speak to the relevant contractors on these matters; he would reiterate the need to take care when mowing around the lime tree on the Green.

**Any other business – Agenda items for meeting to be held on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.. 2013.**

154. It was agreed to consider speeding and traffic calming issues.

**Note by Clerk**

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

**Village Hall Committee Report**

156. Councillor Jones reported that three phase supply was in place and that the new ventilation system should be installed later in July.

157. The recharge for energy had been paid to the Council.

158. Councillor Fearn had received comments that there were on-going concerns regarding the excessive noise from the Zumba classes.

**Chairman**

