

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 4th March 2014.**

Present: – Gareth Jones Chairman

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

Apologies: Lynne Bakker Collier, Elaine Philpott, Sarah Broome

In attendance: No one

Open Forum

419. As a matter of local concern Councillor Fisher raised the issue of an excavation for a car park extension at the Upper House Hotel which had not received planning approval. There was also concern over damage to nearby specimen trees. Councillor Jones reported that the work had been stopped and that TPOs were to be placed on the trees in the vicinity. The Council had received a number of complaints as it did affect the visual amenity from the footpath towards the Downs Banks.

Minutes of the meeting held on February 4th. 2014

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| 420: RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on February 4 th . be approved and signed by the Chairman. |
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Matters arising

421. Re. Minute 388: The Parish Council had now formally adopted the section of Canal from Bridges 102 to 104 and was apparently the first in the country to do so. A working party was to be convened on 26th April at 10am meeting on the Plume of feathers Car Park; this would be advertised in the Heron.

422. Re. Minute 389: The Clerk had confirmed quarterly payments to the Church as recommended.

423. Re. Minute 390: The Clerk reported that he had requested further information from the Police but there had been no response. It was noted that there was now a Twitter following for the local police that could prove helpful. It was again reiterated that there was disappointment with the lack of local police presence and opportunities to meet.

424. Re. Minute 391: The Chairman expressed disappointment that there had been no local nomination for the Pride in our Patch competition.

425. Re. Minute 392: The new Neighbourhood Officer for Stafford & Rural Homes had been briefed by the Clerk on the several ongoing problems in Barlaston; none of the problems such as blocked drains on Ramsay Close had been attended to. The Estate walkabout was on March 20th for Councillors to attend.

426. Re. Minute 397g: The County Council had granted a licence for the six planters around the village any comments had to be sent back to the County Council before the 14th March; Councillor Fisher indicated he would be writing to the County Council.

427. Re. Minute 407: The Golden Jubilee Award presentation for Irene Moran would be on Wednesday 20th August at 2pm in the Village Hall. This was a provisional date.

428. Re. Minute 408: Councillor O'Dunne reported positive progress with the Good Neighbour Scheme and there would be an article in the Heron.

429. Re. Minute 410: No reply had been received.

430. Re. Minute 411: There had been ongoing theft from the Meaford Road area by the Canal with the disappearance of hawthorn sprigs. A local resident had been injured after her dog had been attacked by several dogs from the Lakeside Tavern area. The matter was being dealt with by the police.

431. Re. Minute 412: The Samaritans had acknowledged the Council's donation and indicated the local area was supported by them.

432. Re. Minute 413: The edging posts had been purchased and a working party for the BKV competition would help to fit them; it was agreed to paint the wooden posts on the Green triangle white. The Clerk would attend to this.

433. Re. Minute 415: The decorations had been removed.

Report by Chairman & Borough Councillor

434. The Chairman had met with Phil Richens from WWRD and a representative of David Wilson Homes and reported on the proposed programme for housing development on the Wedgwood Estate beginning with the building of three show homes; other houses would be built to order. Councillor Hall queried as to whether the Secretary of State had been involved in the decision to build on the greenbelt; the Chairman replied that he did not think there had been any involvement by the minister in the decision to approve the building proposals.

435. There had been a meeting with representatives of the Health Centre that the Chairman and Councillor Dodd had attended. The Chairman explained that the low ranking of the Health Centre in a recent newspaper article was based upon little hard evidence and that the meeting confirmed more than 200 Barlaston residents had given the Health Centre a very positive ranking. The views of the Councillors differed on this point and a general discussion concluded that a dialogue with the Health Centre needs to be ongoing. The Chairman reported on changes in the staffing at the centre with the retirement of Dr. Mc Kinnon; several examples of delays in getting an appointment were noted suggesting variance in the system.

436. The next edition of the Heron would be published and distributed before Easter. There would be a wide range of topics covered which Councillor O'Dunne outlined. Copy would be needed by mid-March to enable printing and distribution before Easter.

437. The Chairman reported that there would be consultation regarding the allocation of new housing to the 11 key service villages of which Barlaston was one following the imminent adoption of the Stafford Local Plan.

438. It was reported that the local Council Tax had been reduced by 3%; after discussion it was noted that as the Precept had been set based on then known and agreed budget priorities the Parish should bear this in mind for 2015.

Report by County Councillor

439. No report. The recent survey results for local bus services were awaited by the Council and residents.

Finance Report

440.

| The following items were considered and approved | | | |
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| | NET | VAT | Total Cost |
| a.) Neil Hemmings- Allowance | £48.00 | | £48.00 |
| b.) Stamps | £6.00 | | £6.00 |
| c.) PJS Landscapes- monthly Cemetery Maintenance- November | £241.00 | £48.00 | £289.00 |
| d.) PJS Landscapes- monthly work on Village Green | £500.00 | £100.00 | £600.00 |
| e.) Samaritans- donation | £50.00 | | £50.00 |

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|-------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| f.) Glasdon– plastic bollards | £229.40 | £45.88 | £275.28 |
| g.) British Gas- electricity village hall | £276.16 | £13.81 | £289.98 |
| h.) British Gas –gas village hall | £694.21 | 34.71 | 728.92 |
| i.) Biffa waste- Cricket Club | £29.73 | £5.95 | £35.68 |
| j.) Biffa Waste – Village Hall | £169.39 | £33.88 | £203.27 |
| k.) Community Council of Staffordshire- BKV entry fee | £20.90 | | £20.90 |

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

Planning Update

441. The Planning Committee had met earlier in the evening to support six local applications.

442. An objection to the retrospective application for signage and illumination of the signs at the Duke of York would be made. This application was to be called in.

443. Mr T. Warren was continuing to appeal regarding the agricultural building at Hartwell Farm.

Neighbourhood Plan

444. The Clerk gave a detailed report on progress relating to the development of the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan and the latest documents were well received and would be uploaded onto the Parish website in due course. It was agreed to print and distribute the Neighbourhood Plan information leaflet and questionnaire separately from the Heron. The Clerk and Councillor Macmillan would look at the most cost effective ways for this; the Clerk was seeking government grant support to support this expenditure.

445. The Clerk would circulate the draft questionnaire for comment before printing.

Voluntary Transport Scheme

446. There had been 10 lifts in February.

HS2 Update

447. The Chairman reported on the strong opposition posted as part of the consultation process by all of the members of Stafford Borough Council to Stoke on Trent's proposals to divert HS2 through the local area. The consultation on the existing proposed route through to Crewe had ended; he reassured the Council that he was convinced the route was unlikely to be changed to pass through Barlaston en route to Stoke.

Best Kept Village Competition 2014

448. Councillor Linehan would convene a meeting before the end of March with known volunteers to organise working parties. He had contacted both sections of the W.I. for support. The competition would be advertised through the Heron and local notices.

Storm Damage in the Village

449. Councillor Linehan raised the matter of the potential danger caused by the recent storms and in particular the problem caused with the fall of the large beech tree in Station Road. The Clerk reiterated the official advice given by our insurers regarding responsibility of landowners on private property and that there had been several instances of fallen trees near the highway where the County Council had cleared trees as it was their responsibility. The Clerk made a regular risk assessment of parish land but in severe gales it was sometimes impossible to predict tree damage. The Council would welcome the offer from George Powell on tree disease and damage.

450. The Clerk reported on damage to the bus Shelter in Station Road and the noticeboard in Orchard Place that would need repair.

451. Councillor Macmillan reported on the extent of the power cuts along Old Road and the problems caused when the supply was cut for many hours.

452. There had been local flooding and lots of fallen trees but the resultant debris would be tidied by Highways in due course. It was reiterated that any problem with the Highways and verge should be reported to Highways using the Clarence number.

Matters arising from the Open Forum

453. None.

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

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

**Any other business – Agenda items for the Parish Meeting to be held on
Tuesday April 1st. 2014**

455. It was agreed to discuss private notices displayed in the village.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

457. The minutes of the February meeting of the Village Hall Committee were considered.

458. The leaf litter had been removed.

459. It was agreed that the section of the Stage Curtains (from Minute 5) should be replaced.

460. A new fridge had been purchased.

461. The kitchen improvements were ongoing.

Chairman

