

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting-
Held on Tuesday 2nd September 2014.**

Present: – Gareth Jones
Chairman

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

Apologies: None

In attendance: Lynne Bakker Collier, George Powell, Dave Connell, Philip Bradbeer
Open Forum

145. Mr. Dave Connell provided further detail on the global use of glyphosphate and expressed his ongoing concerns over its use in the village. He requested the support of the Council in objecting to its use and proposed a cheaper safer alternative called Clinic 8. The Chairman received the information and would study the detail but suggested that his checks with the Borough Council suggested that they were satisfied that the use of glyphosphate was safe.

146. Mr. Connell reported a water leak on Barlaston Park and expressed concern that there may be seepage of glyphosphate into the drains and subsequently into streams and rivers.

147. Mr. Connell suggested that there should be a "ghost Council" made up from local young people. This idea was agreed as a sound suggestion. The leak had been reported to Severn Trent and should be attended to.

148. Mr. Philip Bradbeer raised the issue of the gutters on Old road not being swept and gathering detritus and weeds. The Clerk had requested that several gutters in the area be swept by Streetscene earlier in the week.

149. Mr. Bradbeer reported the difficulty for wheelchair access by the chemist on Orchard Place when it was wet as there was a blocked grid; the Clerk would report the matter to Stafford & Rural Homes.

150. The Council accepted Mr. Bradbeer's donation of 300 daffodil bulbs which they would plant in due course on the edge of the Village Green by the car park.

151. Mr. George Powell raised the destruction of hedgerows by flail cutting by large mechanical cutters; this had a negative impact on the landscape and impacted on any late clutches for birds. The Council would where possible ask landowners to observe the regulations on hedge cutting as they imposed on the local contractor on the Village Green.

152. The Council assured Mr. Powell that they would request WWRD reinstate the Millennium Arboretum once the work on the factory site was complete.

153. Mr. Powell was concerned that the footpath on the eastern edge of the northernmost Wedgwood Pool could be blocked off by WWRD with no access to the general public. It was pointed out that it was not a public footpath and as such WWRD gave no prescriptive right to walk but that they would keep a close note on developments on the rural scene in that area.

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

Minutes of the meeting held on July 1st. 2014

155: RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on July 1st.. be approved and signed by the Vice Chairman.

Matters arising

156. Re. Minute 109: Councillor Macmillan stated that there was a growing problem with HGV's in the village. Whilst the problem of construction vehicles going to the Lakeside housing site appeared to have abated there were still many examples of HGVs in the village. It was agreed wherever possible to report any problems to the police, VOSA and WWRD. It was suggested further signage restricting the vehicles to the village should be considered by WWRD and County Highways.

157. Re. Minute 111: The Chairman stated that the Civil Service on August 3rd had been appropriate and suitable; the Clerk would write to the Reverend Cathy Case to thank her for putting the service together. He also reported on the Golden Jubilee Award presentation that had been held in August. The WI had presented the Council with a Whitebeam tree that had now been planted on the Village Green close to a memorial bench.

158. The Certificates of Commendation would be presented later in September and the provisional dates are September 13th to Chris Holland and September 29th to the four ladies from the Churches.

159. Re Minute 127: Councillor O'Dunne presented the receipt for the purchase of the display notices and the Clerk reimbursed the Good Neighbours Scheme as previously agreed.

160. Re. Minute 136: It was felt the area still needed attention as the initial work had left the site looking in need of further pruning; the Clerk suggested to look further at the site once the leaves had fallen and that further pruning might then encourage stronger growth into a more natural canopy of trees and bushes; the area had never been tended or pruned before so it would need ongoing pruning and maintenance.

Report by Chairman & Borough Councillors

161. The Chairman reported on a meeting with Ian Parry and that there were ongoing delays with the sale and possible development of Wedgwood Memorial College. He reported that there had still not been a meeting between the representatives of the Councils involved and it was unlikely to happen in 2014. A bat survey had been carried out on the site and a newt survey was to be undertaken in April 2015.

Report by County Councillor

162. No report.

163. Councillor Russell reported that the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme was being reviewed by the Council and that a local coordinator was needed.

Finance Report

164. The following items were considered and approved.

	NET	VAT	Total Cost
a.) Neil Hemmings- Allowance- July	£48.00		£48.00
b.) PJS Landscapes- monthly Cemetery Maintenance	£241.00	£48.20	£289.00
c.) Greenfingers- grass cutting- Barlaston Park & Brookhouse Drive	£156.00	£13.20	£187.20
d.) J.E. Poultney- BKV new planters replanted(donated by David Wilson Homes)	£290.00		£290.00
e.) Biffa Waste Services- Cricket Club	£82.16	£16.43	£98.59
f.) Stafford B.C.- lease of land Flaxman Close	£10.00		£10.00
g.) TCE LTD- plaque for Village Green- Herons WI	£30.00	£6.00	£36.00
h.) Broker Network- insurance for village show	£53.00		£53.00

marquee			
i.) British Gas-Electricity Village Hall	£150.13	£7.50	£157.63
j.) British Gas-Gas Village Hall	£169.03	£8.45	£177.48
k.) PJS Landscapes-clearance of shrubbery Pear Tree Close	£255.00	£51.00	£306.00
l.) Stafford B.C. –Civic Amenity Visit	£129.17	£25.83	£155.00
m.) J.E. Poultney-Planter Barlaston Park-geraniums	£60.00		£60.00
n.) British Gas-electricity Village Hall	£46.29	£2.31	£48.60
o.) Biffa Waste Services- Cricket Club	£133.57	£26.71	160.28
p.)PJS Landscapes-monthly Cemetery Maintenance	£241.00	£48.20	£289.00
q.)Greenfingers-grass cutting-Brookhouse & Barlaston Park	£312.00	£62.40	£374.40
r.) Greenfingers – grass cutting BPC	£453.68	£90.74	£544.42
s.) Town & Country Services-grass cutting Flaxman Close	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00
t.)Neil Hemmings-Allowance- August	£48.00		£48.00

Repair to BPC laptop	£40.00		£40.00
u.) Barlaston village Show- donation	£500.00		£500.00
v.) Display Notices- Barlaston Good Neighbours	£90		£90.00
w.)Greenfingers-grass cutting-Brookhouse & Barlaston Park	£312.00	£62.40	£374.40
x.) Greenfingers –grass cutting BPC	£453.68	£90.74	£544.42
y.) Town & Country Services-grass cutting Flaxman Close	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00
z.)Biffa Waste Services-Village Hall	£169.39	£33.88	£203.27
A1.)Biffa Waste Services-Cricket Club	£53.57	£10.71	64.28

165. The July & August salaries for the Clerk, Transport Co-ordinator and litter picker have been met.

166. A donation of £290 from David Wilson Homes had been received and acknowledged for the two planters by Orchard Place.

167. Aviva Insurance had paid £1550 towards the cost of the new noticeboard that was being built. The old noticeboard had been demolished and damaged beyond repair by a motorist in July. Aviva would claim the full amount from the motorist in due course on receipt of the invoice for the new noticeboard. The Clerk would then amend the valuation schedule for the Council to include the current value of the new noticeboard.

Planning Update

168. The Planning Committee had met earlier in the evening and submitted comments regarding three applications. The proposed slurry storage unit for Malthouse Farm should have conditions on its use applied

169. The Chairman had called in several applications including the Plume of Feathers proposals and a proposal for housing off Tittensor Road.

170. Stafford B.C. are calling for a magistrates order to allow access to the rear of properties in Longton Road numbers 71-79 as there was a problem with one resident obstructing the access of others.

Neighbourhood Plan

171. The Clerk reported that a total of 378 completed questionnaires had been returned and he would begin a detailed analysis of them in September and hopefully draft the analysis by December.

172. The Clerk produced a timeline of actual development and proposed developments over the last three years following the 2011 Village Survey towards the DRAFT Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan. He outlined the detail of further consultations that had taken place through the summer of 2014 and had written an account of these matters.

173. Following a meeting with Raj Bains Stafford B.C., Neighbourhood Planning Officer, it was now necessary for Barlaston to set down its settlement boundary. He explained that this should include identified areas for development such as Wedgwood Memorial College but also aim to protect the greenbelt surrounding the village. His notes on the matter would be circulated to all members for consideration.

174. The Stafford Local Plan (2011-2031) was approved in June 2014 and identifies growth mainly in Stafford and Stone .However it is expected that 1200 houses will be built in the 11 key service villages in the Borough of which Barlaston is one. There was no guarantee that this total would not be exceeded. At this time the housing growth has not been distributed between the Key Service Villages but it is known that Yarnfield, Gnosall, Hixon and Great Haywood are earmarked for major development.

175. Barlaston Parish Council is now required to identify the limits of its own settlement boundary for the key service village. The Residential Development Boundary has been abolished and the Settlement Boundary is the newly defined limit for the Parish in relation to where they consider housing and other services should be developed up to 2031.

176. After examining the information provided by the Stafford B.C. on a large scale map the Council have to set the Settlement Boundaries based upon their consultations through the questionnaire responses and conversations with residents and service providers. The Parish Council have a stated aim to preserve the Green Belt and to oppose new or infill development in the rural surroundings of the village. The Barlaston Parish Council agreed to determine the Settlement Boundary of the village.

177. The DRAFT key criteria that the Parish Council will follow in planning terms are suggested below:

- a. To maintain the essential character of the village.
- b. To protect the Green Belt and to limit infringement.
- c. To resist garden grabbing on large plots.
- d. To resist the siting of HS2 through the village.
- e. To maximise the opportunity presented by the development of Wedgwood Memorial College.
- f. To make the roads through the village safer for pedestrians and all traffic.
- g. To protect and develop the infrastructure to accommodate growth of housing at Lakeside on Barlaston Park.
- h. To consider housing development for an increasingly ageing population.
- i. To improve facilities for children.
- j. To benefit from the Meaford Industrial development.
- k. To improve the street scene around Cottage Furniture, One Stop and the Plume of Feathers.
- l. To retain the two public houses.
- m. To increase the capacity of the village school and health centre.
- n. To reduce the negative impact of the level crossings.
- o. Modernise and make fit for purpose the Village Hall.
- p. Manage the many fine trees in the village.

177. It was agreed to convene in Parish Wards as groups to determine the local settlement boundary and to confirm this at the October meeting. The Clerk would convene the three ward meetings as soon as possible in order to combat the threat of speculative development on the perimeter of the village and in the greenbelt.

178. The document identified several sites for housing development in the future. It was felt that if these sites were developed together with known developments since 2011 and those already approved this would amount to a reasonable total for the village and have minimal impact upon the character and ambiance of the area. Such developments it was hoped would attract Section 106 (or Community Support Initiative) funding for use by the Parish Council to upgrade identified needs.

Voluntary Transport Scheme

179. There had been 14 lifts in July & 17 lifts in August. Councillor O'Dunne reported on a harmonious meeting with Rose Kingsbury and was confident the two schemes of the Voluntary Transport and Good Neighbours could prosper. It was agreed to formalise the Voluntary Transport Scheme to meet current requirements.

Best Kept Village Competition 2014

180. The full Council expressed disappointment that the BKV judges had not placed Barlaston in a higher category in their judgement. Councillors Jones and Linehan had attended the Community Council of Staffordshire's presentation evening and reported little

mention of Barlaston's considerable efforts in 2014 apart from new signage of which one Councillor felt was unnecessary and rather gaudy.

181. It was unanimously agreed that all the volunteers should be congratulated and thanked for their efforts whether it be collecting over 80 bags full of litter and rubbish or the painting of benches and installation of road edging. This voluntary inertia should be encouraged in 2015 wherever possible and certain known improvements in the village such as the external refurbishment of the Plume of Feather would improve the village further.

182. The BKV judges' comments had not been received and therefore further comment was reserved until the exact detail was known on the criticisms as well as the strengths.

183. It was agreed that BKV should not mean an artificial manicuring of the village to score more BKV points with planters and signage but should focus on retaining the rural character of the village a view echoed by two recent newspaper articles.

Broadband Speed in Barlaston

184. It was understood that progress for the village would be by the end of 2014.

Communication improvements for the Council

185. It was agreed to make the Heron a standing item and that regular updates could then be posted on Facebook and the Parish website.

The Cemetery Committee

186. Discussion was deferred to the October meeting.

187. It was agreed to retender for the cemetery maintenance in 2015.

188. It was noted that the Cemetery Chapel would benefit from a donation to improve the listed building.

189. The problem with moles had been dealt with.

Matters arising from the Open Forum.

190. Councillor Dodd suggested that the Council look into the use of Clinic 8.

191. The Clerk would arrange for the planting of the daffodil bulbs on receipt.

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

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

192. On receipt of the tree survey report it would be circulated for comment before any planned action. Any health and safety issues would have to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

193. After discussion it was agreed that Councillors Jones and Fisher would look at the areas on the Green that had been planted with wild flowers but there had been no growth for several reasons. One solution would be to grass the areas another to replant, another to find alternative areas. They would report to the Council in October.

194. The Clerk and Councillor Philpott were looking into the possible production of an upto date map of the village similar to those produced by other villages.

195. The Library Service was under review and there was a consultation period for comment; four Councillors agreed to fill in the questionnaire and return before the deadline. It was thought that the current Mobile Library Service in the Parish was not threatened.

196. The Clerk reported on the actions he had taken along with a resident to report the abandoned boat on the canal; stressing it was a significant health and safety risk. The Canal and Rivers Trust Officer was dealing with the problem and seeking to move the boat to a safe haven as soon as possible.

Any other business – Agenda items for the Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday October 7th. 2014.:

197. It was agreed to include The Heron; and funding of the Wedgwood Museum.

198. WWRD were keen to support the efforts of the village with the BKV initiative.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

200. The Village Hall Committee were looking at the idea of differential costing at their October meeting.

201. The outstanding way leave payment had been received.

202. There had been no progress on the upgrade of the kitchen.

Chairman

