

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

Present: – Gareth Jones
Chairman

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

Apologies: Lynne Bakker Collier, Elaine Philpott, Tony Dodd

In attendance: PC Dave Perry & Sergeant Henshall from Staffordshire Police

Open Forum

254. A number of issues impacting on the village were discussed and the police officers were thanked for their valued update and discussion of local issues.

255. In relation to traffic problems on Old road and Tittensor Road where there had been a number of road traffic accidents recently it was agreed to pursue traffic calming measures with County Highways.

256. It was agreed to continue to report incidents as soon as possible via the 101 number and to encourage residents use this means of communication. It was noted the use of the canal towpath by motor cyclists and the inconsiderate attitude of some cyclists.

257. PC Perry outlined the number of reported incidents since September 7th in all; 3 of which required police assistance these included one incident of anti-social behaviour and one of burglary and one of assault. He concluded that it had been a relatively quiet period.

258. The arrangements for the Remembrance Sunday police support were confirmed and the Police were thanked for their proposed attendance.

259. It was noted that the metal dial from the toposcope had again been stolen and there had been some graffiti sprayed on the Downs by the car park.

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

Minutes of the meeting held on October 7th 2014

261: RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on October 7th. be approved and signed by the Chairman.
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Matters arising

262. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Report by Chairman & Borough Councillors

263. The Chairman informed the Council that two candidates were being interviewed on November 5th for the position of vicar.

264. Stafford B.C. were anxious to increase the level of recycled material in the blue and brown bins; some parts of the Borough fell below the proposed target; Barlaston did not fall into this category and as a parish was performing well in terms of recycled materials.

265. It was noted that Streetscene were due to collect leaf litter around the village.

266. Councillor Russell reiterated his perceived threat of HS2 passing through Barlaston through to Stoke; it was felt the most recent report suggested this would not be the route and the preferred route was to Crewe.

267. The edge of the verge to a private property on Station Road was an unsightly hazard and was being dealt with by Stafford B.C.

Report by County Councillor

268. No report but Councillor Parry had confirmed to the Clerk he would look into the possibility of the 101 bus calling into the village every hour.

Finance Report

269. The following items were considered and approved.

	NET	VAT	Total Cost
a.) N. Hemmings- Monthly allowance	£68.97		£68.97
b.) Compost-BKV			
c.) Mileage			
d.) PJS Landscapes- monthly Cemetery Maintenance	£241.00	£48.20	£289.00
e.) Greenfingers grass cutting-	£765.68	£153.14	£918.82
f.) Knowsley Council- Tree Survey	£442.85	£78.40	£521.25

g.) British Gas- gas village hall	£93.81	£4.69	£98.50
h.) Stafford B.C. – civic amenity visit	£129.17	£25.83	£155.00
i.) Grant Thornton- Audit fee	£225.00	£45.00	£270.00
j.) Stafford B.C. – Civic amenity Visit	£129.17	£25.83	£155.00
k.) Town & Country Services- Grass Cutting	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00
l.) British Gas- Village Hall- electricity	£190.68	£9.50	£199.68
m.)Biffa Waste Services- Cricket Club	£53.57	£10.71	£64.28
n.) C.P.R.E- donation	£25.00		£25.00

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

p.) After discussion it was agreed to give a donation of £25 to Staffordshire CPRE but not to the Village Show Committee for the forthcoming "Frozen children's party"; however it was agreed that in 2015 the Council would support the Village show to some degree.

Planning Update

270. The Planning Committee had met earlier in the evening and would submit comments of no objection regarding the four applications

Neighbourhood Plan

271. The Chairman outlined the current position regarding a challenge being made around the Stafford Borough by potential housing developers to the Stafford Local Plan which had

been adopted in June 2014. The outcome of this challenge could influence the potential impact on development in the Borough as there were a number of significant outline proposals for housing close to or in the greenbelt.

272. The Borough Council Local Plan identified Barlaston as a key service village surrounded mostly by green belt and in the Plan stated that it would be protected from further housing development along with Tittensor and Yarnfield. It was noted that Barlaston Park was not regarded as part of the key service village.

273. Councillor Hall argued against this but it was a stated fact in the Local Plan that this and other areas around the built up settlement of Barlaston would be regarded as greenbelt. It was then agreed to produce a single settlement boundary excluding Barlaston Park.

274. The Clerk outlined the advice given by the Forward Planning Team at Stafford B.C. and he would redraw the settlement boundary as a single boundary excluding Barlaston Park but giving reasons why the boundary had been drawn as proposed.

275. It was agreed to resubmit the proposal and await the outcome.

276. The Clerk was attending a Locality event later in the month that focussed on all aspects of Neighbourhood Planning.

Voluntary Transport Scheme

277. There had been 27 lifts in September.

The Heron

278. An edition would be prepared for January.

HGVs and delivery vehicles in the Village

279. Incidents of ongoing breaches of the 7.5t restriction were noted and should be reported to WWRD

Remembrance Sunday arrangements

280. The police had promised their support and the wreaths had arrived. The procession would be the same timings and route as in 2013. A letter of thanks from the British Legion had been received for the Council's donation.

281. Councillor Hall suggested it might be possible to develop a small ceramic poppy display similar to the one at the Tower of London but on a small scale.

Matters arising from the Open Forum.

282. None

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

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

284. The proposed dates for meetings in 2015 were agreed.

285. A working party to carry out improvements along the canal towpath would be convened in January 2015.

286. The Clerk outlined the many requests he had made re the abandoned boat on the canal; he would follow the matter up after the emails he had sent to the Canal & Rivers Trust earlier in the day.

287. Councillors Jones and Russell were attending the 400th year celebration for the Mayor of Stafford's founding.

288. Mr. Graham Vernon had written to the Parish Council regarding traffic issues on Longton Road as there were more cars being parked on the road causing a chicane and often speeding cars made the approach towards the area dangerous. It was agreed that there were more cars parked; however they were parked lawfully. There were workmen at one property but a survey of car ownership with the residents could be undertaken; it was noted the same problem extended up Longton Road towards the Cricket Club.

289. A simple and cheap solution was difficult to agree as most households owned at least one vehicle. The Council did not have any powers to act but would again raise these issues with County Highways who were unlikely to have the finance to fund an improvement and had not identified the problem as a local priority.

Any other business – Agenda items for the Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday December 2nd. 2014.

290. Councillor Fearn proposed a small plaque to be placed by the tree donated by Barlaston WI. This was agreed.

291. She also raised the matter of traffic congestion outside the One Stop shop as deliveries were being made by large HGVs; she suggested a meeting with Steven Green from One Stop to discuss a way to improve access would help reduce congestion in the area; the Clerk would again request the painting of a yellow hatched box across the level crossing to prevent traffic entering when there was no clear exit.

292. It was agreed to discuss the provision of defibrillators in the village at the next meeting.

293. It was noted with sadness that the majestic Turkey Oak on the WWRD estate had fallen during the October gale.

Note by Clerk

294. The Parish Council meeting closed and members re-convened at the Village Hall Trustees.

Village Hall Committee Report

295. The Village Hall Committee minutes for October had been circulated to Councillors.

296. Litter collected by the Barlaston Wombles should not be left by the Village Hall refuse container as it had caused an obstruction from the kitchen.

297. It was noted that a new pricing structure was being discussed.

Chairman

