

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting-
Held on Tuesday 3rd. February 2015.**

Present: – Gareth Jones
Chairman

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

Apologies: Paul Fisher

In attendance: Mandy Clarey & PCSO Rebecca Powell

Open Forum

367. Mrs Clarey, Headteacher, of Barlaston First School reported on the work and effectiveness of the post holder as the Church's Child & Family worker. The post impacted upon the school, the church and the local community of Barlaston. She outlined all of the activities in school and the church; these included family worship in school, Tots Church & the Summer School- there were strong links between the school and church that had been strengthened as a result of the work of the post holder.

368. The work of the post holder in the community with vulnerable children and families was noted, as well as liaison with the Health Visitors to the school. Mrs. Carey responded to questions from the Council and was thanked for her report on the value of such a post and the need for ongoing funding of the post. It was felt that the donation to support the post from the Council was a valuable and worthwhile one as there were many instances of the effectiveness of this role. The Council thanked Mrs. Carey for her attendance and report.

369. PCSO Rebecca Powell reported on several recent incidents of theft and criminal damage in the village which were being pursued. She was following up a complaint of a commercial van obstructing the highway in Longton Road, and noted the suggestions of several members on this matter.

370. A recent speed check exercise in Old Road had led to seven speeding tickets and five warnings. The difficulty of traffic congestion on the approaches to Barlaston level crossing was again mentioned.

371. The Clerk had written to Stafford & Rural Homes regarding the anti-social behaviour of several residents in their properties in Barlaston Park.

372. It was noted that a group of travellers had tried to access the Wedgwood Memorial College recently.

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

Minutes of the meeting held on January 6th 2015

374: RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on January 6th be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

375. The Clerk read a letter of thanks from Sara Fearn regarding the gift token presented to her as a token of appreciation for her service on the Parish Council.

376. Re. Minute 331: Councillor Linehan reported that the offending wall had been painted.

377. Re. Minute 337: The Clerk had made progress with this matter and a replacement was being produced with agreed costs to be shared with Stone Rural Parish Council.

378. Re. Minute 342: The threat to the withdrawal of funding for the Community Council of Staffordshire had receded.

379. Re. Minute 353: Councillor O'Dunne reported on the progress of the defibrillator scheme. The West Midlands Ambulance Service had agreed funding of the scheme and a number of generous donations had been received. A survey of potential sites needed to be undertaken and the Chairman would inform the Village Hall Committee of the need to site one defibrillator outside the Village Hall.

380. The Clerk has sought permission from Stafford & Rural Homes to site a defibrillator outside the shops in Orchard Place; this had been refused. He had taken the matter up with their Technical Officer and had sent a detailed reply relating to the concerns the landowner had.

Report by Chairman & Borough Councillor

381. The Chairman reported on the following matters.

382. It was agreed to nominate Joe Poultney of Tittensor road for the "Pride in our Patch" awards for his work in the village in relation to improving the environment.

383. He outlined his concerns regarding the closure of part of Meaford Road from April for up to one year, whilst the road infrastructure for the Meaford Power Plant is constructed. This would mean considerably more traffic passing along Tittensor Road without weight restrictions and endangering even further the road to pedestrians. A meeting with the Staffordshire County Councillors with responsibility for the regeneration project had been arranged which he would attend with the Clerk.

384. The Clerk had clarified the proposal by Stoke-on-Trent Council relating to the possibility of HS2 running north of Stone through Barlaston to Stoke. He read the reply from one of the regeneration staff at the Council and it was agreed to invite their representatives to the April meeting for an update. The Chairman reiterated that the County and Borough Councils had both submitted strong objections to the proposals.

385. On the WWRD site the improvements to the factory were on schedule to be completed before October 2015. After this the site would be restored and environmental

improvements to the grounds and trees in the area. It was noted that there was untidiness and litter in the area that it was hoped would be rectified as soon as possible.

386. He reported that Mr. Connell from Flaxman Close had contacted him to update him on the fact that there had been a successful suing of the French government relating to the use of glycophosphate. Mr Connell had urged the Council of a policy against fracking and to look into the local air quality which Mr Connell suggested was poor.

387. The Chairman informed the meeting that the new leader of the Borough Council was Patrick Farrington; that the Borough Council Tax was to be unchanged and that the issue over issues at Stafford Hospital were ongoing.

Report by County Councillor

388. No report

Finance Report

389. The Following items were considered and agreed.

	NET	VAT	Total Cost
a.) N. Hemmings Allowance &	£72.17		£72.17
b.) BKV materials			
c.) Gift Sara Fearn	£50.00		£50.00
d.) Postage Stamps	£6.36		£6.36
e.) PJS Landscapes- monthly Cemetery Maintenance	£241.00	£48.20	£289.00
f.) Biffa Waste- Cricket Club	£73.65	£14.73	£88.38
g.) Cuthom- Village Maps	£343.20	£68.64	£411.84
h.) S.B.C. Civic Amenity Visits	£258.33	£51.67	£310.00

i.) TLE- Toposcope Dial	£80.00	£16.00	£96.00
j.) Eurooffice-stationery	£156.98	£31.40	£188.38
k.) British Gas- Village Hall	£400.95	£20.04	£420.99
l.) Biffa Waste- Cricket Club	£53.57	£10.71	£64.28
m.) British Gas-electricity: Village Hall	£297.17	£14.85	£312.02
m.) Panda Press- Heron	£625.00		£625.00
n.) Town & Country Services- Flaxman Close	£80.00	£16.00	£96.00

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

p.) The Precept for 2015/16 is £31000 and had been agreed by the Borough Council.

Planning Update

390. The Planning Committee had met earlier in the evening and submitted appropriate comments on three applications.

Neighbourhood Plan

391. The Clerk presented a positive report on recent activities that included a provisional agreement by the Borough Council on the Barlaston Settlement Boundary and effective discussions and consultations in the two steering group meetings held in January.

392. It was agreed that Urban Vision could support the development of the plan and be engaged from April when Locality grants were available. Their representative had met the Clerk and he recommended that the company give a brief presentation to the Council at the beginning of the next meeting.

393. The completed questionnaires would be analysed professionally as evidence to support the plan and the Clerk would convene further steering group meetings. He would prepare housing needs surveys from the evidence and draft relevant policies.

394. Councillor Macmillan stressed the need begin to gather evidence re traffic issues and that the Speedwatch scheme needed to be part of this activity. He felt that illuminated flashing SLOW DOWN signs were the most effective means of traffic calming through the village and should be recommended to County Highways albeit that the Council may need to contribute to the installation costs.

395. The Parliamentary Bill prepared by Bill Cash MP was supported by the Council and it was hoped would reach Parliament before the period of purdah began.

Voluntary Transport Scheme

396. There had been 14 lifts in January; it was agreed to send a bouquet to Rose Kingsbury as a gesture of appreciation for her ongoing organisation of lifts.

The Heron

397. The Heron had been delivered and had been well received; it was hoped the next edition could be published in late October. It was agreed inserts were not a good idea for the future.

Canal Towpath

398. The Clerk outlined the proposed arrangements for the working party. The Canal and River Trust were providing materials that would be deposited adjacent to the canal and as close as possible to the problem area. A group of volunteers from Stoke would be assisting.

Matters arising from the Open Forum.

399. It was agreed to continue the financial support of the Church Child & Family Support Worker to the sum of £1250.

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

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

401. The vacancy for Barlaston East had not been filled and as the period of notice had now expired the Parish Council could co-opt; it was agreed not to co-opt as the Council was still quorate on all Committees so could function effectively until May. There were residents who might seek nomination for the new Council.

402. Work to build a new wooden bus shelter had begun after the gale in January damaged the existing one beyond repair, local tradesmen were being used to build and paint the new one; the costs were covered by the insurance policy less £250 excess.

Any other business – Agenda items for the Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday March 3rd.2015.

403. Councillor Russell placed "Hitching Scheme" onto the agenda for March.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

405. The revised hiring fees were being implemented and accepted by users.

406. It was agreed that where possible local groups should be able to book the Hall at a minimum rate to facilitate their work and ease costs. The meeting room was normally available on Tuesday evenings as well as other times in the day; the Chairman would take these suggestions to their next meeting.

407. The proposals for improvements to the kitchen were being finalised.

408. Michala Black and Patrick Linehan had joined the committee.

Chairman

