

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting-  
Held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015.**

**Present:** – Paul Fisher  
Chairman

Elaine Philpott	Max Robinson
Patrick Linehan	Viv O'Dunne
Steve Hall	Sarah Broome
Tony Dodd	

**Apologies:** Gareth Jones & Ian Macmillan

**In attendance:** Pamela Graham, Philip Bradbeer, Rebecca Wilshaw, Michala Black & Gail Atkinson (Stafford Newsletter)

**Open Forum**

64. Michala Black and Rebecca Wilshaw outlined their view that they didn't feel that parts of the village green were visually appealing. They expressed concern on the amount of money that had been spent recently on the village green for little progress. The Chairman explained that the decision not to spend any additional money on the green in this financial year had been made at the June meeting the minutes of which would be approved later in the July meeting. As he had an interest in the upkeep and appearance of the village green he asked Councillor Philpott to chair the Open Forum.

65. Councillor Philpott outlined how planned work to develop a sward of grass and wild flowers at the eastern side of the green had not taken as the soil and drainage was proven to be unsuitable. The lime tree in the centre of the green had been professionally pruned and PJS Landscapes had worked to weed kill and then seed the areas with wild flowers which had largely failed so subsequently late in 2014 and in the spring of 2015 grass seed had been set.

66. The Council before the June meeting had looked at the two areas which were not being mowed and it had been agreed to leave the areas until the end of the 2015 growing season. The Clerk outlined the full costs of work on the green since 2013 that totalled c. £6250 in the last three years. They had worked to the plan prepared by Liz Hill and implemented by PJS Landscapes. However the wild flowers had not grown. The Clerk referred to Minute 59 which outlined the current position of the Council on the upkeep of the green.

67. Michala Black pointed out that there were volunteers who would help to tidy the two area of concern; the Clerk suggested that this was noted but a risk assessment of volunteers using tools and machinery on parish land was not a practice that the Council's insurance policy covered in the event of a claim against them.

68. Rebecca Wilshaw suggested a compromise could be met and that the two areas could be mowed or the area at the top of the green be developed as a nature reserve; Michala Black stated that there would be no additional mowing costs according to Greenfingers; the Clerk said that was not the case from his conversations with Greenfingers.

69. The discussion was drawn to a close with the agreement that later in the meeting the Council would reconsider its stance on the matter.

70. There were no declarations of interest made before the meeting began. Councillor Fisher took the Chair.

### **Minutes of the meeting held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. 2015**

71. **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **Matters arising**

72. Re. Minute 39: the Clerk updated the meeting on the closure of Meaford Road and the resulting additional traffic on Tittensor Road. The Clerk and Councillor Jones had met with Councillor Parry and Highways in June to review the situation. The meeting had produced data for traffic flow around the main village roads based on traffic counts in March and June 2015; the average speed of traffic through the village was 38 mph – over the 30 mph speed limit! The amount of traffic down Tittensor Road had doubled and concerns were raised over the amount and speed of traffic in the village. Councillor Parry was very supportive in trying to ensure traffic calming measures for the village; it had been agreed that the Clerk would meet with Highways to identify positions for mobile speed warning devices. The Community Road Safety Team would also be asked to monitor speed in the village.

73. The Clerk pointed out that this data was extremely useful as evidence for the neighbourhood plan and the aim of reducing speed of traffic in the whole of the village.

74. Re. Minute 40: The Clerk reported that the housing needs analysis undertaken by Stafford & Rural homes for siting affordable homes on Barlaston Park had recommended to progress the idea into a formal planning application. Councillor Hall asked for clarification of how a rural exception scheme could be undertaken in the greenbelt; the Clerk gave his understanding of how the scheme would progress; it was agreed to invite Harpreet Rayet from Stafford & Rural Homes, be invited to the September meeting to outline the proposals.

75. Re, Minute 57: The Clerk outlined the consultation process and the likely recommendation that the mobile library service for the village would be reduced to one visit per week rather than two.

76. Re. Minute 59c: The Chairman read out the letter sent by the Clerk re hedge cutting. It was hoped the byelaws would be upheld.

### **Report by Chairman & Borough Councillor**

77. There was no report.

## Report by County Councillor

78. There was no report.

### Finance Report

79. The Following items were considered and agreed.

	<b>NET</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
a.) N. Hemmings-allowance	£48.00		£48.00
	£14.99		£14.99
b.) BKV Paint	£6.48		£6.48
c.) Stamps	£1.80		£1.80
d.) Parking			
e.) PJS Landscapes-monthly Cemetery Maintenance	£246.00	£49.20	£295.20
f.) Greenfingers-Grass cutting	£765.68	£153.14	£918.82
g.) Town & country Services-grass cutting Flaxman Close	£135.00	£27.00	£162.00
h.) Reels on Wheels-hire of film	£168.50	£33.70	£202.20
i.) Chris Roberts-Planter (Orchard Place)& Picnic Tables ( Village Green)re BKV	£560.00		£560.00
j.) N. Hemmings-back pay	£148.53		£148.53
k.) Wedgwood C.C.- Hire of room-Neighbourhood Plan workshop	£100.00		£100.00

l.) Barlaston Methodist Church- Hire of room- Neighbourhood Plan workshop	£100.00		£100.00
m.) Biffa Waste Services-Cricket Club	£91.59	£18.32	£109.91
n.) Stafford B.C.- lease of land	£10.00		£10.00
o.) Jacksons-marquee hire- village show	£1460.00	£292.00	£1752.00

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

q.) A letter of thanks for the donation to Staffordshire Women's Aid had been received; a request to donate to the Stone Puppet Festival was declined.

### **Voluntary Transport Scheme**

80. There had been 23 lifts in June.

### **Planning Update**

81. The Planning Committee had met earlier and were opposing an application to build a bungalow on land off Old Road as it was outside the settlement boundary and in the greenbelt.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

82. The Clerk reported on the two recent housing needs workshops that had been well attended. The administration to obtain the grant had been completed and he had attended a conference on affordable housing run by Stafford & Rural Homes.

83. Once the housing needs analysis had been completed the drafting of the plan could begin.

### **Best Kept Village Competition**

84. Councillor Linehan reported upon a well-attended litter pick and the Clerk reported upon the invitation to the C.C.O.S. BKV Awards in August which they would attend.

85. The Barlaston Community Group had been active and the second Film Night would take place on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

86. A number of other events such as a party in the Village Hall were being considered.

87. It was noted that the Group would have a Plant Swap at the Village Show and would not be running the BBQ as this was being managed by the Village Show Committee.

88. This prompted a discussion over the Village Show with various points to consider; the Show needed to cover its costs and the cost of Marquee Hire might have to be found in future years as well as the need to let local groups have an option to raise funds.

89. The Council noted the location of the two new picnic benches on the green and felt this was a suitable site for their use.

### **Golden Jubilee Award 2015**

90. The award would be presented at the Village Show; four nominations for Certificates of Commendation were agreed: Jo Gent, Erika Callandine, Sara Morris & Michala Black for their work in the village in 2014/5 re defibrillators, yarnbombing and littler picking.

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

91. It was agreed not to mow the areas of grass on the green for the time being but to review the situation at the September meeting.

### **Correspondence and Clerk's Report**

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

93. An update on the installation of the defibrillators was given by Councillor O Dunne and the Clerk; 3 were in situ; 2 more were to be installed on Longton Road and Old Road and permission to install the other 3 was ongoing. Councillors were urged to publicise the defibrillator training event to be held on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

94. The next Barlaston Park Estate Walkabout was on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10.00am.

95. The wooden bench on Queen Mary Drive owned by WWRD was in need of attention and the Clerk had reported this matter to them.

96. The First Bus Service number 23 was to be replaced in September by a similar service to be run by D&G Buses; the exact route and timetable was not yet published.

97. Carl Miller from Pennywise was leaving his shop early in 2016 to take up a new position; he had been most helpful to residents and the Council since he opened the shop, which it was hoped would continue trading hopefully in the same goods.

98. The Clerk outlined the current Police staffing levels and personnel that covered the local neighbourhood with only 1 full time officer and three PCSO's.

### **Any other business – Agenda items for the Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday September 1st. 2015**

100. Councillor Broome reported on the recent Cemetery Committee meeting which had been attended by members of the Church PCC; no Parish Councillor was able to attend.

101. The regulations for the Churchyard extension were outlined and a meeting with representatives of the Cashmore-Thorley family had taken place and discussed the grievances raised by the family.

102. No items additional to the headstone were to be placed on graves was the policy that would be upheld.

103. The Vicar requested that the area was called the Churchyard extension and not the Cemetery- this was noted.

104. It was agreed to invite Rebecca Wilshaw and Michala Black to the September meeting regarding their concern over the village green.

#### **Note by Clerk**

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

#### **Village Hall Committee Report**

106. Councillor Hall reported on the recent Village Hall AGM and the need to be aware that the make-up of the Village Hall Committee had changed significantly in the last three years. A new Treasurer was being sought and the Trustees should be aware of the need to try to find suitable volunteers for the Committee.

107. Work on painting the exterior of the Village Hall and the kitchen refurbishment had begun.

108. The financial situation was sound but most of the balance would be used up with the expenditure on the kitchen.

**Chairman**

