

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting-  
Held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015.**

**Present:** – Gareth Jones  
Chairman

Paul Fisher	Ian Macmillan
Patrick Linehan	Viv O'Dunne
Steve Hall	Sarah Broome
Tony Dodd	

**Apologies:** Max Robinson, Elaine Philpott

**In attendance:** Rebecca Wilshaw, Jonathan Wilshaw, Michala Black, Andrew Black, Harpreet Nayet, Phil Powell & Kerry Ashdown  
(Stafford Newsletter)

**Open Forum**

109. Four residents from the Green Mr. & Mrs. Black and Mr. & Mrs Wilshaw were welcomed to the meeting and Mrs. Black again outlined her concern about the Green. She had contacted residents from around the Green who she stated all preferred to see "a neat orderly and tidy Green that was managed". She expressed the view that it was "a complete mess in some parts such as at the top of the Green and the trees by the Upper House."

110. These points and opinions were noted and a map of the houses visited was accepted for later consideration as the management of the Green was to be discussed later in the meeting.

111. There were proposals for the management of the Green to consider and a consensus view would be taken but it was unlikely that there would be further expenditure in 2015 other than regular grass cutting.

112. It was hoped in 2016 a project could be developed that would be successful and not costly.

113. Mrs. Black again reiterated the offer of help of tidying the Green; Councillor Fisher pointed out that there were individuals at present tidying parts of the Green in removing fallen branches and litter.

114. The Council welcomed representatives of Stafford & Rural Homes - Harpreet Nayet, Phil Powell. They gave a detailed presentation on an affordable houses scheme for Ivyhouse Drive for 20 maisonettes and bungalows to be sited where lock up garages are currently sited.

115. The outline detail for the area was circulated noting the type of property a new retail outlet landscaping and buildings to modern specifications. In principle the Council welcomed the plan as there was a demand for affordable houses in the area.

116. The allocation criteria for the properties was outlined and Councillors welcomed the criteria.

117. Councillors raised several issues that needed improvement; off road parking in the area if the garages were to disappear, improved surface and sewage drainage and improvement to the unadopted road running from Bell Lane to Ivyhouse Drive.

118. The representatives left and were thanked for their presentation a planning application would be submitted in due course.

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

### **Minutes of the meetings held on July 7th. 2015 & August 11<sup>th</sup> 2015**

**120. RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on July 7<sup>th</sup> & August 11<sup>th</sup>. 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **Matters arising**

121. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the two meetings.

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

122. The Chairman reported that an application had been made to Stafford Borough Council re Wedgwood Memorial College for a Community Asset Transfer following the special meeting of the Council in August. It was still unclear what the current position over the sale of the land was and an expression of interest re the development of the College as a centre of excellence for the export of local and UK Ceramics. The College had been in public use in the last five years but was unsure if the proposal was a feasible one. In the meantime the agents for the sale of the land would review their proposals.

123. It was agreed a magnolia tree that had been donated would be sited near Pear Tree Close.

124. Arrangements for the Village Show were in hand.

125. Speed Indicator Devices had been placed in Tittensor Road for the monitoring of traffic speed. The data provided would be evidence for tackling speeding problems throughout the village.

126. The Child & Family Worker Lynn Pullin Jones had resigned her post; it was not yet known whether she would be replaced.

127. He was pleased to announce that Mr & Mrs Morris of Park Drive had won the Stafford Borough Council recycling award when the team visited the area.

## Report by County Councillor

128. There was no report.

### Finance Report

129. 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
b.) PJS Landscapes-monthly Cemetery Maintenance	£246.00	£49.20	£295.20
c.) Greenfingers-Grass cutting	£765.68	£153.14	£918.82
d.) Town & country Services-grass cutting Flaxman Close	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00
e.) Stafford B.C. – Civic Amenity Visit	£130.83	£26.17	£157.00
f.) AED Donate-Defibrillator installation	£375.25	£75.05	£450.30
g.) SCC- village Hall kitchen refurbishment	£9000.00	£1800	£10800
h.) Stafford B.C.- Civic Amenity visit	£130.83	£26.17	£157.00

i.) British Gas- Village Hall-gas supply	£266.29	£13.31	£279.60
j.) Joe Poultney- BKV planters	£410.00		£410.00
k.) Plants the Jewellers- Golden Jubilee Award engraving	£20.00		£20.00
l.) Barlaston Village Hall- hire of hall for Neighbourhood Plan meeting	£100.00		£100.00
m.)Barlaston Village Hall- hire of hall for 2 film nights	£100.00		£100.00
n.)Panda Press- printing of Heron	£650.00		£650.00
o.)British Gas- Electricity –Village Hall	£307.41	£15.37	£322.78
p.)Biffa Waste Services- Cricket Club	£139.77	£27.95	£167.72
q.)SCC- kitchen village hall	£6768.90	£1353.78	£8122.68
r.)Instantprint- film night tickets	£28.16	£0.83	£28.99
s.)N.Hemmings- Heron Postage	£45.36		£45.36
t.)C. Leggett-Tree Surgery Orchard Place	£150.00		£150.00

u.)Reels on Wheels- film night	£55.83	£11.17	£67.00
v.)SCC Village Hall Kitchen refurbishment	£3090.70	£618.14	£3708.84
w.)Greenfingers- grass cutting	£765.68	£153.14	£918.82
x.)Biffa Waste Services-Cricket Club	£59.77	£11.95	£71.72
y.)Biffa Waste Services-Village Hall	£178.75	£35.75	£214.50
z.)Urban vision-community events	£2250.00	£450.00	£2700.00
aa.)Town & Country Services-grass cutting	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00

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

cc.) The current balance was low and the second part of the Precept was anticipated as well as a VAT refund; however it was agreed that a rise in the 2016-17 Precept was likely to meet anticipated expenditure.

### **Voluntary Transport Scheme**

130. There had been 38 lifts in July & August.

### **Planning Update**

131. The Planning Committee had met earlier and agreed to support the Solstice Renewables solar farm scheme at Meaford.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

132. The Clerk reported on the identified preferred housing development sites following the consultation process; these sites and accompanying evidence would be discussed with Stafford Borough Council for their approval. Although some sites were in the greenbelt it was unlikely that these would be put forward as feasible based on the Council's agreed policy of no wholesale development in the green belt; rural exception sites apart.

### **Best Kept Village Competition**

133. It was agreed that congratulations should be expressed on the "Highly Commended" Award for 2015.

134. The Judges' Comments were awaited but it was agreed to enter in 2016.

135. The recent activities of the Barlaston Community Group were noted.

### **Wild Flower Beds**

136. It was agreed to produce an outline timetable for the development of wild flower beds around the village with costings. It was hoped Councillor Robinson could advise on this potential project.

### **Golden Jubilee Award 2015**

137. Arrangements were in hand for the presentation at the village Show. The Certificates of Commendation would be presented later in October.

### **Parish Council Vacancy**

138. After discussion it was agreed to co-opt Andy Gent of Longton Road to the vacancy for the East Ward.

### **The Heron**

139. Councillor O'Dunne was thanked for her efforts in producing the most recent edition.

### **Canal adoption**

140. The Clerk outlined the current issues and the need for wider involvement in work on the canal by the Council. It was agreed to employ someone to empty the litter bins along the Canal.

141. A working party would be arranged for October.

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

142. It was agreed not to mow the areas of grass on the green for the time being but to produce proposals for the October meeting.

143. The information provided by Mrs. Black was considered and noted but the Council needed to prepare a viable project with accurate costs before more expenditure on the Green; it was felt that the management and maintenance of the Green was good and the Clerk managed this well; the Council disagreed that there was rubbish on the Green or the sapling trees on the southern edge were a mess.

144. The Clerk would write to the residents who had attended the Open Forum.

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

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

146. He reported on minor vandalism to the Orchard Place noticeboard which he would get repaired as best as possible, he would submit a list of tasks for the Highways Neighbourhood Team to include tidying the footpath from Bedcroft to Longton Road.

147. It was agreed that the passage of any HGVs through the village could be monitored and he would contact the resident volunteer to carry out this monitoring.

148. The revised bus service provision was noted but would cause difficulties for some student and commuters especially those living on Barlaston Park. Little could be done to change the proposed timetables.

149. An anonymous letter from a resident complaining of a perceived problem in the village had been reported to the police.

### **Any other business – Agenda items for the Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday October 6th. 2015**

150. It was agreed to table proposals for wild flower beds in the village.

## **Note by Clerk**

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

## **Village Hall Committee Report**

152. The minutes of the July & August Village Hall Committee meetings had been circulated.

153. Work on the kitchen was complete and the recharge to the Parish Council for energy usage would be made.

154. A Tree Preservation Order for the large oak tree by the southern side of the village had been applied for; the tree needed some minor trimming of the branches overhanging the village hall.

155. The waste collection contract with Biffa was for general non – hazardous waste, but not hard wood or rubber or any item that could not be compressed.

**Chairman**









