

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting-
Held on Tuesday January 12th 2016.**

Present: – Gareth Jones
Chairman

Elaine Philpott	Paul Fisher
Patrick Linehan	Sarah Broome
Steve Hall	Andy Gent
Tony Dodd	Viv O'Dunne

Apologies: Max Robinson, Ian Macmillan, Neil Hemmings

In attendance: John Tudor

Open Forum

241. John Tudor explained that he had recently moved back to the village with his wife who had 12 years' experience of being a Parish Councillor and had experience of neighbourhood planning. He and his wife wished to express an interest in becoming involved with village life. The Chairman explained that although there were no current Parish Council vacancies there were many opportunities for community involvement such as the village hall, village show and community group.

Minutes of the meeting held on December 1st. 2015

242. RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on December 1st. 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman.
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Matters arising

243. Re. Minute 191: The Clerk had reported that George Powell would assist the Council in repositioning some of the trees.

244. Re. Minute 218 Councillor O'Dunne updated the recent developments relating Wedgwood Memorial College. The Borough Council had written to potential interested parties. The site is now listed on the GVA website. She reported that on site security had decreased and that some acts of vandalism had already taken place.

245. Re. Minute 222: Councillor Dodd informed the Council that a report had been produced by Staffs and Rural Homes and that they had given themselves three out of three in all categories following the recent estate walkabout This translates as 'no problems in any area' which he disputes because of issues raised at the most recent walkabout. The Chairman would raise this with them. Councillor Philpott also asked if it could be mentioned to Stafford & Rural Homes that the parking at Orchard Place was a concern. In particular that valuable space was being taken up by a local householder who parks 4 vehicles on the car park. All the Council members expressed concerns about the

loss of trade for businesses served by the car park. A number of suggestions were made on how this could be resolved. At the end of the day it's up to Stafford & Rural Homes.

246. Re. Minute 228: The landlord of the Duke of York had been asked to remove his A-board sign on the little island at the junction of the roads by the Upper House entrance. Councillor Fisher would advise the Landlord to put in a planning application for a sign similar to the one sited by the Upper House a few years back.

247. Re. Minute 230: Councillor Linehan reported on a full house at the recent film night, 100 people were in attendance. A modest surplus was generated which will be added to existing funds for future use. He mentioned that a lot of older people had attended, some who came alone. It was felt that the film nights were of benefit to the wellbeing of those who ordinarily wouldn't be able to attend an evening at the cinema.

248. Re. Minute 231: Councillor Fisher reported further damage on the village green. A wagon had damaged the ground by the entrance to the Upper House and had actually moved some of the boulders. A number of verges in the village had been damaged.

Report by Chairman & Borough Councillor

249. The Chairman reported on the discussions of the Finance Committee and asked the Parish Council to consider their recommendations.

250. The Chairman outlined the aspirations of the Council for the new financial year, these include: The completion of the Neighbourhood Plan, restoration of the War Memorial to maintain the same level of grass cutting, to plant some wild flowers and to support the Best Kept Village competition and also to underwrite the village show and remuneration for new litter picker.

251. The recommendation of the Finance Committee was to increase the precept by £5,000 to £36,000.

252. It was clarified that budgeted funds for the village show were more a contingency. The Parish Council would meet any deficit re the marquee for the village show in the event of something like wet weather affecting attendance.

253. It was agreed to clear the overgrown shrubs in Pear Tree Close.

254. Councillor Dodd asked if there was provision for a bus shelter at Barlaston Park. The Chairman said that despite the low usage and infrequency of buses the Parish Council are still committed to provide something.

255. He informed the meeting that the churchyard contractor had requested another £10 per month for his work. There were no objections to this increase.

256. Councillor Hall proposed that the precept be set at £36000 and Councillor Philpott seconded, all in favour.

Report by County Councillor

257. No report

Finance Report

258. The following items were considered and approved

	NET	VAT	Total Cost
a.) N. Hemmings- allowance	£48.00		£48.00
b.) Stamps	£7.24		£7.24
c.) Bouquet	£25.00		£25.00
d.) PJS Landscapes- monthly Cemetery Maintenance	£246.00	£49.20	£295.20
e.) Biffa Waste Services- Cricket Club	£91.59	£18.32	£109.91
f.) Ticket Printing- film night	£14.00	£3.77	£17.77
g.) Albans Packaging- laminating pouches	£8.00		£8.00
h.) Stafford B.C.- Election charges	£262.92		£262.92
i.) Lynne Coates (Catalyst2)- web domain renewal	£30.00		£30.00
j.) British Gas- Village Hall- gas supply	£360.74	£18.03	£378.77

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

Voluntary Transport Scheme

259. There had been 19 lifts in December.

Planning Update

260. There were several planning applications being considered.

Neighbourhood Plan

261. The steering groups would be reconvened soon.

Matters arising from the Open Forum

262. No further actions needed

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

263. The Clerk's actions from his report were noted and agreed. In the absence of the Clerk Councillor Fisher read out the letter you re overgrown hedges and trees on Station Bank and mud by the Duke of York from tractors. Some members did agree with the issues raised by Mr Goodwin (mainly about Station Road) this is a matter for Highways and had already been reported by the Clerk.

Any other business – Agenda items for the Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday February 9th 2016.

264. Councillor Linehan reported churned up verges and lots of puddles. The Council felt that the recent weather had impacted everywhere and that the situation should be reassessed when the weather settles.

265. Councillor Gent had agreed to be the new chair of the Playing Fields Committee

266. Councillor Broome informed the Council that the school was thriving (a large increase in the number of pupils). The knock-on effect of this was that parking was becoming a major issue (neighbours in Broughton Crescent not happy being one issue). The Church had given permission for parents to park there, but it's not ideal as it's not a safe place to cross. She wanted to ask if the PC had any ideas how to tackle the problem. A number of suggestions were made:

- Yellow lines/ resident only parking
- A reminder sign at the school gate "Have you parked responsibly?"
- An occasional visit by PCSO's to monitor the problem and deal with any illegal parking issues.
- Observed that not many local families walk to school -Suggested giving families an incentive to walk.

- The PC as a whole suggested that a more flexible start time may alleviate the problem a little.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

268. Nothing to report.

Chairman

