

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting-
Held on Tuesday March 1st 2016.**

Present: – Gareth Jones
Chairman

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

Apologies: Max Robinson, Elaine Philpott, Neil Hemmings

In attendance: Mr. T. Tudor, Mr. M. Lambert, Mr. R. Range.

Open Forum

298. Mark Lambert raised the issue of vehicles (such as post office vans, delivery vans and visitors) parking on the grass verge on Old Road by the new Nursery Gardens development. He is concerned that these vehicles are obscuring visibility for anyone trying to turn out of Nursery Gardens. Councillor Jones informed Mr Lambert that the Parish Council shared his concerns and that the Parish Council had opposed the development for this reason. Councillor Jones stated that he would report the matter in his capacity as Borough Councillor.

299. Councillor Macmillan suggested that the residents should make visitors to Nursery Gardens aware of this safety issue and urge them to park considerately. The Chairman also suggested that Mr Lambert write to County Councillor, Ian Parry, and Highways with his concerns.

300. Mr Lambert asked if land adjacent to Nursey Gardens was likely to be developed. The Chair advised that the land is greenbelt and outside the village settlement boundary and as such, development would be unlikely.

301. Mr Tudor repeated his complaint from last month that the March Parish Council meeting agenda hadn't been placed on the village notice board. Councillors informed Mr Tudor that the agenda and all previous minutes were **always** available on the Parish Council website. Councillor Jones explained to Mr Tudor that the Parish Council were in a transition period and were in the process of recruiting a new Parish Clerk. He explained to Mr Tudor that the current clerk was indisposed due to serious illness and that this matter would be resolved once the new Clerk is in post.

302. Mr Tudor again suggested that the Parish Council produce a monthly magazine for villagers, general opinion was that no one had the required time to produce a monthly Parish magazine.

303. The Chair wished it to be noted that the Parish Council had offered condolences to Councillor Max Robinson and his wife Roseanne on their recent tragic loss.

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

Minutes of the meeting held on February 9th. 2016

305. RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on February 9th 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

306. Re. Minute 269. Councillor Jones had spoken with County Councillor Ian Parry and he had assured the Chair that once Meaford Road was reopened (on or around the 24th May) that the repair and resurfacing of the crossroads would be a priority.

The Parish Council went into private session at this point.

307. Re. Minute 282. Councillor Jones informed the Parish Council that he'd received a letter from Council Cabinet member for Environmental Health, Councillor Finlay, who was delighted that Barlaston residents were taking part in the *Clean for the Queen* event on the 5th March. Councillor Linehan advised that the Barlaston Community Group/Best Kept Village volunteers had been issued with bags and litter pickers by Mick Bailey. He also informed that Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant would be joining the Wombles, the local Scout and Boys Brigade and all other volunteers on the 5th March.

308. Re. Minute 283. Chris Donohoe, leader of the Barlaston Boys Brigade, had sent thanks to the Parish Council for their recent donation. Councillor Jones reported that the group had played a prominent part in the recent North Staffs Battalion annual awards evening.

309. Re. Minute 291. Councillor Jones reported that the overgrown hedge on Station Bank would be dealt with on Monday the 7th March.

Report by Chairman & Borough Councillor

310. Councillor Jones informed the Parish Council that he and Councillor Dodd would be attending a meeting at the doctor's surgery at Cumberland House on the 2nd March at 13:00. The invitation to attend was extended to all councillors. It was suggested that Councillors Jones and Dodd raise the issue of a lack of triage system when making appointments at the village surgery.

311 The Clerk will endeavour to complete the submission required by Grant Thornton at the earliest opportunity.

312. The Chairman reported on developments with the former Wedgwood Memorial site. The request from the Parish Council to deem the site a community asset had been successful. The City of Stoke-on-Trent had objected to the decision and had requested a

review. The review was being undertaken by the Chief Executive of Stafford Borough Council. His adjudication was awaited.

313. The Chairman informed the Parish Council that three bids for the site had been received by the County Council and that the property developers involved had suggested a meeting with the Parish Council with the proviso that the community asset proposal be withdrawn.

314. The Parish Council agreed that constructive dialogue with interested parties would be welcomed, but it was agreed that the community asset request would not be withdrawn at this stage.

315. Urban Vision had submitted a support proposal to complete the Neighbourhood Plan. Their consultancy fee was based on estimation that 22.5 days' work would be needed to bring the plan to fruition. As the completion of the plan is a key objective of the Parish Council the members resolved to accept the proposal and suggested that the Clerk work closely with Hannah Barter to complete it as soon as possible. It was also agreed that the fee payment would be dependent on results. Councillor Jones reported that *Urban Vision* would advise on funding options available as part of the proposal and that he would liaise with Hannah Barter on the matter.

316. Applications for the vacancy of Parish Clerk had been received by the Chairman, Councillor's Jones, Fisher and O'Dunne would convene after the Parish Council meeting to consider them. Interviews for the post would be held week commencing the 7th March and all Councillors would be appraised of the decision by email.

317. The Chairman praised the work of the Clerk in trying to establish ownership and location of drains re the badly flooded field adjacent to Brookhouse Drive.

318. Richard Allen from *The Lea* had written to a number of councillors to express his concern at the continuing anti-social behaviour and littering taking place at the Downs Banks car park. The behaviour was taking place in the evenings and he was concerned that lighter nights would exacerbate the problem.

319. Mr Allen had taken advice from the police, who suggested barriers or lockable parking posts to deter evening visitors, Mr Allen also stated that he would assume responsibility for locking and unlocking them each day. Ownership of the land would be established by the Clerk and Mr Allen would be invited to the April Parish Council meeting to discuss the matter further.

Report by County Councillor

320. No report

Finance Report

321. The following items were considered and approved

a.) N. Hemmings- Allowance	£48.00		£48.00
b.) Stamps	£6.48		£6.48
c.) PJS Landscapes- monthly Cemetery Maintenance	£256.00	£51.20	£307.20
d.) Biffa Waste Services- cricket club	£40.43	£8.09	£48.52
e.) Biffa Waste Services- Village Hall	£190.45	£38.09	£228.54

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

Voluntary Transport Scheme

322. There had been 14 lifts in February.

Planning Update

323. There had been a planning meeting earlier in the evening relevant comments would be submitted. Two planning applications were still in circulation. Meadow Road and a plan to illuminate the existing *Upper House* sign on the Village Green. Councillor Jones agreed to call in this application.

Neighbourhood Plan

324. This had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

Best Kept Village 2016 & Community Group update

325. Councillor Linehan reported the Community Group will host a pop-up pie night on Good Friday, the 25th March at 19:30. The cost was £10 per head. Councillor Linehan also reported that the community group hoped to host a showing of the new *Dad's Army* film at some point.

Clerk's report

326. The Clerk's actions from his report were noted and agreed

Matters arising from the Open Forum

327. Councillor Linehan would make sure that appropriate documentation appeared on the village notice boards until a new Clerk is appointed.

328. It was agreed to amend the next Parish Council meeting date to the 12th April.

Any other business – Agenda items for the Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday April 12th. 2016.

329. Councillor Linehan asked the Parish Council whether it would be appropriate for Mick Bailey to tender for work in the Parish such as grass cutting and cemetery grounds maintenance. The Councillors agreed that tendering for the work should be actively encouraged.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

331. Councillors noted the content of the village hall committee report. Councillor Jones advised the Parish Council that the *Stokies* would shortly resume their use of the village hall at the weekends.

Chairman

