

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting-  
Held on Tuesday 12 April 2016**

**Present:** – Cllr G Jones (Chairman)

Cllr. E Philpott  
Cllr. T. Dodd  
Cllr. A. Gent  
Cllr. V. O’Dunne  
Cllr. S. Hall  
Cllr. I. Macmillan  
Cllr. P. Linehan  
Cllr. P. Fisher

**In attendance:** Mrs K. Squires (minutes), Mr J. Blount (consultant) Ms. H. Barter (Urban Vision), 1 member of the press, 7 members of the public

**Public Open Forum**

A member of the public raised concerns about parking and disturbance – loud music and littering - in evenings on the car park on The Green. He stated concerns about the lack of police presence and although the police now prioritise the area, generally the attending officers have arrived too late to find the culprits. He had been advised against taking car number plates. Cllr. Jones explained that while barriers and bollards would help resolve the problem, nothing can be done until ownership, which is in dispute, of The Green is established. It was agreed to add this item to the next agenda so it can be moved forward.

A member of the public again 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. This matter has been raised with highways and planning at Stafford Borough Council by Cllr. Jones who will raise it again but stated that the entrance onto Old Road is seen as acceptable.

A member of the public raised concerns about flooding on Barlaston Old Road. This was registered as a problem.

A member of the public asked if the Clean for the Queen event would be repeated as he would like to be involved. Cllr. Linehan stated that there is a monthly litter pick that the gentleman is very welcome to join – dates are published on the website.

A member of the public asked if speeding in the village is being addressed. This was registered as a concern.

A member of the public asked if any action is being taken about potholes. It was stated that current road closures and diversions are exacerbating these. County Cllr. Ian Parry is aware of the problem.

Ms Hannah Barter from Urban Vision gave a presentation about the Neighbourhood Plan. She showed the proposed structure of the document. Ms Barter is working with Mr Hemmings and meeting him every two weeks. General consensus was that everyone was happy with the structure. The draft plan will be in place by the end of May and will go out to consultation in June. This time table was proposed, seconded and accepted

**332. Apologies.** Cllr. M. Robinson, Cllr. S. Broome. The council resolved to accept these apologies.

**333. Declarations of interest.** There were no declarations of interest.

**334. Written applications for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011.** There were no written applications for dispensations.

**335. Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016.** It was resolved to accept these as a true record.

**336. Matters arising from the minutes of the full Council meeting of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016.**

310 Surgery meeting – the surgery is trying to recruit more GPs. Acknowledged concerns about waiting times. Would consider an open surgery if PC comes forward with a proposal. Council resolved that the Chairman would write with this proposal.

312 Review of decision to have Wedgwood College listed as a Community asset had been carried out and the decision had been found to be valid

**337. Chairman's report.** The chair has received assurances that work on the potholes in the village will begin in 6 weeks. It was suggested that temporary warning signs should be put up.

**339. Financial matters.** The schedule of payments was approved.

**338. Report by County Councillor.** Cllr. Parry was not available to report.

**340. Planning matters.** The planning committee had considered three applications at the meeting earlier that evening. The application for an illuminated sign at The Upper House had been called in by Cllr. Jones.

**341. Neighbourhood Plan.** See earlier report.

**342. Report on Community Transport.** There had been 17 lifts in March.

**343. Report from representatives.**

**Best Kept Village Competition.** Cllr. Linehan asked if councillors would help with their own wards until his health issues are resolved. There was a discussion about

wildflower turf costing about £800. It was resolved to consult with Cllr. Robinson about this.

The following issues were discussed:

War memorial: it was suggested that a rack could be made to support wreathes to protect the stone work.

The picnic table on the car park has collapsed. Two replacement tables have already been ordered. It was resolved to explore the costs of a third.

There has been some damage to the planter – this needs repairing before BKV judging starts in May.

Flooding on Wedgwood Road/Queen Mary's Drive – this needs investigating. It was resolved to talk to both SCC Highways and Wedgwood.

#### **Barlaston Community Group.**

Reported that Clean for the Queen event had been very successful.

The Pop-up Pie night had sold out within 10 days.

The next planned event is a Community Curry Night.

A showing of the Dad's Army film is coming soon.

Village show – has several new events this year and also a party after the show with a barbecue at little or no cost to the community – this will be subsidised.

Dog fouling is still being reported.

#### **Village Hall.**

The Village Hall accounts are looking healthy.

**344. Report on works by Severn Trent Water Authority.** It was reported that large vehicles will stop using Old Road once Meaford Road re-opens. It was observed that some trees have been cut back to facilitate the passage of vehicles but this has improved visibility. There was a discussion about relocating the weight restriction sign. It was resolved to contact STWA stating concerns and also report to SCC highways.

**345. Clerk's report.** This was noted.

#### **346. Items for the next agenda.**

Car parking on Longton Road.

Ownership of The Green

Resolved to exclude members of the press and public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

#### **Minutes of private session.**

With great sadness the Council resolved to accept the clerk's resignation. Mr. Hemmings had served the Council for eight years.

In anticipation of the clerk's retirement the Council had intended appointing a new clerk but this person subsequently withdrew her application.

It was resolved to appoint John Blount to provide interim support with financial matters and Kim Squires to provide secretarial services at a rate of usual clerk's pay + 25%.

As Mrs Squires was not available on 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders in the short term and move full Council meetings to 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

It was resolved that the former clerk's contribution to the Council should be recognised both through a dedication in the Neighbourhood Plan and also through a gift. Mr Blount explained that the Council did not have the power to buy gifts but this can be funded through the Chairman's allowance. It was resolved that the Chairman should have an allowance of £250 per annum.

Review of internal audit.

It was resolved to appoint Alan Topliss as internal auditor.

Mr Blount explained that while the Council is not legally required to appoint a clerk, it must appoint a Responsible Financial Officer. Cllr. V. O'Dunne was appointed as RFO.

Mr. Blount would act as adviser to the RFO.

**Date and time of next meeting:**

**Parish meeting 6.30pm Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at Barlaston Village Hall**

**Annual Council meeting 7.30pm Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at Barlaston Village Hall.**