

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting-
Held on Tuesday 11 October 2016**

Present: – Cllr G Jones (Chairman)

Cllr. E Philpott
Cllr. T. Dodd
Cllr. S. Hall
Cllr. P. Linehan
Cllr. P. Fisher
Cllr. I. Moran

In attendance: Mrs K. Squires (Clerk), Mr J. Blount (consultant) and 4 members of the public.

Public Open Forum

Questions were asked about:

Tree Preservation Orders on trees around Nursery Gardens. The member of the public was advised that this information could be obtained from the Stafford Borough website.

Will the Neighbourhood Plan stop future development? It was explained that planning officers would have to refer to the plan when considering planning applications. It was also stated that there were no large development sites within the settlement boundary.

The road into Orchard Place from Old Road is very narrow and for elderly, infirm and those with mobility problems this is a dangerous place. The member of the public asked if a footway could be installed and the entrance way widened. He was advised that the land belonged to Stafford and Rural Homes (SARH). Cllr. Jones said that he would work with the member of the public to draft a letter to SARH with his concerns and proposals.

The member of the public reported that hay bales had been left at the rear of his property at 17, Old Road and that young people were climbing onto them and engaging in antisocial behaviour. This had happened on two occasions and had been reported to the police who had not responded.

471. Apologies. Cllrs. O'Dunne and MacMillan had sent their apologies. It was resolved to accept these apologies.

472. Declarations of Interest. There were no declarations of interest.

473. Written applications for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011. There were no written applications for dispensation.

474. Minutes of Full Council meeting of 13th September 2016. It was resolved that these were a true record.

475. Matters arising from the meeting of 13th September 2016 and not otherwise on the agenda.

Account with the Unity Trust Bank. The Clerk reported that all required paperwork had been emailed to the bank.

Weekly visual check of and repairs to play equipment. Cllr. Dodd reported that these had been carried out and he would send the report to the Clerk. No further problems had been identified.

374. Planting on land on Station Road opposite Plume of Feathers. The license had not yet been received.

424. Trees on Village Green by Spokane House. The Clerk reported that Mr. Brunt had not responded to correspondence.

443. Discontinuation of support for Cricket Club. This would be reported under item 484.
421. Churchyard clearance. This would be considered at the next meeting when the outcome of the meeting with the archdeacon on 16th October was known.
469. Mowing and Minor Works contracts. These were now ready to be sent to the contractors.

476. Report of the Borough Council member for the area.

Cllr. Jones reported on three items:

- 1) Meeting at Cumberland Practice review - Cllrs Linehan and Dodd also attended. The overall impression gained was that the situation at the practice is better than many. The shortage of GPs remains a problem but the practice has been able to recruit three new GPs – not all full-time.
- 2) Meeting between himself and Cllr. O’Dunne with Cllr. Parry (SCC). The concerns about the safety of the stopping point of the school bus was discussed. The bus stops at the wrong place, probably because there are vehicles parked at the correct stopping place. Also, the students wait at the wrong place. Following Cllr. Parry’s intervention, there had been a brief period when the bus stopped at the right place but this had been short lived. Speeding – Cllr. Parry had said that speed monitoring strips would be placed along Tittensor/Meaford Road.
- 3) Stafford Borough Parish Forum. Cllr. Jones and Mr. Blount had attended. Mr. Blount reported that an officer of Stafford Borough Council (SBC) had claimed that the cutting of hedgerows was the responsibility of Staffordshire County Council (SCC). This had subsequently been corrected by Cllr. Bloomer of SCC who verified that hedgerow cutting is the responsibility of the hedgerow owner.

477. Report of the County Council member for the area. There was no report.

478. Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Groups’ Committee meeting of 3rd October 2016. These had been distributed.

479. Recommendations of the Neighbourhood Plan steering Groups’ Committee meeting of 3rd October 2016 and informal reports. A productive meeting had been held with Alex Yendole of SBC. He had identified some duplication with parts of SBC local plan and had recommended that these be removed from the Barlaston plan. Other revisions were to be incorporated into the plan which would then need to be considered by the full council. It was resolved to that an extraordinary meeting of the full council would be held on 3rd November at 7.00 pm. Mr. Blount explained the procedure that would follow after the Parish Council had approved the plan.

480. Planning Committee recommendations.

Sign at Upper House: This was discussed. Cllr. Jones said that he would clarify the matter with Stafford Borough Council.

481. Financial matters:

Bank reconciliation. It was resolved that this was a true record.
Cashflow and budget comparison. This had been distributed. Questions were asked about the projected figures for receipts. Mr. Blount explained how these figures had been calculated.
Schedule of payments

It was resolved to approve these payments.

482. Grant application from Barlaston Community Group. It was resolved to approve this application to pay the Voluntary Transport Co-ordinator. This would be paid in 2 tranches of £168 and would include Mrs. Kingsbury's payment for September 2016.

483. Grant application from Barlaston Cricket Club. It was resolved to approve this application of £250 to support the annual firework display.

484. Report of meeting with Cricket Club (Joint Playing Fields Committee) Cllr. Fisher reported that the Cricket Club had had a successful season, especially the junior teams. The cricket Club had accepted that the responsibility for waste disposal should lie with the club and that the contract with Biffa should be transferred to the Club in 2017. The next meeting would be held on the morning of Saturday 25 March 2017.

485. Extension of the Cricket Club lease. The existing lease ends in 2025 at a cost of £1 pa. The Club needs a longer lease to enable it to apply for grants. It was resolved that the Club should surrender the existing lease and commence a new 25 year lease at a cost of £5 pa.

486. Timetable for recruitment of new Clerk. A proposed schedule for the recruitment of a new Clerk was considered. It was resolved to adopt this schedule. The contract would be as for the current Clerk but with the hours of the former Clerk. The job description would include acting as Clerk for the meetings of the Village Hall Trustee meetings.

487. Questions from Councillors.

Cllr. Hall asked if there were any known minerals that could make the area vulnerable to applications for activities such as fracking. It was not believed that this was the case.

488. Reports from representatives including report on Parish Forum:

Barlaston Community Group. The Christmas party had been organised. This would be free to people over 70.

Barlaston Village Hall Committee. There had been a change in the committee. Cllr. Linehan was now the Chairman and a new Treasurer had been elected. There had been complaints about noise levels at the Rhythm and Blues evening, although this event had finished at 10.00 pm.

489. Correspondence and circulars.

SPCA. Weekly briefing notes.

SLCC. News update.

SBC Planning. Weekly list.

SBC. Members' Digest.

Severn Trent Water – advice of works.

SBC. Invite to Remembrance Day commemoration on 11th November

490. Procedures to be followed regarding the 2016 Diamond Jubilee Award. It was resolved to invite Mrs. Coates to receive her award at the village Hall Curry Night on 21st October. It was hoped that members of the Council would attend. It was resolved that the certificate would be framed. The cost of Mrs. Coates meal and the frame would be covered out of the Chairman's Allowance.

491. Casual Vacancies. The Clerk reported that as nobody had requested an election, the Council was free to co-opt two new Councillors. There had been a number of expressions of interest. It was resolved to co-opt Mrs. Barnett who had been active in the work on the Village Plan to the vacancy in Barlaston West. The vacancy for Barlaston East would be considered at the next meeting.

492. Proposals regarding future Village Shows. Deferred to the next meeting.

493. Date for inspection of assets. It was resolved that Cllr. Philpott would accompany Mr. Blount to inspect the assets. They would agree a date outside of the meeting.

494. Date for Councillors' training evening – proposed dates 12, 17, 19, 24 or 28 Jan 2017 were considered. It was resolved to arrange the training to take place on 28th January.

495. Offer of benches. The metal benches had been installed by the railway line.

496. Parking on Longton Road. This long-term problem was discussed. Cllr. Linehan offered to make a formal request for a Residents' Parking Zone (RPZ).

497. Provision of dog bins on cricket pitch footpaths. It was resolved to suggest to the Cricket Club that the Parish Council could arrange the installation of bins but that the weekly cost of £10 for emptying should be paid by the Club.

498. Safety clothing for Environmental Officer. It was resolved that the Environment Officer needed hi-viz jacket and gloves suitable for emptying of dog bins and a budget of £40 should be allowed for this.

499. To exclude the press and public under S2 and S3 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 during consideration of items 499, 500, 501 and 502. It was resolved to exclude press and public during the items 499 - 502

500. Report from Grant Thornton 2014/15. This was discussed. It was resolved to accept this report. The Clerk reported that Grant Thornton had been unable to return the 2015/16 audit in time with their own deadline (28/09/16).

501. Meeting with HMRC. The Clerk reported that no response had been received from HMRC to request for a meeting. Mr. Blount was still working to build accurate accounts for 2013/14 and 2014/15.

502. SCC advice regarding tax issues. This was considered. It was resolved to accept the advice.

503. PWLB loan and referendum consultation. It was resolved that the Clerk would write to Mr. Bill Cash (MP for the area) SBC and SCC about the referendum proposals and also respond formally to the consultation strongly opposing the proposals. It was resolved that Mr. Blount would explore PWLB options

504. Items for next meeting.

Date and time of next meeting November 8th 2016 at 7.30 pm.