

Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting Held on Tuesday 2 May 2017

Present:

Cllr G Jones (Chairman)
Cllr E Philpott
Cllr T Dodd
Cllr P Linehan

Cllr P Fisher
Cllr J Barnett
Cllr I MacMillan
Cllr I Moran

In attendance: Mrs K St Leger (Clerk)

Public Open Forum

A number of the public were in attendance

Issues raised:

The rise is the precept. Cllr Jones gave a statement outlining the issues. Financial figures to be published in June for 2016/2017.

Garden bonfires. Was Barlaston classified a smokeless zone - Clerk to investigate.

Canal adoption. Barlaston had adopted the canal to ensure the areas were kept clean and maintained. There is no cost to the parishioners. Bridge work is undertaken by the Canal & River Trust.

30 Election of Chairman. Cllr Jones was duly elected.

31 Election of Vice Chairman. Cllr Fisher was duly elected.

32 Apologies. Cllrs' Hall, O'Dunne and Brown sent their apologies, these were accepted.

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

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

35 Minutes of full Council meeting of 11 April 2017. It was resolved to approve these as a true record.

36 Matters arising from the meeting of 11 April 2017 and not otherwise on the agenda.

374 Planting on land on Station Road opposite Plume of Feathers

The S96 application is still outstanding.

421 Churchyard clearance. A grant application for 50% of the graveyard maintenance fee was submitted and duly approved. A cheque for £812.50 was issued. Item to be discharged.

**485 Cricket Club:
Dog bins**

The Community Group were contacted to see if they would assist in a working party. Clerk to report on progress at next meeting.

554 Safety concerns at the junction of Longton Road and Station Road

Following a site survey by Staffordshire County Council (SCC), they have agreed to address the safety concerns. Item to be discharged.

574 Draft Neighbourhood Plan Document

The last map request has been submitted to Stafford Borough Council. Upon receipt the NP to be submitted to the Borough Council to commence with the Environmental Searches.

From the grant of £5,400, £4,134.53 was spent with £1,265.47 being returned.

618 Mowing and Minor Works contracts

Due to lack of mowing in various areas around the village it was found the Wedgwood Estate should have been included in the contract but had been inadvertently missed.

The areas around Station Road were not funded by SCC and therefore not tendered for.

Clerk to liaise with the contractor to arrange an emergency cut and review the contract moving forwards and liaise with SCC to look at funding the additional areas.

With regards to planters around the village. Clerk to liaise with J Poultney to submit a breakdown with schedule of works. Confirmation was also requested with regards to Public Liability Insurance, this is something the Community Group could fund. Cllr Linehan to look into, to ensure the Community Group are also covered. The PC could possibly consider a grant.

- 625 Pedestrian Crossing on Station Road**
No progress. Clerk to monitor progress.
- 7 Pension Enrolment**
Pension fund figures were submitted from SCC's fund but were deemed too expensive. Clerk to look at alternative schemes.
- 9 Speed Watch campaign**
Item was deferred to June meeting.
- 10 Signage required on Station Road adjacent to level crossing**
Item was deferred to June meeting.
- 11 Welcome to Trentham signage**
Following the response from Stoke on Trent City Council, the Parish Council were not happy with the explanation provided with regards to the boundary line, however Stoke advised no further action was going to be taken. A copy of the response to be published on the PC website following approval from Stoke Council. Clerk to action.
- 12 Stone Rural replacement trig point plaque**
Approval was granted to pay £85 towards the net figure. Item to be discharged.
- 18 Barlaston Cricket Club / Joint Playing Fields Committee**
A formal request was received from the Cricket Club for the PC to submit a letter approving in principal to the extension of the lease, this will assist in a grant application submission. It was resolved to approve the request. Clerk to action.

Under the terms of the lease, the Cricket Club have requested approval to hold a fee-paying event. It was resolved to approve the request. Clerk to action.
- 27 Hedge Line Canal Side**
Mr J Poultney undertook the work to repair the hole in the hedge, removing and disposing of the damaged shrubs, inserting new shrubs. Total cost £80. Item to be discharged.

The sign saying Canal Side 1-9 has been damaged. A request needs to be submitted to Highways to look at a replacement. Clerk to action.
- 37 Blocked drain at the bottom of Queen Mary's Drive, Wedgwood**
Enquiry 4075931 – this call had been closed by SCC as it would be undertaken under routine programme of works. Clerk to monitor.
- 38 Staffordshire Playing Fields Association Annual Renewal**
Clerk to ascertain what the £15 subscription covered.
- 39 Report from Wedgwood**
No report was available
- 40 Report from Borough Council member for the area**
- A presentation was made to Kate Burton on behalf of the Parish Council using the Chairman's allowance, in gratitude for her work with the Village Hall.
 - The Chief Exec of Stafford Borough Council, who is a recent appointee, visited Barlaston as part of his ward visits. The key issues were highlighted.
 - Mr Bill Cash was in attendance at adoption meeting, he was commitment to the re-opening of the station at Barlaston. The views of the Councillors were sought and summarised:
 - The opening of a station could put the bus service at risk
 - Wedgwood would be the preferred station but car parking would be an issue

- There is already congestion at the crossings, opening the station would only exacerbate the problem
- It would make sense to delay any decision until the details of the HS2 rail link have been formalised

The Chairman to draft a response to Mr Cash and circulate before submission.

41 Report from the County Council member for the area

The Councillor was not in attendance.

42 Planning Committee Recommendations

Upper House Signage

The Upper House submitted new sign designs to be considered prior to applying for planning permission. These were deemed to be acceptable although concerns were raised about the metal swirls. Clerk to arrange a meeting with the Upper House to discuss final submission.

17/26052/FUL – Garage at Brook House old Road, Barlaston

No objections were received.

43 To consider financial matters:

Bank reconciliation. No statement was available.

Cash flow and budget comparison were noted. Amendments were required to ensure figures balance.

Schedule of payments

Description	Amount	Cheque No
K St Leger – Stationery Expenses (Neighbourhood Plan)	£880.35	002276
M Moorewood – Salary & Expenses	£209.56	002277
K St Leger – Salary & Expenses	£842.23	002278
Community Rights (return of grant)	£1,265.47	002279
The Parish Church of St John the Baptist	£812.50	002280
Stone Rural Parish Council Funds	£85.00	002281
Mr J Poultney	£80.00	002282
Barlaston Village Hall	£740.00	002283
HMRC	£37.69	002284

It was resolved to approve these payments.

Items requesting clarification; £200 was for Cllr J Blount for design work undertaken on the Neighbourhood Plan and £300 was for N Ferguson for redevelopment of the website.

Due to a late payment HMRC had issued an invoice for £37.69. It was resolved to accept this.

Allotments

SCC have been chased for the invoice, no response to date. Clerk to follow up.

The Clerk to liaise with the Allotment Association for a copy of the lease.

Voluntary Transport Scheme

Following the receipt of the grant, the Scheme no longer require the Parish Council to assist with the running of the scheme this financial year. It is envisaged it will be self-funding in future.

44 Weekly play equipment report

Cllr. Dodd submitted a verbal inspection report. The damaged bin had been removed. The cost for a replacement would be £145, it was resolved to accept this cost, Clerk to arrange.

45 Risk Assessment Actions

No current risks highlighted

46 Correspondence and circulars

SPCA Weekly briefing notes were circulated

47 Questions from Councillors

No questions were received from Councillors.

Date of Next Meeting

The Parish Council Meeting will be held at 7:30pm at the Ruth Dickson Meeting Room, Barlaston Village Hall on 6 June 2017.