

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 3rd. December 2013.**

Present: – Gareth Jones
Chairman

Viv O'Dunne	Sarah Broome
Patrick Linehan	Tony Dodd
Steve Hall	Elaine Philpott
Ian Macmillan	John Russell
Sara Fearn	

Apologies: Lynne Bakker Collier, Paul Fisher

In attendance: No one

Open Forum

306. Because of the late change of venue the Open forum had been cancelled.

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

Minutes of the meeting held on November 5th . 2013

308: RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on November 5th. be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

309. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Report by Chairman & Borough Councillor

310. The Chairman reported that the 2014/15 budget for the Borough had been approved and there was no rise in Council Tax.

311. The proposals for the ward restructuring had now gone forward which if accepted by the Boundary Commission would see the retention of a Borough Councillor for Barlaston Parish and a separate one for the surrounding districts of Oulton, Meaford, Aston, Moddershall and Yarnfield.

312. The Chairman expressed concern over the demise of staffing issues at Stafford Hospital following recent events. He reported on the difficulties the hospital continued to face to recruit doctors and nursing staff and the additional pressures that were being placed on the University Hospital as a result of patient concerns with Stafford Hospital.

313. The future of the X5 Bus Service was secure until 31st March 2014 but Bakers would review the viability of the service after that date.

Report by County Councillor

314. No report

Finance Report

315. The following items were considered and approved.

	NET	VAT	Total Cost
a.) Neil Hemmings- Allowance- September	£48.00		£48.00
b.) Privet Hedging- Cricket Club	£32.25		£32.25
c.) PJS Landscapes- monthly Cemetery Maintenance- November	£235.00	£47.00	£282.00
d.) PJS Landscapes- monthly work on Village Green	£500.00	£100.00	£600.00
e.) British Gas – Village Hall electricity	£218.92	£10.95	£229.87
f. Biffa Waste Collection – Village Hall	£151.32	£30.26	£181.58
g.) Biffa waste collection- Cricket Club	£29.73	£5.95	£35.68
h.) EGR Jones- Travel expenses Neighbourhood Planning event	£24.00		£24.00
i.)A. Dodd – Parish Council gift to schoolchildren for Blue Cross Charity work	£11.97		£11.97

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

k.) It was noted that the Cricket Club had planted the privet sprigs and the two Rhus bushes as requested.

Planning Update

316. There was a detailed discussion regarding the planning issues for Hartwell Lane Farm as the Borough Planning Committee were due to meet to decide upon the latest appeal by the applicant, Mr Warren over the proposal to demolish the new build storage area. The Parish Council noted that mistakes had been made in the past with the erection of the storage/garage area but agreed to support the policy of the Borough Council that the building should not remain as it was in the green belt.

317. The Council discussed the application relating to Old Road Nurseries and the proposal to build bungalows on the site. The Council had submitted an objection to the proposal which they felt was representative of their and residents views relating to the greenbelt and development on a brownfield site. It was agreed that the Council objection would stand and that the due process of discussion by the Borough Council Planning Committee should take place for a decision to be made.

Neighbourhood Plan

318. The Chairman had attended a networking event for Neighbourhood Planning and outlined the current national and local positions. He outlined the funding opportunities and the need now to take the issue of writing a plan forward.

319. It was agreed that the subcommittee would meet in December and the Clerk would provide the group with an update on the ways in which local councils were managing the task.

320. It was agreed that some resource would be needed to assist in the writing of the plan and the referendum. This resource might be from the precept or financial grant assistance in 2014.

321. It was agreed that the production of a Neighbourhood Plan was vital to reduce the vulnerability of the village from unnecessary development and some momentum was now needed to take the initial work on the plan forward.

322. It was noted that the Borough Council had approved the design brief for Wedgwood Memorial College and that the marketing of the site for sale would be scaled up in 2014.

Voluntary Transport Scheme

323. There had been 12 lifts in November.

The Heron and Community issues

324. An edition would be printed in the New Year and the editor needed material for inclusion.

325. The Church Parish Magazine had been circulated to all residents and had included an article on the Good Neighbours Scheme.

326. The Council were aware of the bureaucracy surrounding the scheme and the low uptake of some community services provided locally. A committee had been formed but progress seemed slow to develop a real impact locally.

327. The Council cited many examples of good local community service such as at the Church with the family worker, Lynne Jones as well as local neighbour support networks. It was hoped that these networks would continue and the Council would always consider supporting such helpful ventures.

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

328. The Clerk's actions were noted and agreed.

329. It was agreed to take up the offer from the Countryside Volunteers to plant sapling trees on the wet area of the Green by the Downs Banks Car Park (weeping willow), Orchard Place by the site of the old telephone box and where the poplars had been felled and on the verges on Old Road and Meaford Road at the point of entry into the village.

330. The letter regarding the BKV competition had been sent but no reply received to date. The Clerk had received a request from a documentary company called CTVC undertaking research into village competitions such as BKV. He had provided them with basic details and it was agreed that should they contact him again that he would provide them with access to residents and councillors involved.

331. Mrs Pippa Gee had kindly agreed to provide the electricity for the Christmas lights on the Village Green.

Any other business – Agenda items for the Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday January 7th. 2014

332. The Clerk would contact Sara Morris and thank her and her team for the knitted tributes placed on the Village Green in November for the Remembrance Day Service and the Yuletide designs by the railway station.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

334. The minutes of the latest meeting of the Village Hall Committee had been circulated and considered.

335. It was noted that the Village Hall Committee were looking to replace the old garage with a new one at an approximate cost of £4900.

336. A quote for the refurbishment of the kitchen had been received but not actioned.

Chairman

