

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 7th. January 2014.**

Present: – Gareth Jones
Chairman

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

Apologies: Lynne Bakker Collier, Steve Hall

In attendance: Darren Green & Thomas Graham from the Canals and Rivers Trust, Joe Poultney, the Reverend Jane Tillier & Kerry Ashdown, Staffordshire Newsletter.

Open Forum

337. Darren Green from the Canals and Rivers Trust was welcomed to the meeting with his colleague Thomas Graham. He outlined the procedure for the Council and volunteers adopting a stretch of the Trent & Mersey Canal (from Bridge 102 to Bridge 104). He explained the work of volunteers along stretches of the canal for local and community use. He explained that adoption would relate to the wishes of the community.

338. It was agreed that the Council wished to consider adopting the stretch of canal that runs through the Parish and there was a discussion on the types of improvement that could be made these included the provision of litter bins, noticeboards and seating along the towpath. It was also agreed that overhanging vegetation could be removed.

339. It was agreed to register an interest and the Clerk and Darren would liaise to take the matter forward.

340. The Revd. Jane Tillier spoke to the meeting and outlined the excellent work of the Child and Family support worker, Lynne Jones, who works 15 hours a week for the Church. The Vicar outlined the many activities that were ongoing and becoming extremely popular and successful with a wide age range of children and their families. It was agreed that her work was providing a valuable service to local families. She explained that the initial funding for the project from the Diocese of Lichfield will run out in 2015 so in order to keep the worker in post new sources of funding and support were needed.

341. The Church wish to continue with the project and the Vicar pointed to the growing links such as with the school and cites several recent events such as the 2013 Summer School and lunchtime and after school clubs . She requested support in the region of £1200 from 1/4/2014 to support the transitional phase of the project. It was agreed to look at this request favourably later in the meeting. The Vicar was thanked for her input into the meeting.

342. Mr Joe Poultney had attended hoping to speak to representatives of Staffordshire Police who were not present. Mr Poultney outlined two serious incidents of vandalism to his property in Ash Grove causing damage and a frightening risk to the safety of residents. He was disappointed with the response of the local police and his concerns were noted; there had been several other unrelated crimes in the area recently and it was agreed to raise the Council's concerns on these matters at the first available opportunity.

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

Minutes of the meeting held on December 3rd. 2013

344: RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on December 3rd. be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

345. There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

Report by Chairman & Borough Councillor

346. The Chairman reported that the Electoral Review was now complete and the recommendations had gone to the Boundary Commission for consideration. The recommendation was that there would be one ward Councillor for the Barlaston Parish area.

347. The Stafford Local Plan had been inspected and there was general approval but the inspector had made a few amendments relating to the proposals for Westbridge Park and changing the percentage allocation of new houses in Stafford and Stone. There were no noticeable implications for Barlaston.

348. The Borough Council Planning Committee had approved the application for the building of 7 bungalows on the Old Road Nurseries site fearing an expensive appeal process; whereas the appeal by Mr Warren at Hartwell Stud had again been rejected.

349. The Chairman stressed the importance of allocating funds for the writing of the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan as the Finance report would advocate,

350. It was agreed to nominate Ann Howard, our litter picker, for the Pride in our Patch initiative.

351. Blocked drains on the Wedgwood estate would be reported to Phil Richens at WWRD.

Report by County Councillor

352. Councillor Russell raised the issue of blocked grids on Old Road and around the Parish. The Clerk would follow up this matter with Councillor Parry and Highways. It was noted that there had been an apparent cutback in the level of service and that the gullies and grids needed urgent attention.

Finance Report

353.

The following items were considered and approved			
	NET	VAT	Total Cost
a.) Neil Hemmings- Allowance- December	£48.00		£48.00
b.) Postage	£6.00		£6.00
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.) Biffa Waste Services-Cricket Club	£31.83	£6.37	£38.20

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

354. The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 30th December had been circulated to the Council. The Clerk was thanked for the clear explanation of planned expenditure and probable income for the next financial year. The Clerk then explained in detail the proposals made by the Finance Committee which would mean no change in the Annual Precept of £29,000.

355. It was agreed that the priority for the year would be to support the writing and development of a Neighbourhood Plan; however the estimate of the cost for this was

difficult to gauge, also grants would be applied for to offset any costs. The Committee's recommendations included some financial support for the Child and Family Worker, existing subsidies to the maintenance of the cemetery and waste collection for the Cricket Club.

356. The Clerk had obtained four quotations for grass cutting for 2014 and he recommended continuing the contract with Greenfingers for the next three years; this was agreed.

357. It was proposed that the subsidy for waste collection and energy at the Village Hall would end on 31st. March 2014 releasing up to £4000 into the budget to support the Neighbourhood Plan and the community initiative with the Child and Family Worker. Councillor Jones declared an interest in these discussions but after discussion the recommendation was agreed by the Council.

358. Councillor Russell proposed an increase in the Precept to £30,000 but this was not seconded.

359. Councillor Fearn's inquired on the progress of a replacement kitchen for the Village Hall as quotes had been received. Councillor Jones indicated that it was unlikely that the quotes would be accepted as they were very high and that an alternative refurbishment of the kitchen would happen that would be within the budget of the Hall management Committee.

360. The detailed budget proposals for 2014/15 were accepted as a whole.

361. It was resolved to set the Precept at £29,000 and to take the full Concurrent Allowance of £2053 for 2014/15. The Clerk would action this.

Planning Update

362. The Planning Committee had met earlier in the evening to discuss the outline plans for a new bungalow on the site of 27 Old Road Barlaston; several comments were to be submitted.

Neighbourhood Plan

363. The notes produced by Councillor Macmillan from a meeting of the subcommittee would be circulated to all Council Members.

364. The Chairman suggested that all Councillors should be involved in the working group for the Neighbourhood Plan and that additional meetings would be required over the course of the year.

365. He outlined the importance of key service villages such as Barlaston in the local plan and improvements in the local infrastructure that the people of Barlaston wished for. There would be some additional housing in key service villages over the next 18 years to

2031 estimated to be 1200 in total less those that had already been approved in surrounding parishes.

366. The Clerk had started to compile a questionnaire for residents and was writing a summary of progress to date for the Plan that would be posted on the Parish website. He was attending a meeting next week called by Raj Bains, the Neighbourhood Planning Officer for the Borough.

Voluntary Transport Scheme

367. There had been 12 lifts in December.

Golden Jubilee award 2014 & Certificates of Commendation

368. The Clerk had received three nominations relating to two individuals and one group of four ladies. He read out the letters of nomination received and gave a verbal account of the other nominee.

369. The Council discussed the merits of all the nominees and agreed to award the Golden Jubilee Award to Irene Moran for long service to the Barlaston W.I. and Certificates of Commendation to Margaret Collis, Margaret Wade, Shirley Sharp & Jean Finney for taking services in the four local Residential Care Homes. Finally a Certificate of Commendation should be awarded to Chris Holland for long service to Wedgwood & Stanfields Cricket Club and Barlaston Hockey Club as player, official and umpire.

370. It was agreed that the Clerk contacts the sponsors of each nomination before arrangements for the presentations be finalised.

Village Hall

371. The Clerk had submitted a request to the booking secretary for known meetings in 2014 hoping that no alternative venue would have to be found.

Matters arising from the Open Forum

372. It was agreed to support the request from the Vicar to support the funding of the Child and Family Worker to a minimum of £1200. Councillor Broome would discuss this suggestion with the Vicar as it was felt by the Council up to £1500 could be provided.

373. It was agreed that the Police be contacted over the recent criminal incidents in the village.

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

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

375. It was agreed that some established trees be planted at Orchard Place now that permission had been obtained it was possible that these could be obtained from the Borough as a celebration for the Mayor that was planned in 2014.

376. The A.G.M. for the Barlaston Allotments Association was imminent and it was noted that the existing committee were keen to prioritise applications from Barlaston residents.

377. The Dougie Mac 5k walk/run was to be held on April 6th.

378. The Clerk noted a new Neighbourhood Officer for Stafford & Rural Homes had been appointed who he would brief on ongoing issues such as the lake behind Brookhouse Drive.

Any other business – Agenda items for the Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday February 4th .. 2014

379. Councillor Fearn would liaise with the Clerk over issues with a troublesome dog roaming on Parish land.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

381. It was noted that the winning photographs for 2013 needed mounting in the meeting room.

382. The revised composition of the Management Committee was noted.

Chairman

