

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014.**

**Present:** – Elaine Philpott  
Acting Chairman

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

**Apologies:** Gareth Jones Lynne Bakker Collier, Paul Fisher

**In attendance:** Michelle Reynolds Community Council of Staffordshire & Carol Smith Good Neighbour Scheme volunteer.

**Open Forum**

383. Michelle Reynolds outlined the progress of the Good Neighbour Scheme in Barlaston to date and Councillors accepted her detailed report. It was noted that there was an embryonic committee but more volunteers to serve on the committee were needed and she hoped the Council would co-opt someone onto the Committee.

384. It was noted that the initial grant funding of £500 was only available until August 2014 and would be lost if the scheme was not developed.

385. It was agreed that there was a significant amount of "good neighbour work" throughout the village and that the local Voluntary Transport Scheme was a good example. It was expressed that there was reticence by many local helpers/ neighbours to be part of a formalised scheme that required a police check; it was noted that any applicant to be part of the scheme would be checked free of charge by Michelle and in the strictest confidence.

386. Michelle suggested that the Good Neighbour Scheme and the Voluntary Transport Scheme could be brought together and hoped the Council would consider this as well as a Councillor onto the Committee.

**Minutes of the meeting held on January 7<sup>th</sup> 2014**

<b>387: RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes of the meeting held on January 7 <sup>th</sup> . be approved and signed by the Chairman.
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**Matters arising**

388. Re. Minute 337: The Clerk would contact the Canal and Rivers Trust again regarding the possibility of a meeting during a weekend in early April in order that local volunteers could be encouraged.

389. Re. Minute 340 & 372: The Clerk had received a letter of thanks from the Vicar regarding the proposed donation of £1500 to support the Child & Family Worker. It was agreed that the payments be made quarterly with the caveat that no payment be made if the worker was unable to carry out her agreed duties. The Clerk would reply to the Vicar indicating this proposal.

390. Re. Minute 342: There had been no known developments in catching the thieves and vandals who had committed the crimes.

391. Re. Minute 350: The Clerk reported that the nomination for Ann Howard would not be acceptable for the Pride in our Patch initiative as she was a paid employee. Councillor Linehan would convey this information back to Ann and thank her for her excellent work in the village.

392. Re. Minute 351: It was noted that there were blocked grids on the Wedgwood Estate which the Clerk had requested WWRD clear; also there were drainage problems on parts of Barlaston Park which should be reported to County Highways. The issue would be taken up again with Stafford & Rural Homes at the next walkabout. There had been recent activity in Barlaston village to clear gutters and grids.

### **Report by Chairman & Borough Councillor**

393. Councillor Philpott presented a report on behalf of the Chairman who was at a meeting in Stafford to discuss the idea of routing and sending the HS2 through Stone and Barlaston to Stoke. It was a unanimous view that the proposal by Stoke on Trent City Council was unlikely to be considered seriously and the Borough council and County Council were opposing such a suggestion.

394. It was noted that Councillor Fearn was relinquishing her position on the Cemetery Committee. Councillor Fearn was thanked for all her recent hard work managing the Churchyard and Cemetery that had led to a significant improvement in the appearance of the area.

395. The Council congratulated Tim Cockin for the recent Wassail that had raised £240 for the Riding for the Disabled charity.

### **Report by County Councillor**

396 .No report.

### **Finance Report**

397.

The following items were considered and approved

	<b>NET</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
a.) Neil Hemmings-Allowance	£48.00		£48.00
b.) PJS Landscapes-monthly Cemetery Maintenance-November	£241.00	£48.00	£289.00
c.) PJS Landscapes-monthly work on Village Green	£500.00	£100.00	£600.00
d.) Stafford B.C., Civic Amenity Visits	£256.66	£51.33	£307.99
e.) Lynne Coates Renewal of Web Domain	£44.39		£44.39
f.) Eurooffice- paper and ring binders	£54.81	£10.94	
g.) Staffordshire C.C. -planter licence	£100.00		£100.00
h.) Biffa Waste Services - Cricket Club	£29.73	£5.95	£35.68

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

### **Planning Update**

398. The Planning Committee had met earlier in the evening to support two local applications. They had broad approval for the proposed road improvements and roundabouts relating to the Meaford development.

399. Councillors who had attended the consultation event for the Meaford site had stressed the need for no construction traffic to pass through Barlaston.

400. Councillor Russell distributed copies of the Thermal Survey undertaken by Stafford B.C. in 2013. It was agreed to link this survey to the Parish website.

## **Neighbourhood Plan**

401. The Clerk gave a detailed report on progress relating to the development of the Barlaston Neighbourhood Plan and his two documents were well received and would be uploaded onto the Parish website in due course.

402. The Clerk was proposing to provide all residents with a printed fact sheet on the Neighbourhood Plan similar to the one he showed to the meeting together with a refined and pertinent questionnaire for all residents to complete. He was aiming to produce a draft questionnaire which he would circulate to members before printing and distribution in April along with the Heron and details of the Village Show. The questionnaire would be returned via a stamp addressed envelope as he felt this was the most effective way of maximising returns. The Clerk was seeking grant aid for part of this expenditure.

403. The Clerk had spoken to all the local Parishes regarding their progress on their plans and reported on significant planning proposals for new houses in several local villages such as Yarnfield and Gnosall. He said the Council should be proactive now in developing the Neighbourhood Plan as a key service village and that there was no guaranteed maximum on the number of new houses being built in the key service villages as planning applications were numerous in the Borough at the moment. The Stafford Local Plan was still to be approved by the inspector; this was likely to happen by July 2014.

404. The Clerk would develop the questionnaire and include questions on the possibility of new housing developments giving respondents the option to comment; he was advised to reduce the amount of free text input as this would allow analysis to be more objective.

405. Councillor Russell reminded the meeting of the need to preserve the existing green belt boundary and suggested the plan include possible infill developments on small vacant pieces of land off Meadow Road, formerly allotments, land off Flaxman Close and land adjacent to the railway line and Cottage Furniture. Councillor Macmillan commented on the need for the green periphery of the village to be protected but noted disappointment on the recent Old Road Nurseries development decision on greenbelt land designated as a brownfield site. Clearly the Wedgwood College site was a housing development possibility together with the vacant former Rock House plot. Councillor Russell requested residents be consulted on the possibility of a bridge across the railway line and the provision of more play areas in the questionnaire.

## **Voluntary Transport Scheme**

406. There had been 15 lifts in January.

## **Golden Jubilee award 2014 & Certificates of Commendation**

407. The Clerk reported on the agreement of all recipients for the awards. It was considered that presentations should be at the preferred venue of the recipients later in the year. He would speak to all the parties involved and report at the next meeting.

## **Matters arising from the Open Forum**

408. Councillor O'Dunne agreed to serve on the Good Neighbour Scheme Committee.

## **Correspondence and Clerk's Report**

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

410. Following his report on recent activity at Wedgwood Memorial College the Clerk was asked to write to Stoke on Trent Council requesting better communication on any work or proposals relating to the College site.

411. The Clerk reported on the theft of a metal kissing gate on the path leading from Meaford Road to the gas station. He had requested a replacement; the new kissing gate on the footpath to the Downs Banks had been fitted.

412. It was agreed to make a donation of £50 to the Samaritans Stafford Branch; it was noted that much of our recent liaison with the Samaritans had been with the Stoke Branch.

413. It was agreed to purchase 20 new road verge edging posts for the Village Green and Old Road as the existing ones were dirty and several had disappeared in recent years. This would cost approximately £250 and come from the BKV budget heading.

## **Any other business – Agenda items for the Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday March 4<sup>th</sup>. 2014**

414. It was agreed that HS2 be on the next Agenda.

415. It was agreed that the "guerrilla knitters" are contacted to remove the knitted festive decorations on the tree by the station. Their work was appreciated but the decorations were not appropriate now.

## **Note by Clerk**

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

## **Village Hall Committee Report**

417. The minutes of the January meeting of the Village Hall Committee were considered.

418. It was agreed the Committee be contacted to request the removal of leaves and debris from the car park.

**Chairman**