

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 1st April 2014.**

Present: – Gareth Jones Chairman

Patrick Linehan	Tony Dodd
Ian Macmillan	Paul Fisher
Sarah Broome	John Russell
Steve Hall	Sara Fearn
Elaine Philpott	

Apologies: Lynne Bakker Collier, Viv O'Dunne

In attendance: Ian Parry, Mike Preece, Bernadette Preece, Syd Carnall, Angela Baskeyfield, Kerry Ashdown (Stafford Newsletter) & Michelle Chow (The Sentinel)

Open Forum

462. A group of residents from Canalside Barlaston were in attendance to discuss issues relating to a gap in the hedge by the canal towpath and how some of the problems caused by cyclists and pedestrians might be alleviated. They cited that the original gate had disappeared many years ago and the gap has widened with more cyclists using the gap as a cut through along Canalside, which caused a number of problems.

463. Mr and Mrs Preece outlined their particular need for access from their property to the canal where their narrowboat was moored. They suggested that a right of way had been established through time, but had no objection to the gap being reduced and a gate fitted.

464. Mr Carnall and Mrs Baskeyfield identified problems with cyclists and pedestrians using the gap into Canalside such as danger from cyclists to neighbours reversing from their houses and pedestrians throwing litter into gardens from the private road on their way to the canal. Mr. Carnall noted that pedestrians and cyclists using Canalside were causing a nuisance.

465. The Chairman suggested that Stone Ramblers could undertake the work provided the material costs could be met and permission gained from the Canals and Rivers Trust. He thanked the residents for highlighting the problem and that the Council would discuss the matter later and report back to the residents of Canalside,

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

Minutes of the meeting held on March 4th. 2014

467: RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on March 4th. be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

468. Re. Minute: 419. Stafford Borough Council had now requested a planning application for the new car park at the Upper House Hotel. An application had now been submitted but there was an ongoing issue over the protection of trees close to the car park.

469. Re. Minute 421. The working party along the canal towpath was confirmed for April 26th.

470. Re. Minute 423 & 430. There had been no response from the police re incidents involving dogs at the Lakeside Tavern. The Chairman agreed to pursue the matter.

471. Re. Minute 427. The date for the Golden Jubilee Award presentation was confirmed as August 20th at 2pm.

472. Re. Minute 434. The Chairman reported final approval had been given for the housing development at Wedgwood.

Report by County Councillor

473. Councillor Parry reported ongoing progress re the road infrastructure for the proposed gas station at Meaford. £6 million funding for the project had been allocated by government in their City Deal initiative with Stoke on Trent Council.

474. The County Council were finalising their decisions over local bus services; he stated that the consultations had been useful and hoped the proposals would continue to provide a service to all of the local community.

475. He reported on a forthcoming meeting between the Borough, County and Stoke City Councils relating to the marketing of the Wedgwood Memorial College based on the agreed design brief. It was suggested that the site would be more saleable if marketed with outline planning permission. Councillor Parry would keep the Parish Council informed of any developments on the issue.

476. The Clerk was being kept informed of any maintenance issues on the site by the representative from Stoke on Trent Council.

477. Councillor Russell noted the imminent closure of Trentham Library and hoped that the mobile library for Barlaston would not be affected. Councillor Parry explained there was an ongoing review of County Library Services and this related to providing a modern service to meet the changing needs of users. It was suggested that there would be no change to the library facility for Barlaston at the moment.

478. It was noted that the Signposts charity activities in the area had been saved.

479. There was a review of County Children's Centres as the original government funding stream had ceased so the usage of the centre in Barlaston would be evaluated. The school's use of the centre was regular but the use by families was lower than predicted.

480. Councillor Parry would provide the Parish Council with usage data for the Library and the Children's Centre.

Report by Chairman & Borough Councillor

481. The Chairman reported on the further appeal relating to the agricultural building at Hartwell Farm. The Parish Council's view was to support the decision made by the Borough Council.

482. The Chairman reported on a meeting with Phil Richens of WWRD and their suggestion that the Parish Council could adopt a new balancing pool to be constructed on the northern edge of the new housing development. The proposed cost of this adoption was beyond the current reach of the Council and the Clerk was instructed to reply and decline the offer from WWRD.

483. There was an ongoing consultation by Stafford Borough Council regarding the Trent & Mersey Canal. The Chairman identified the proposal to ensure the preservation of the cottages on Canalside (Numbers 2 & 3) and the suggestion of the need to improve the streetscene on the eastern edge alongside Leese's garage. The proposal to fill the gap in the hedge had already been discussed. The Chairman had contacted Dave Dobson from Stone Ramblers on the matter. He suggested the residents of Canalside erect a sign indicating a private road with no access.

484. The Chairman read a letter from Lynne Coates regarding a proposal to extend the Village Show with a biennial fete on the Village Green. The Chair and Councillor Philpott declared an interest and took no part in the discussion that followed.

485. It was agreed to extend the Village Show with the Fete with agreeing to the use of the Village Green provided there was suitable public liability insurance cover, supervision of pedestrians crossing Longton Road and that the Green was not waterlogged.

486. The Clerk outlined the need for the Village Show & Fete organisers to have insurance cover and having assessed the risk would speak again to Lynne Coates on the matter and liaise on the arrangement for insurance.

487. The Fete, it was hoped would widen the appeal for the local community and include Maypole Dancers, a Hog Roast, a dog show and a Bouncy Castle on the Green with a marquee with stalls inside. There would be a separate admission fee of 50p to the marquee. The hire of the marquee had been funded by Councillor Parry from the Community Fund.

488. The organising committee requested funding for the entertainment. After discussion it was agreed that the Council would look to cover the cost of the insurance and with further detail on the entertainment would consider a donation at the next meeting.

Finance Report

489.

The following items were considered and approved

	NET	VAT	Total Cost
a.) Neil Hemmings- Allowance	£48.00		£48.00
b.) PJS Landscapes- monthly Cemetery Maintenance	£241.00	£48.00	£289.00
c.) Community Council of Staffordshire- Annual membership	£25.00		£25.00
d.) SPCA- Annual subscription	£459.00		£459.00
e.) Town & Country Services- various work in village	£260.00	£52.00	£312.00

- f.) The March salaries for the Clerk, Transport Co-ordinator and litter picker have been met.
- g.) The Clerk and press representatives left the meeting and the Clerk's Annual Review was undertaken.
- h.) After the review the Clerk returned with the press representatives. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for his work during the last year and was delegated the authority to review the Clerk's Pay scale which would be confirmed at the May meeting. The Clerk thanked the Council for their support.

Planning Update

490. The Planning Committee had met earlier in the evening but there were no significant issues.

Neighbourhood Plan

491. The Council had seen the proposed questionnaire and attempted to complete the draft. A few further amendments would be made and the steering group would finalise the document in the next week for printing and distribution in late April.

Voluntary Transport Scheme

492. There had been 11 lifts in March.

Best Kept Village Competition 2014

493. Councillor Linehan had convened a meeting for April 23rd with known volunteers to organise working parties. The competition is being advertised through the Heron and local notices. He was also looking into the cost of banners.

494. The map had been improved by the Clerk and he had submitted detailed notes addressing some of the negative comments from the 2013 competition judges.

495. Councillor Broome would try to involve the local schoolchildren in the writing competition .

496. The volunteers would remove any old notices and replace them; notices regarding the improvements to the Green were needed.

497. The Clerk would oversee the work of a casual labourer Mr. M Rogers and reimburse him on an agreed rate to paint the benches in the village and to tidy several footpaths and the Plume of Feathers frontage and car park.

Notices in the Village

498. The Cricket Club had been reminded of the need to take down any notices advertising events as soon as possible after the event.

499. No notices should be placed on Council land without prior permission it was agreed residents should be reminded of this. It was law that notices on private property advertising business and events, if permanent, needed permission.

Matters arising from the Open Forum

500. It was agreed that the residents of Canalside should consider improving the signage to their properties pointing out that it was a private road with no right of way. The Chairman would seek the support of Stone Ramblers in erecting a gate and closing the gap in the hedge.

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

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

502. The minutes of the recent meeting of the Playing Fields Committee were noted. The Clerk explained the new ECB regulations for cricket nets which were costly and beyond the budget of the Cricket Club at the moment. The Club had been advised to place notices on the existing nets to prevent unsupervised use by non-members.

503. WWRD had offered local resident work at the Visitor centre; it was hoped other employment opportunities would arise with the housing development.

504. The Heron would be distributed to Councillors for distribution before April 15th.

505. The Clerk updated the meeting on the likely alterations to the X5 bus service which would improve the local service if agreed by the County Council with effect from April 28th.

Any other business – Agenda items for the Parish Meeting A.G.M. to be held on Tuesday May 6th. 2014

506. Councillor Russell informed the meeting of the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Staffordshire Parish Councils association on June 11th at the County Showground; the Chairman and Clerk would attend it was hoped.

507. Councillor Jones would miss the A.G.M as he was attending the celebration of the 350th Anniversary of the incorporation of Stafford County, Virginia, U.S.A.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

509. The kitchen improvements were ongoing. The new curtains had been ordered and some decorating was in progress.

510. The Committee reported all bills had been paid and there was less expenditure leading to an improved cash balance.

Chairman

