

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

Present: – Gareth Jones
Chairman

Viv O'Dunne	Sara Fearn
Patrick Linehan	John Russell
Elaine Philpott	Sarah Broome

Apologies: Paul Fisher, Steve Hall, Ian Macmillan. Lynne Bakker Collier

In attendance: George Powell

Open Forum

103. George Powell informed the Council that new signage on WWRD estate land by the larger lake indicated the path alongside the lake was a private path and ought to be adopted as a public footpath. The Chairman would contact WWRD for clarification as to access for the public on the footpath.

104. The Chairman referred to the issues raised by Mr. Powell and Mr. Connell at the June Council meeting. He had been assured by the Borough Council that any weedkiller used in the Parish were fully compliant with COSHH regulations and that he had also been informed by WWRD that once the demolition of parts of the factory had been completed they would replant the millennium arboretum. Mr. Powell suggested that any new trees that were planted should be dedicated to individuals.

105. Mr. Powell requested clarification on the availability of allotments in the parish. The Clerk indicated there was no longer a waiting list; that the Barlaston Allotments Association website was not currently active and he would be advised to call at the allotments to request a plot.

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

Minutes of the meeting held on June 3rd. 2014

107: RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on June 3rd. be approved and signed by the Vice Chairman.
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Matters arising

108. Re. Minute 56- The Clerk reported that following discussions with Peter Sellers the areas planted with wild flower seeds had not germinated satisfactorily and despite spraying weeds were still showing through. Peter had offered to spray the area again and reseed it next spring however after discussion it was agreed to leave the areas a little longer to see what was growing. It was agreed that the areas chosen for the seeding may not be the most suitable and that Liz Hill's advice should be sought. The Chairman agreed

to speak to Peter and that in September a plan for next spring and seed sowing could be agreed possibly in several lighter and drier areas of the Green.

109. Re. Minute 62- the problem of HGVs passing through the village to the WWRD site was being monitored closely with the cooperation of WWRD.

110. Re. Minute 65- it was noted that a planning application has now been submitted by the owners of Cottage Furniture to erect up to 23 apartments on the site. In principle the Council believed that this was a suitable development but there was a view that access to the site was a problem. The proximity of the entrance to the level crossing and traffic on Station Road it was felt was problematic. The Planning Committee would consider the plans in due course.

111. Re. Minute 66- it was agreed to support a Civic Service on August 3rd. at 4p.m in the Church to commemorate the outbreak of World War 1. It was agreed that at the end of the service Councillors would walk to the war memorial and that a nominated person would read out the names of those who perished in the conflict.

112. Re. Minute 67- the Chairman would discuss this with the Church before the next meeting.

113. Re. Minute 72- the Chairman reported he had challenged the poor communication and action from Stafford & Rural Homes in response to issues many with safety concerns. It was agreed that a meeting with a member of their senior team was needed.

114. Re. Minute 75- the Clerk had met with Greenfingers to clarify the areas to be mown in the Parish every fortnight. The mowing of Barlaston Park and Brookhouse Drive Estates had now been built into the contract but this would lead to an additional expenditure of £1250 which the Council would accept. However it was agreed that in 2015 the grass cutting costs should be looked at as they would be higher and that might impact upon the precept.

Report by Chairman & Borough Councillors

115. The Chairman reported that retrospective planning permission for the wall outside 38 Longton Road has now been granted.

116. Councillors Dodd, Jones, Linehan and Russell had met with representatives of the Health Centre and reported a positive meeting but it was noted that there is ongoing frustration from some residents in delays gaining an appointment, which a doctor is not always present later in the morning to deal with urgent requests as they have gone on their rounds. It was suggested the option of being able to talk to a doctor from 11.30 to noon would be helpful.

117. The Chairman was asked to identify if local patients were leaving the practice and if so how many had left for another practice recently.

118. It was suggested that a link with the Health Centre and the Barlaston Good Neighbour Scheme to support lonely and isolated residents.

119. The underuse of the Children’s Service had been raised by the County Children’s Services and a review was in place by the County. It was agreed that the Parish Council should focus on supporting the school and its use of the centre.

120. Stafford Borough Council would be writing to all Barlaston Park residents regarding the Warmer Homes scheme as it appeared from the aerial survey that there was considerable heat loss from many homes in the estate.

121. It was noted that the Signpost bus was not used at all when it visited Barlaston Park.

122. Councillor O’Dunne reported on the progress of the Good Neighbour Scheme. The group was evolving and becoming in a range of activities with help with gardening, transport and a referral. It was preferred if the local Voluntary Transport Scheme organised by Rose Kingsbury could continue and it was agreed that Councillor O’Dunne liaise with Rose Kingsbury to ensure the good work could continue.

123. The Clerk reported that Councillor Bakker Collier had spoken to Craig Watkins over tree preservation orders but it was not felt necessary that he speak to the Council. Similarly the offer to meet Streetscene again it was felt was unnecessary.

Report by County Councillor

124. No report.

Finance Report

125. 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	£48.22	£289.00
c.) Greenfingers- grass cutting	£156.00	£31.20	£187.20
d.) J.E. Poultney- BKV planters replanted	£110.00		£110.00

e.) Greenfingers- grass cutting	£453.68	£90.74	£544.42
f.) Town & Country Services- grass cutting Flaxman Close	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00

126. The June salaries for the Clerk, Transport Co-ordinator and litter picker have been met.

127. It was agreed to support the purchase of two pop up display notices for the Barlaston Good Neighbours Scheme at a cost of £75.

128. Councillors Jones and Philpott declared an interest before it was agreed to support the predicted expenditure for the Village Show by £500. Councillor Russell offered the use of a generator to save hire costs.

Planning Update

129. The Planning Committee had met earlier in the evening but the only significant proposal was the Cottage Furniture site proposals. After discussion it was agreed that Councillor Jones should call the application in regarding access issues for traffic.

Neighbourhood Plan

130. The Clerk reported that a total of 374 completed questionnaires were returned. Further was taking place with the local shops and businesses, young families via the school and Church.

Voluntary Transport Scheme

131. There had been 16 lifts in June.

Best Kept Village Competition 2014

132. Councillor Linehan provided a detailed written report on the actions undertaken by volunteers in the village which he found most encouraging. It was not yet known if the village had reached the final stage of the competition. David Wilson Homes had donated £300 towards the cost of two new planters in Orchard Place.

Stafford B.C. Green Awards 2014

133. Councillor Linehan agreed to submit a nomination for the members of the Best Kept Village team

Matters arising from the Open Forum.

134. None

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

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

136. The quotation from P.J.S. Landscapes for tidying the overgrown shrubbery alongside Pear Tree Close was accepted and should be actioned.

137. The Police Commissioner Mathew Ellis was holding an open forum on July 9th. and was requesting bids for schemes to build a safer community.

Any other business – Agenda items for the Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday September 2nd. 2014

138. Broadband Speed, Voluntary Transport Scheme, the Cemetery Committee, local communication strategies including the next edition of the Heron.

139. It was noted that the Cricket Club had not erected signs on the nets preventing unsupervised use. The Clerk would speak to their Chairman.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

141. There was a discussion over extending the car parking of the Hall by using part of the Village Green. Of the members present the majority of councillors were against using the Green.

142. The Council had received a letter from Mrs. Coates regarding the difficulty in obtaining a booking for a Barn Dance following the Village Show; it was noted that the matter had now been resolved but there was a feeling that some commercial bookings were causing problems that prevented local groups using the Hall.

143. It was noted that some local groups were now meeting free of charge in some cases.

144. The Village Hall Committee were looking at the idea of differential costing; the Council felt this would benefit local groups.

Chairman