

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting-  
Held on Tuesday 7<sup>TH</sup> October 2014.**

**Present:** – Gareth Jones  
Chairman

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

**Apologies:** Lynne Bakker Collier

**In attendance:** Mr. Dave Connell & Mr. Haydn Ralphs.

**Open Forum**

203. Mr. Connell indicated he had taken the ongoing issue of weed killer use to local M.P. Joan Whalley

204. Mr Ralphs indicated he had returned to live in Barlaston after 27 years and complimented the work of the Council over the past year citing the excellent local information in the Heron, or on the Parish website and Facebook but also the tidy nature of the grass in the village.

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

**Minutes of the meeting held on September 2nd 2014**

<b>206: RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes of the meeting held on September 2nd. be approved and signed by the Chairman.
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**Matters arising**

207. Re. Minute 147: The leak on the Barlaston Park had still not been found or repaired. The concept of a ghost Council was an idea worth pursuing if there were appropriate shadowing opportunities for young people, but also if there was sufficient interest; it was agreed that at the moment not to take the idea further.

208. Re. Minute 148: Streetscene had responded promptly to the Clerk's request for road sweeping.

209. Re Minute 156: There were ongoing instances of HGVs in the village; if definite breaches of the weight limit were witnessed they should be reported to WWRD. On a different matter it was agreed that the Chairman would identify if the path from the WWRD site towards Hem Heath which was a nature trail was regarded as a public footpath.

210. Re. Minute 158: The Certificates of Commendation had been presented in September and it was agreed the events had been well received by the award winners. It was felt the procedure for nominations had been successful in 2014.

211. Re. Minute 161: An amended report and design brief for Wedgwood Memorial College had been produced which was in line with the wishes of the Parish Council in terms of suitable development.

212. Re. Minute 164g.): The Herons WI were to tidy the area on the Green and plant some bulbs and plants on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

213. Re. Minute 169: The Chairman confirmed that he had called in the application for a slurry tank to be sited in the Malthouse farmyard off Longton Road.

214. Re. Minute 184: It was reported that the upgrade for faster broadband speed for parts of the village would not be complete until the end of 2016. There were also some problem areas with cable broadband it was thought this situation would only be improved with upgrades to existing exchanges.

215. Re. Minute 192: The Tree Survey report was being circulated and should be returned to the Clerk who would build costs of some tree work into the 2015/16 budget.

216. Re. Minute 196: The Clerk outlined the slow procedure relating to action being taken by the owner of the abandoned cruiser on the canal between bridges 103 & 104. The enforcement officer had acted to have most of the fly tipped rubbish removed but the boat remained and a close eye would have to be kept to ensure no further rubbish was dumped. The Clerk was meeting with Tom Freeland from the Canal & Rivers Trust to discuss identified improvements to the adopted stretch of the canal. A further working party would be a way forward in due course; it was agreed not to purchase a new noticeboard until the new financial year.

### **Report by Chairman & Borough Councillors**

217. The Chairman reported on a very successful Village Show. It was agreed that Lynne Coates in particular should be congratulated on her superb organisation for the event but also her committee and colleagues who had produced an excellent event. It was remarked that although well attended it was felt the response from the whole village population could be better. The Clerk would write to Lynne and thank her and her team for their hard work.

218. The recent planning application for 75 Longton Road had been called in for further consideration and the application for 46 Tittensor Road had been turned down but would go to appeal. The application for 23 apartments on the Cottage Furniture site was proceeding as was application for the alteration and refurbishment of the Plume of Feathers; the public house was not closing for any refurbishment until January 2015.

219. Environmental Health workers had made progress in dealing with reported problems with obstruction and vermin relating to two separate properties in the village.

220. Councillors Fisher, Jones & Linehan had looked at the two areas on the Green that needed attention; the Chairman reported that a different blend of wildflower seed had

been planted at the top of the Green and grass seed around the Lime tree. PJS Landscapes had undertaken the work free of charge and it was hoped germination would occur; however Councillor Fisher registered his dissatisfaction the he had not been involved in the decision to plant the grass seed; the Chairman noted this disapproval. The overall cost of the work was £126 and needed to take place before the meeting when the weather conditions were suitable.

221. The Clerk was submitting a second Annual Return as the original has not been received by Grant Thornton the auditors.

222. A request to place a memorial bench along Meaford Road had been received from Mr. Graham Lawton; a second request had been received from Michael Beeson for a bench but the Clerk had no further details. It was agreed that a replacement bench could be sited on the Green or a tree planted; the Clerk would speak to the gentlemen and suggest a suitable course of action. A third request was likely to be made from a different family.

### **Report by County Councillor**

223. No report.

### **Finance Report**

224. The Clerk reported that the balance for the Council was £20000 once outstanding invoices were paid and a VAT refund and recharges for grass cutting were received. He estimated that there would be a balance of £12000 at the end of the financial year; the increased costs related to the grass cutting on Barlaston Park and the Brookhouse Drive estates.

225. There were 3 applications for donations and after a detailed discussion the following donations were agreed; Royal British Legion £250 - Remembrance Day; Barlaston Cricket Club £200 for fireworks, provided there was current and appropriate public liability insurance and to Wedgwood & Stanfields Cricket Club £200 for cricket kit for the youth teams.

226. The following items were considered and approved.

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	<b>NET</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
a.) N. Hemmings- Monthly allowance	£48.00		£48.00

b.) PJS Landscapes- monthly Cemetery Maintenance	£241.00	£48.20	£289.00
c.) Eurooffice-printer cartridges and wall stapler	£375.82	£75.17	£450.99
d.) A. J. Philpott & Sons Ltd.- New Noticeboard	£2050.00	£410.00	£2460.00
d.) Barlaston PCC-half of Cemetery Chapel insurance	£413.82		£413.82
e.) Greenfingers grass cutting-	£765.68	£153.14	£918.82
f.) PJS landscapes- Village Green	£126.20		£126.20
g.) Town & Country Services- grass cutting Flaxman Close	£135.00	£27.00	£162.00
h.) Biffa Waste Services- Cricket Club	£56.02	£11.20	£67.22
i.) British Legion- donation	£250.00		£250.00
j.) Barlaston Cricket Club- fireworks	£200.00		£200.00
k.) Wedgwood & Stanfields Cricket Club-Youth kit	£200.00		£200.00

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

## **Planning Update**

227. The Planning Committee had met earlier in the evening and would submit comments regarding three applications. The Committee had supported the proposal for up to 25 dwellings on the Blurton Poultry Farm site which was currently totally derelict.

## **Neighbourhood Plan**

228. The Clerk reported that there was a need to develop agreed policies to include in the Neighbourhood Plan. He would start to write these and share them once drafted.

229. The " hopes and aspirations" ideas would be developed into a document for inclusion in the draft Plan.

230. The Clerk outlined the response from the Borough Council in relation to the proposed Settlement Boundary and the proximity to Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) sites in the greenbelt.

231. The Borough Council forward planning team felt a single settlement boundary should be drawn that did not include Barlaston Park and was aligned with the former Residential Development Boundary. Councillors disagreed with this as they had specific reasons for drawing the proposed boundary to restrict any development in the greenbelt.

232. Councillor Hall outlined a number of pertinent points from the Stafford Local Plan that supported the Parish Council's view.

233. The Clerk would produce an assessment document to identify the reasons for housing development on five identified areas and reasons for no development on the identified SHLAA sites on the perimeter of the village. He would undertake an assessment of each site and for proposed development as well as those where development was opposed by the Parish Council.

234. He would redraw the settlement boundary as a single boundary excluding Barlaston Park but giving reasons why the boundary was drawn in a particular location. He also would stress that there would be an impact from developments at WWRD and Meaford on the infrastructure of the village.

## **Voluntary Transport Scheme**

235. There had been 17 lifts in September.

## **The Heron**

236. An edition would be prepared for December.

## **Remembrance Sunday arrangements**

237. The police had promised their support and the wreaths would be ordered. The procession would be the same timings and route as in 2013.

## **The Cemetery Committee**

238. Dennis Twigg would convene a meeting.

## **Best Kept Village Competition 2014**

239. The BKV judges' comments had now been received and Councillor Linehan felt there were no major criticisms and with an earlier start to voluntary work next year and a computer generated map with notes and photographs would benefit the village's chances.

## **Stafford & Rural Homes issues**

240. The Clerk reported on progress made with Julie Harvey Housing Manager relating to complaints registered with them relating to poor communication, outstanding repairs anti-social behaviour and criminal activity. The Police had been present at the meeting and were active on Barlaston Park encouraging residents to report incidents.

241. It was agreed to review the progress in six months with a view to organising a public meeting at a venue on the estate. Questions from residents would be tabled in advance and be put to the Police, Stafford & Rural Homes and local Councillors.

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

242. None

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

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

244. The Clerk gave a report on the new Highways agreement with Amey Infrastructure+ and how the new systems would operate. . The new partnership between Staffordshire County Council and Amey for a minimum of 10 years called **Infrastructure +** is a new partnership, replacing the one with **Enterprise** and aims to provide a more streamlined and effective means of managing the highways and other services. The time has come for the new partner to work closely with County Highways but in a different way than current practice. A new technologically based process called a Standard Operating Model (SOM) will be introduced by Amey currently contracted with 7 councils nationally. Amey will offer a holistic service working from local bases and a hub in Stafford. The introduction of Amey Infrastructure + now aims to improve the quality of service, but to keep costs down. The existing workforce will remain for the time being supplemented by Amey staff; but changes may be made in the future. The aim is to complete the work on the highway correctly the first time with the new systems and use of mobile technology.

245. Councillor Russell would represent CPRE on the SPCA executive committee.

246. Orchard Place would be affected by works to replace electricity cables later in the month.

247. The Polling Place Review recommended no changes to the existing Parish polling stations.

248. Councillors were invited to the reopening of the One Stop shop on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

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

249. It was agreed to discuss Delivery vehicles in the village.

**Note by Clerk**

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

**Village Hall Committee Report**

251. The Village Hall Committee minutes for September had been circulated to Councillors.

252. It was reported by Councillor Jones that Mike Dunne had resigned his position as Secretary and Kate Burton had taken on this role. It was agreed that there was disappointment that Mike Dunne had resigned as it left a significant gap in work undertaken by him for the Committee.

253. The review of the pricing structure was ongoing.

**Chairman**

