

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting-  
Held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>. March 2015.**

**Present:** – Gareth Jones  
Chairman

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

**Apologies:** Steve Hall, Lynne Bakker Collier

**In attendance:** Clare Barnett; Hannah Barter (Urban Vision)

**Open Forum**

409. Clare Barnett outlined her perceptions of the need for better opportunities for young people in the village; she felt that there was a need for a play area and a youth club. The history and demise of the local playground and youth club were explained as vandalism damaged the play area off Meadow Road and the youth club at the Methodist Church had lacked qualified leaders or sufficient numbers to make it viable; similarly the Boys Brigade numbers had fallen as well.

410. The recent Community Group Open Meeting had clearly identified a need for youth activities in the Village and the meeting agreed that once the priorities could be established through the Neighbourhood Plan priorities for improvement of facilities and new youth activities should be costed and where possible developed.

411. Councillor Dodd referred to the failure of the youth group based on Barlaston Park as the members grew older. However Clare agreed to develop her ideas and join the steering group on Social Facilities.

412. The meeting welcomed Hannah Barter, a director of Urban Vision who succinctly outlined the proposed support she could give to the Council in developing their Neighbourhood Plan.

413. The areas of support included a training session for all contributors to the Plan; support in writing relevant policies and a Locality grant application.

414. It was agreed to employ Urban Vision to undertake these activities and the Clerk would organise a date for a meeting in due course.

415. There were no declarations of interest made before the meeting began. Councillor Jones indicated he would not Chair the meeting when the Council met as trustees to the Village Hall later in the evening.

**Minutes of the meeting held on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. 2015**

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| <b>416: RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes of the meeting held on February 3 <sup>rd</sup> be approved |
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and signed by the Chairman.

### Matters arising

417. Re. Minute 377: The Clerk would arrange an official meeting on the Downs for the replacement of the toposcope where it was hoped a representative of both Councils involved would be present along with Julian Bailes and Wilf Burt.

418. Re. Minute 396: The Clerk read out the Thank You card from Rose Kingsbury for the bouquet sent to thank her for her hard work.

### Report by Chairman & Borough Councillor

419. The Chairman reported on the following matters.

420. A number of Councillors would join the Chairman for a meeting with the Cumberland House Practice on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

412. The impact of comments on social network sites such as the Council website was discussed noting both the favourable points made but also the potentially negative views of an individual. It was agreed to place factual statements on the Facebook page to ensure accurate comments were made on topics raised.

413. The closure of the most southerly section of Meaford Road from April was discussed and the Chairman outlined how the diversion along Tittensor Road would be managed and monitored.

414. It was noted that with a recent change in the law individuals or groups are allowed to film Council Meetings provided they did not cause a disturbance or interruption to normal routine. It was agreed to draft a policy on this matter.

415. There was growing local concern over the anti-social behaviour of a minority of Stafford & Rural Homes' tenants in the village. The Housing Manager had reiterated the policy for vetting applicants for a property and it was hoped that any new tenants would be sociable and supportive of neighbours. It was crucial that if there were problems with a tenant those complaints be filed with Stafford & Rural Homes based on evidence collected.

### Report by County Councillor

416. No report

### Finance Report

417. The Following items were considered and agreed.

|                                 | NET    | VAT | Total Cost |
|---------------------------------|--------|-----|------------|
| a.) Neil Hemmings-<br>Allowance | £48.00 |     | £48.00     |
| b.) BKV materials               | £10.98 |     | £10.98     |
| c.) Heron Postage               | £40.28 |     | £40.28     |

|  |          |         |            |
|--|----------|---------|------------|
| d.) Mileage  | £12.00   |         | £12.00     |
| e.) Flowers- Rose Kingsbury                                      | £34.95   |         | £34.95     |
| f.) PJS Landscapes-monthly Cemetery Maintenance                  | £241.00  | £48.20  | £289.00    |
| g.) C. Roberts – Bus shelter                                     | £1160.00 |         | £1160.00 * |
| h.) M & G Decorating Services- bus shelter                       | £350.00  |         | £350.00 *  |
| i.) Earth Anchors-noticeboard                                    | £1288.00 | £271.20 | £1627.20   |
| j.) Biffa Waste Services- Village Hall                           | £178.75  | £35.75  | £214.50    |
| k.) Biffa Waste Services-Cricket Club                            | £53.57   | £10.71  | £64.28     |
| l.) Town & Country Services- cutting back trees on village green | £125.00  | £25.00  | £150.00    |

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

### **Planning Update**

418. The Planning Committee had met earlier in the evening and submitted appropriate comments on two applications.

419. The Clerk agreed to follow up any action by the Environment Agency regarding animal waste disposal on local fields.

## **Neighbourhood Plan**

420. The Clerk presented a positive report on recent activities. The outcomes of the steering group meetings were positive and a useful evidence source. The analysis of the questionnaires was imminent and would be useful in drafting the Plan.

## **Voluntary Transport Scheme**

421. There had been 19 lifts in February.

## **Hitching Scheme**

422. Councillor Russell outlined the difficulty in walking to Trentham, Meaford, Hartwell or Tittensor and a perceived need to help pedestrians using these routes by a hitching scheme. He felt an identity card would suffice for an individual to give lifts. After discussion it was felt by a majority that the proposal was fraught with difficulties as potentially damaging accusations could be made against a driver.

## **Parish Awards 2015**

423. It was agreed to award the Golden Jubilee Award to Christine Donohue for her long service to the Boys Brigade. On this occasion the Council felt there was no need to seek other nominations.

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

424. It was agreed to pursue the development of youth facilities and activities and to employ Urban Vision to support the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

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

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

426. A briefing re Election Nomination Forms was agreed for March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6.30 pm to ensure correct procedure was followed. The Clerk would collect and deliver relevant papers to candidates around March 10<sup>th</sup> with instructions re correct completion.

427. A request for the First 101 service to pass through the village hourly had been rejected by the bus company but the Clerk would submit further proposals to counter the arguments given on the decision that had been reached.

428. The request for a donation to Samaritans was considered but after a significant donation in 2014 it was agreed not to donate in 2015.

429. The lease for the allotments had expired and a new lease had been agreed noting that the annual rental had increased slightly. The terms of the new lease were the same as the old lease. Stafford BC were undertaking a survey of parish allotment sites and several Councillors agreed to complete the questionnaire.

430. It was agreed to participate in a Stafford BC Community Clean Up Day on May 7<sup>th</sup>. The Clerk would organise this with the Barlaston Community Group.

431. BKV entry forms for the children's competitions were passed to Councillors Broome and Linehan for circulation; it was hoped to encourage older children in the village to participate.

432. There was an opportunity to make a community bid to the Police & Crime Commissioner.

433. Two benches and a litter bin had been donated by Stoke on Trent City Council from the Wedgwood Memorial College site; the Clerk had placed these around the village and was bidding for a further 4 benches from the Limes site.

**Any other business – Agenda items for the Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday April 7th. 2015.**

434. Councillor Dodd mentioned an overhanging branch on Barlaston Park that needed removing; the Clerk suggested contacting Streetscene or Highways who would remove it.

**Note by Clerk**

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

**Village Hall Committee Report**

436. Kate Burton and Steve Parry Thomas were welcomed to the meeting to discuss the proposed new kitchen for the village hall. Councillor Philpott chaired this item.

437. Councillors had been provided with the detailed quotation for the refurbishment of the kitchen. Kate Burton provided a detailed list of considerations as to the urgent need to replace the kitchen and Steve Parry Thomas explained why SCC would be the preferred contractor.

438. The Chair suggested at least one more quotation should be obtained to comply with financial regulations. Members of the village Hall Committee had approached other companies but none had been prepared to quote.

439. After discussion it was agreed to look at the refurbished kitchen at Fulford Village Hall and to see if their contractor would quote for the work at Barlaston.

440. A decision to proceed was deferred but it was agreed in principle to have the work completed as soon as possible and that the Parish Council would make a contribution towards the cost once the full costs had been agreed. The payment from the Council might lead to raising the precept but it was felt that this work would have long term benefits for the Hall. It was suggested perhaps a specific fund raising event for the new kitchen could be organised.

441. It was pointed out that there was much needed external painting and repairs needed for the Hall and it was agreed that these would be prioritised and brought to the April meeting.

442. Kate and Steve were thanked for their hard work on this important improvement for the Village Hall.

**Chairman**

