

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting-
Held on Tuesday 7th April 2015.**

Present: – Gareth Jones
Chairman

Paul Fisher	Elaine Philpott
Patrick Linehan	John Russell
Ian Macmillan	Sarah Broome
	Tony Dodd

Apologies: Steve Hall, Viv O’Dunne; Ian Parry.

In attendance: No one

443. The Chairman began the meeting with a tribute to the long service on the Parish Council of John Russell. Councillor Russell had served as a Parish Councillor for over 30 years and in that time had served as a Borough and County Councillor and had been Mayor of Stafford. His work for the Parish had been appreciated by residents and as a retiring Councillor his knowledge of the village and planning and environmental issues would be missed. The whole Council wished him well and echoed the words of the Chairman.

444. 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 March 3rd. 2015

445: RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on March 3rd be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

446. Re. Minute 377: It was confirmed to meet by the toposcope on Wednesday April 22nd. At 5.30 p.m.

447. Re. Minute 423: The Clerk would contact Christine Donohue.

Report by Chairman & Borough Councillor

448. The Chairman reported on the following matters.

449. The County Council had now decided for safety reasons to close Rookery Lane from late April and part of Meaford Road from May 8th as work to develop the road and service infrastructure for the Meaford Power Station is undertaken for up to one year. The signed diversion route would be along Tittensor Road which would cause some issues for residents. HGVs would be prevented from using Tittensor Road and it was hoped the speed of traffic would be controlled and monitored. The Clerk indicated the normal levels of traffic on the four roads by the village crossroads which would be monitored; it was

agreed to monitor the situation once the diversion had begun. It was hoped some through traffic from Stone or Trentham that use Meaford Road would use the A34.

450. Frustrations over the excessive speed of traffic through the village, as well as the passage of HGVs through the village were raised. Councillor Macmillan summarised the main issues and stressed the need that evidence of the problems such as speeding and the perceived need for traffic calming through the village needs to be gathered. The opinions and responses of residents from the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire will serve as evidence to support this evidence base; however it was important the Barlaston Community Speed Watch Scheme be developed further. The Clerk was seeking data from surveys carried out in 2014 by the local Speed Watch Group but also the Community Safety team based in Stafford.

451. Councillors Jones and Dodd reported on the latest meeting with the Cumberland House Practice. No new issues were raised and two new doctors were now available; there was divided opinion from experience and conversations on the quality of service and delays in gaining an appointment; it was agreed to monitor the situation. All Councillors should gauge opinion and where possible attend the next meeting.

452. The popularity and enthusiasm of the Barlaston Community Group was noted. The proposal to regulate their involvement and link with the Parish Council should be agreed based on the written report by the Clerk. It was agreed to formally adopt this group as a sub (advisory) group to the Council and as there was a Councillor and also the Clerk on the Committee of the Group there should be effective feedback on their activities. The forthcoming Film Night looked as though it would be a successful event for the village.

453. As the Borough Council had now entered the period of purdah before the election there was nothing further to report.

Report by County Councillor

454. Councillor Parry had updated the Clerk on the revised arrangements for the road closures relating to Meaford Gas Power Station effective from the end of April for Rookery Lane and May 8th for Meaford Road.

Finance Report

455. The Following items were considered and agreed.

	NET	VAT	Total Cost
a.) N. Hemmings-allowance	£48.00		£48.00
	£24.00		£24.00
b.) Mileage	£40.00		£40.00
c.) BKV Materials			
d.) PJS Landscapes-monthly Cemetery Maintenance	£246.00	£49.20	£295.20
e.) Staffordshire Reels on Wheels- film hire	£168.50	£33.70	£202.20
f.) Community Council of Staffordshire-BKV entry fee	£18.90		£18.90
g.) W. Burt- refitting of toposcope	£75.00	£15.00	£90.00
h.) P. Linehan- Film Night Banner	£40.00		£40.00
i.) Barlaston Village Show- competition trophy	£50.00		£50.00
j.) FoSSA- Barlaston Tithe Map-donation	£80.00		£80.00
k.) Biffa Waste Services- Cricket Club	£56.02	£11.20	£67.22
l.) Town & Country Services- Cleaning Road Signs & Cutting Flaxman Close	£95.00	£19.00	£114.00

m.)Nigel Ferguson – web domain renewal & web hosting	£340.00		£340.00
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n.)A request to purchase a trophy for the Village Show was agreed but a request to donate again to Douglas Macmillan Hospice was declined on this occasion. It was noted that there had been many examples of personal and financial support to DMH and that the annual 5k run was to be held in Hanley Park in 2015. It was agreed to support the FoSSA-digitisation of Tithe Maps for Staffordshire; a copy of the Barlaston area would be received in due course.

o.) Recharges to the Cricket Club and Village Hall had been made as well as a claim for a VAT refund. The Clerk estimated the end of year balance 31/3/15 was c. £10000 once these sums had been received.

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

457.) It was agreed to defer the Clerk’s Annual Review to the May meeting.

Planning Update

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

459. The Clerk outlined an initial approach from Stafford & Rural Homes and their potential development partner, Partner Construction, over the feasibility of building affordable homes in the village. The Clerk had outlined the stated policy of no development in the defined greenbelt but it was pointed out a rural exception site can be granted if there is 100% affordable homes schemes on a greenbelt site; Stafford & Rural Homes would not take the interest further if there was no support from the local Parish Council. Certain of the 90 Stafford & Rural Homes garage sites were being considered for possible housing sites; it was agreed to monitor any development on this matter.

Neighbourhood Plan

460. 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 had been received and would be useful in drafting the Plan. An application for technical support had been made to Locality; the outcome of this would be known later in April and if successful a programme of activities could be organised.

Voluntary Transport Scheme

461. There had been 26 lifts in March.

Media Policy

462. The tabled Media Policy was adopted.

Election Update

463. Ten nominations for the Parish Council election been submitted by the Clerk and nominations would close on April 9th.

Barlaston Park Bus Shelter

464. Councillor Dodd outlined the need for a bus shelter on the estate. It was agreed to pursue a costing and possible sponsorship to erect a new one. No funding had been budgeted for in the new financial year. The approximate cost of a similar shelter to the one in Station Road was £2000 other more modern designs should also be costed.

Parking Problems in Barlaston

465. Two areas of concern were discussed. There was a lot of additional parking need at the Plume of Feathers now it had reopened. The Clerk would raise the matter with the owners but it was pointed out as private land they were not obliged to act; however it was important that the access to Canal Side should be kept open for residents and emergency vehicles. The Clerk would contact County Highways to see if parking restrictions could be

introduced in the area as there had been an amount of inconsiderate parking by customers.

466. As a result of the parking demand in the village the Orchard Place car park was often full and unable to cope with the demand of customers. The problem was exacerbated by some of the shopkeepers and their staff parking their cars there when the shops were open. As before a request could be made to them and Stafford & Rural Homes, but it was unlikely any action could be taken.

467. The car park at Orchard Place posed other problems with many potholes and trip hazards that the Clerk had repeatedly reported and would continue to do so.

Best Kept Village Competition

468. The entry had been made and notes compiled to accompany a new map indicating actions since 2014. The Clerk identified the actions that were needed before May and a meeting would be convened to allocate the tasks. He had also pointed out the problems in the village with damage to the verges and the activities of various contractors such as at Barlaston Park. Greenfingers had agreed to reseed some damaged verges and the Clerk had asked the County Council, the Borough Council and Western Power Distribution to attend to significant damage to the verge such as in Meadow Road and Ivyhouse Drive.

Matters arising from the Open Forum.

469. None

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

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

471. His report detailed a number of ongoing issues with Stafford & Rural Homes, the donation of 2 new planters from David Wilson Homes and the installation of the defibrillators in the near future.

Any other business – Agenda items for the Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday May 12th. 2015.

472. It was agreed to undertake the Clerk's Annual Review and to discuss the Cemetery Committee.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

474. Councillor Philpott took the Chair and outlined the efforts made by the Committee to obtain further quotes re the kitchen refurbishment. Councillor Jones had visited Fulford Village Hall but their contractor had not contacted him to quote.

475. As the Trustees were satisfied with the quotation from SCC it was resolved that sufficient efforts had been made before the SCC quote and subsequently to obtain alternatives.

476. It was resolved to permit the SCC quotation to proceed and that the Parish Council would pay the invoice as it was a capital investment that was long overdue. It was felt no more could have been done to obtain other appropriate quotes and that the financial regulations in terms of expenditure had been followed.

477. The Village Hall Committee would contribute most of the cost and the contribution from the Parish Council would be confirmed at the Village Hall AGM when a number of other financial commitments to the defibrillator scheme and Neighbourhood Plan were known.

478. Expenditure on exterior painting, repairs to a fence and some repairs to the Hall roof were needed. Quotes had been sought and agreed for the work to take place.

479. It was noted that the new price increases had been agreed by all parties.

480. It was noted that the some of the notices in the village hall needed renewing as they outlined important information and were difficult to see or read.

Chairman

