

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting-  
Held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015.**

**Present:** – Paul Fisher  
Chairman

Elaine Philpott	Max Robinson
Patrick Linehan	Viv O'Dunne
Ian Macmillan	Sarah Broome
Tony Dodd	

**Apologies:** Gareth Jones & Ian Parry

**In attendance:** Elaine James, Paul Cashmore-Thorley, Claire Cashmore-Thorley.

**Open Forum**

33. Elaine, Paul and Claire outlined their concerns regarding the recent communication regarding the upkeep of family graves in the cemetery. They felt very strongly that the actions by the PCC lacked sensitivity and that individual families should have been contacted.

34. The Chairman empathised with their concerns as did the members present but the Parish Council had no jurisdiction over the matter and Councillor Broome explained that the actions had resulted from a visit by the archdeacon and were the regulations of the Diocese of Lichfield and as such had to be upheld.

35. Paul Cashmore-Thorley had left voicemails with the Church but had had no reply. Councillor Philpott reiterated the view that the wording in the Parish Church magazine was insensitive and that clarification of the regulations was needed as soon as possible.

36. Councillor Broome agreed to try to set up a meeting involving the family and would speak to the Church and the archdeacon's secretary. The Chairman recommended a meeting of the Cemetery Committee to take place before July 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

**Minutes of the meeting held on May 12<sup>th</sup> 2015**

<b>38. RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes of the meeting held on May 12 <sup>th</sup> 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman.
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**Matters arising**

39. Re. Minute 4: the Clerk updated the meeting on the closure of Meaford Road and the resulting additional traffic on Tittensor Road; Highways were monitoring the situation and had been asked to remove duplicate signage at the crossroads and also to consider traffic

calming measures. The Clerk and Councillor Jones were to meet with Councillor Parry and Highways later in June to review the situation.

40. Re Minute 5: The Clerk circulated a draft design for up to 21 new affordable properties (including some flats, maisonettes and bungalows) on Ivyhouse Drive which although in the official greenbelt could be considered a rural exception site as had been developed by S & R H in Swynerton. Councillor Linehan had visited the site in May with Councillor Jones and the Clerk and they were impressed with the quality and variety of the build and that preference was given to local residents.

41. Re. Minute 24: The Clerk thanked the Council for his review and had actioned the pay increase and back pay.

42. Re. Minute 27: Radio Stoke had featured the village on two occasions in May and June; this had led to lots of positive publicity on a range of local events such as the Wassail, yarnbombing and the Village Show.

### **Report by Chairman & Borough Councillor**

43. There was no report.

### **Report by County Councillor**

44. There was no report.

### **Finance Report**

45. The Following items were considered and agreed.

	<b>NET</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
a.) N. Hemmings-allowance	£48.00		£48.00
b.) PJS Landscapes-monthly Cemetery Maintenance	£246.00	£49.20	£295.20
c.) Staffordshire Women's Aid-Donation	£125.00		£125.00
d.) Biffa Waste Services- Cricket Club	£59.77	£11.95	£71.72

e.) Biffa Waste Services- Village Hall	£258.75	£51.75	£310.50
f.) Greenfingers- Grass cutting	£765.68	£153.14	£918.82
g.) Town & country Services-grass cutting Flaxman Close	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00
h.) Pro-Jetwashing Ltd.	£45.00		£45.00

i.)The Clerk reported that a £6000 grant towards the drafting of the Neighbourhood Plan had been agreed following his application to Locality.

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

### **Voluntary Transport Scheme**

47. There had been 26 lifts in May.

### **Planning Update**

48. The Clerk indicated that he believed that if Solstice Renewables made an application for a solar farm on land in Stone Rural Parish it would be refused by the Borough Council as it was in the green belt.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

49. The Clerk proposed three workshops on housing assessment needs to take place in each ward on June 27<sup>th</sup>, July 3<sup>rd</sup> and July 21<sup>st</sup> and run by Hannah Barter from Urban Vision.

50. He then read out the section relating to Barlaston re the Plan for Stafford Borough – Part 2 Proposals which were agreed to be accurate by the meeting. However, it was agreed to comment and add a number of local community facilities that had been omitted.

51. He would also submit comments relating to the Community Infrastructure Levy.

### **Best Kept Village Competition**

52. Councillor Linehan reported upon a well-attended litter pick and ongoing improvements around the village; the judges had been seen in the village early in June.

The Country Cabin had donated three hanging baskets that would go on display outside the Village Hall.

### **Vacancy Barlaston East**

53. The Clerk had collected the relevant post-election returns from Councillors and would take these to Stafford. Councillors were reminded to return NIL returns re-election expenses.

54. There were no nominations to co-opt onto the Council for the vacant Barlaston East Ward.

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

55. It was agreed that the Cemetery Committee should meet before July 1<sup>st</sup> and that Councillor Broome would try to ensure that the Cashmore Thorley family were contacted by the Church as soon as was feasible to clarify their concerns.

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

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

57. The proposed changes to the Mobile and Travelling Library Service were noted and in the current financial climate of spending cuts it was felt that the reduction to one visit per week to Barlaston was justified as the usage of the service had diminished and the operation of the library buses across the whole county was costly.

58. The renewal of the lease for the allotments on Old Road was discussed and signed by the Chairman and Councillor Philpott.

59. After discussion a number of issues relating to the Village Green were agreed.

a. That the recently seeded areas around the Lime Tree and at the top of the Green be left to grow until it was clear as to whether and wild flowers had grown. The Clerk would seek costings for additional grass cutting by Greenfingers.

b. Concern that the area of wild flowers on the triangle at the junction of Longton and Station Roads had been cut at the request of a female resident. The Clerk had contacted Greenfingers over the matter. There was disappointment that a resident had over-ridden the Parish Council's policy.

c. The hedge cutting company Ven Agricultural from Grindley Lane had cut the hedges on the Green in May when they should have waited until July. The Clerk had spoken to them and would write to them explaining the Village Green bye laws and the reasons why the hedges are not cut until July each year.

d. The company were new to the village and cut many hedges in the village but left the cuttings to blow around. The Clerk would also mention this to them as this could cause problems to animals and cyclists.

### **Any other business – Agenda items for the Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday July 7<sup>th</sup>. 2015**

60. No items were proposed.

61. The Clerk would again contact County Highways regarding parking problems on Longton road as issues and proposals had been put to them last year but with no response.

**Note by Clerk**

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

**Village Hall Committee Report**

63. No report but the minutes of the last meeting had been circulated and noted.

**Chairman**