

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting-
Held on Tuesday 6th October 2015.**

Present: – Gareth Jones
Chairman

Paul Fisher	Ian Macmillan
Patrick Linehan	Elaine Philpott
Steve Hall	Sarah Broome
Tony Dodd	Max Robinson
Andy Gent	

Apologies: Viv O'Dunne

In attendance: Claire Barnett

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Gent to the Council.

Open Forum

156. Claire Barnett outlined a potential plan for the development of a children's playground in Barlaston. The proposals were relating to the old playground site off Meadow Road bordering the canal which now only had a tarmac area and 1 basketball/netball post.

157. Wickstead had drawn up an elaborate, but, costly design with a new play area with equipment for younger children and a skate park and games area, for older children adjoining the existing tarmac area. Claire agreed to seek other quotes from other companies.

158. The plan was very ambitious, but, broken down Claire felt that the costs could be reduced significantly. Rather than use an expensive contractor with the most expensive equipment she suggested local contractors could be used. Clearly grants and financial support would be sought if it was agreed that the idea was worth pursuing. It was agreed there was a need for a play area in the village; which location was the most suitable was up for debate.

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

Minutes of the meeting held on September 1st. 2015

160. RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on September 1 st . 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman.
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Matters arising

161. Re. Minute No. 117: there had been no update from Stafford & Rural Homes.

162. Re. Minute No. 122: a decision for the College to become a community asset was expected by the middle of October.

163. Re. Minute No. 124: the Village Show had been extremely successful making a profit of £1900. The show committee under the guidance of Lynne Coates had worked extremely hard to put on the event that had been well received by participants and attendees.

164. The Clerk read out a letter of thanks from Christine Donohoe for the Golden Jubilee Award.

165. Re. Minute No. 148: Councillor Hall wondered whether there was Section 106 funding from the Wedgwood Park development by David Wilson Homes to support the transport infrastructure.

Report by Chairman & Borough Councillor

166. The Chairman further reported on the ongoing petition to reopen Barlaston and Wedgwood stations. A decision might be considered by London Midland when the rail franchise was renewed.

Report by County Councillor

167. A meeting to discuss ongoing issues relating to the diversion of traffic in the village had been convened for October 14th.

Finance Report

168. The Following items were considered and agreed.

a.) N. Hemmings-allowance	£48.00		£48.00
b.) Sympathy card	£1.50		£1.50
c.) PJS Landscapes-monthly Cemetery Maintenance	£246.00	£49.20	£295.20
d.) Greenfingers-Grass cutting	£765.68	£153.14	£918.82
e.) Town & country Services-grass cutting Flaxman Close	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00

f.) Barlaston Cricket Club- fireworks-donation	£200.00		£200.00
g.) Sam Taylor- film night ticket printing	£22.26	£4.45	£26.71
h.) Barlaston –PCC- chapel insurance contribution	£417.69		£417.69
i.) Royal British Legion-donation	£250.00		£250.00
j.) Grey Tile Ltd.– defibrillator cabinet	£394.10	£78.82	£472.92
k.) Biffa- waste collection cricket club	£62.64	£12.53	£75.17

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

Voluntary Transport Scheme

169. There had been 28 lifts in September.

Planning Update

170. The Planning Committee had met earlier and comments would be submitted on applications received.

Neighbourhood Plan

171. Two meetings to finalise the Housing Needs Assessment were planned in October. The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by several landowners from outside the settlement boundary but in the greenbelt.

Best Kept Village Competition

172. The positive comments from the judges of the competition had been circulated and the Council felt that progress had been made. The identified issues would be addressed for 2016.

Barlaston Community Group

173. Councillor Linehan updated the Council on their recent activities and planned activities; all the detail was on the Community Group website. The Council were all invited to their open meeting to be held on October 26th.

Certificates of Commendation

174. The Certificates would be presented before the end of November.

Parking Problems in Barlaston

175. The residents of Queen's Row would be applying for a residents parking permit.

Church Magazine

176. Councillor Broome commented on the implied criticism of some of the content; this had upset the editor. The Clerk and Chairman felt there was some duplication of content but hoped that the criticism could be taken on board and rectified in future editions.

The Village Green & Wild Flower Beds

177. Councillor Robinson outlined his views on why the recent work to develop wild flowerbeds had not been successful. The seed mix was probably inappropriate for the underlying soil type and although some germination took place the subsequent wet weather conditions meant the growth of a healthy sward was non-viable. He suggested based upon the experience of the gardeners at Trentham Gardens a perennial flower bed could be developed with the appropriate preparation and suitable seed mix to suit the area whether it is damp, shady, wet or dry. He emphasised that there was a need for a sterile planting media, seeding at the right time (late Summer or early Spring), ongoing maintenance after germination and in late summer cutting back of the dead vegetation. He cited several local examples where a very good display would deteriorate after several years and perennials might be a preferred option with spring bulbs interspersed.

178. It was agreed that any work would have to begin in 2016 and Councillor Robinson agreed to obtain costs for the development of flowerbeds on the Green. The exact siting of such a bed would have to be agreed.

179. The meeting then focussed on the issues that had been raised by residents about the 2 areas on the Green that had not been mown since the failure of the wild flower seed planting in 2014.

180. It was agreed that there was a need to take action to improve the areas of concern. A full and frank exchange of views and opinions followed which led to several proposals and agreements as follows.

- a. That the area around the tree by the old library was satisfactory and be maintained as it is.
- b. That the area to the south of the Green be left and mowed only up to the existing longer grass.

- c. It was proposed and agreed after a vote of 7:3 in favour that the area around the lime tree on the Green be mowed and tidied as soon as possible.
- d. It was proposed and agreed after a vote of 9:1 in favour that the area at the top of the Green be cut down and cleared and the brambles removed at the same time.
- e. The Clerk was instructed to action this as soon as possible with Greenfingers. The Clerk pointed out he would but there would be additional costs and not to expect surfaces similar to the rest of the Green immediately.
- f. The triangle of land at the junction of Longton Road and the Green could be a discrete area to be developed for wildflowers initially as this would have a visual impact and that Councillor Robinson estimate the cost of this for 2016.

Remembrance Sunday arrangements

181. These were in hand and the police had been requested to support the procession.

Matters arising from the Open Forum

182. The Council welcomed the work of Claire Barnett and would pursue the idea of a play are; the main issue would be the raising of funds and the most suitable location for a playground.

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

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

184. It was noted that there had been a recent burglary in the village.

Any other business – Agenda items for the Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday November 3rd. 2015

185. Councillor Linehan would seek to find a local handyman to attend to the emptying of the litter bins on the canal.

186. It was agreed to look at the 2016/17 precept issues.

Note by Clerk

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

Village Hall Committee Report

188. The Chairman reported on two new members to the Committee- Sandie Buxton & David Stonier.

189. The bookings were steady and the new kitchen had been well received.

Chairman

