

Minutes of the Barlaston Annual Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 25 April 2018

Present:

Cllr G Jones (Chair)
Cllr P Fisher (Vice Chair)
Cllr I Moran
Cllr I Macmillan

Cllr S Hall
Cllr D Norman
Cllr D Westwood
Cllr S Tudor

In attendance: Mrs K St Leger (Clerk / Returning Financial Officer)

Members of the public

Under Schedule 12 of Part III of the Local Government Act 1972 the Parish Council Chairman presided

1 Apologies were received from Cllrs O'Dunne and Philpott, it was resolved to accept these.

2. Financial Matters 2017/2018 compared with 2018/2019 plans

Financial information was issued (see Appendix A) detailing expenditure during 2017/18 and proposed expenditure in 2018/2019.

3. Chairman's Report

"This report covers Parish Council activities for 2017

At the beginning of 2017 the Council was expecting to be charged by HMRC for unpaid taxes and fines for late returns and in consequence there was a major increase in the parish precept. Despite many requests for clarification of the position, no information has been forthcoming from HMRC so the provision to cover possible liabilities still stands.

It is pleasing to report that the Council's policies and procedures have been reviewed, the accounts have been fully audited and approved and the Council is in a strong financial position. The work and dedication to duty of Karen St Leger in supporting the Parish Council is greatly appreciated and believed to be welcomed generally in the Village.

During 2017 Tony Dodd who represented Barlaston Park for many years resigned so that he could pursue other musical interests and he has been replaced by Dean Westwood. Tony was Vice Chairman of the Council for many years and his contribution to village life has been greatly appreciated, Sadly Patrick Linehan who was one of the representatives for Barlaston East died suddenly in the early autumn. Patrick was a strong link between the Council and other village organisations such as the Village Hall and the Community Group. He was Chairman of both. Patrick is greatly missed both on the Council and in the Village. His place on the Council has been taken by David Norman of Cocknage.

John Barnett of Meadow Road resigned as he was expecting to relocate his family and he was replaced by Mrs Sue Tudor of Nursery Gardens

Work has progressed on the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan and it is expected that it will pass through its final stages in 2018 so that it can be adopted by referendum. It is perhaps worth commenting that the major development site in the village, the old Wedgwood Memorial College site, remains unsold six years after closure.

During 2017 a major initiative was undertaken to re-invigorate the passenger transport scheme in the village and thanks go to Mrs Irene Moran for her hard work in gaining financial support and in securing an increase in drivers. This is a very important village service greatly appreciated by residents who have no cars. Irene has also worked closely with Environmental Services at Stafford Borough Council in an attempt to control the problems caused by dog fouling.

The work of Joe Poultney in maintaining the planters throughout the village has been very effective and the Village has greatly benefitted from his efforts.

The Council has maintained a close liaison with the Cumberland House practice over the future of the Health Centre in the Village. This work has also involved senior management at the Clinical Care Commissioning Group at Stafford.

Primary Care services are in crisis in many parts of the country and Barlaston is no different.

Traffic remains a major concern locally and preparatory work has been undertaken to establish better speed control measures, the benefit of which should be felt in 2018. There is concern regarding the possible impact on the Village of the upgrading of the M6 between junctions 13 and 15

The level of planning activity has been low in comparison with other parts of Stafford Borough. Nevertheless, the Planning Committee has been very active in reviewing applications and commenting where appropriate.

I am very grateful to all the Parish Councillors for their support over the past year and for the way that they ensured that the Council agenda was progressed.

*Gareth Jones
April 2017"*

A PowerPoint presentation was given regarding the responsibilities of the Parish Council. With regards to areas where the Parish Council have no responsibility, liaison between other agencies is undertaken on behalf of residents.

Key items the Parish Council Are Responsible For:

- Planning Applications
- Maintenance of Assets
 - The Village Green including trees
 - The WW1 War Memorial
 - The MUGA
 - Various Planters, benches and items around the village
 - Undertaking grass cutting on behalf of the County Council
- The Village Hall as Sole Trustee
- Supporting key initiatives

Key items the Parish Council Are Not Responsible For:

- **Maintenance of roads including pot holes**
- Foot path maintenance
- The Canal
- Flooding and surface water issues
- Clearing of gutters and gullies
- Tree Maintenance
- Removal of fly tipping
- Maintenance of the Cemetery
- Speeding
- Libraries
- Transport
- Health Services
- Mud on the roads
- Land and assets owned by Stafford & Rural Homes

4. Open Forum

Residents were surprised with regards to the areas the PC have no responsibility. The information was useful. It was noted the response to the meeting from the residents was poor, this needed to be addressed for the next Annual Parish Meeting. Multiple methods of communication will be considered including social media, leaflets and the re-introduction of the Heron.

Questions were received regarding the financial breakdown.

Date of Next Meetings

Parish Council Meeting 1 May 2018 Ruth Dickson Meeting Room, Barlaston Village Hall

Appendix A

Financial Matters 2017/2018 compared with 2018/2019

INCOME	2017/2018	2018/2019
Precept (Council Tax)	£65,251.00	£65,251.00
CGI Grant	£4,752.00	£4,752.00
Staffordshire County Council Grass Cutting Contribution	£3,129.60	£3,129.60
Lease for Cricket Club	£1.00	£1.00
VAT Reclaim	£1,420.06	£2,500.00
	£74,553.66	£75,633.60

Expenditure	Expenditure		
Salaries	£11,046.00	£11,377.00	
Expenses	£1,230.00	£1,430.00	
HMRC / NI	£670.00	£850.00	
Environmental Officer	£2,515.00	£2,590.00	
Grass Cutting	£3,796.94	£4,000.00	
Lengthsman	£0.00	£1,500.00	
Grounds Maintenance (Planters / footpath clearance)	£700.00	£700.00	
Civic Amenity Visits	£312.50	£390.00	
Insurance	£1,088.51	£1,088.51	
	£21,358.95	£23,925.51	
Asset Repairs / Replacement		Asset Repairs / Replacement	
New PC	£665.00	Speed Gates	£1,300.00
Repair notice boards / fix litter bin	£175.00	WWI Monument Restoration	£1,500.00
Defibrillator maintenance (Pads/Batteries)	£156.30	Defibrillator maintenance (Pads/Batteries)	£250.00
Update Village Map	£17.00	Paint MUGA (materials)	£250.00
Document Safe	£197.00		
MUGA (remove skate Ramp)	£50.00		
Speed Gun / Tuning Fork	£110.00		
New Bin MUGA	£145.00		
	£1,515.30		£5,300.00
Consultancy	£11,917.21		£1,000.00
Training		Training	
Staff	£174.00	Including CILCA	£2,850.00
Councillors	£55.00	Councillors - Inc Planning Course	£300.00
	£229.00		£3,150.00
Auditor / Accountancy Fees	£800.90		£825.00
Software - Accountancy	£667.50		£702.50
Licencing Section 115e Agreements	£200.00		£200.00
Data Protection Fees (GDPR)	£0.00		£1,000.00
Web Hosting / Maintenance	£375.00		£375.00
Neighbourhood Plan	£4,845.35		£500.00
Neighbourhood Plan Grant Return	£1,265.47		£0.00
	£8,154.22		£3,602.50
Grant Payments			
Village Hall Maintenance	£1,107.00	Open Gardens Event	£350.00
Poppy Appeal	£250.00	Cricket Club Firework Event	£300.00
Cricket Club Firework Event	£250.00	Graveyard Maintenance	£1,000.00
Graveyard Maintenance	£1,812.50	B Festival	£750.00
Prostate Cancer Event	£60.00		
B Festival	£500.00		
Volunteers Car Scheme	£100.00		
Barlaston Village Show Committee	£25.00		
Trig point replacement contribution	£85.00		
	£4,189.50		£4,300.00
Subscriptions - SPCA / NALC / ICO / SLCC / SPFA	£503.00		£600.00
Conferences	£249.00		£250.00
Chairman's Allowance	£250.00		£250.00
Land Lease Stafford Borough Council	£20.00		£10.00
	£1,022.00		£1,110.00
	£48,386.18		£42,388.01