Barlaston Parish Council – September 2025

Community Projects

A resident has suggested adding seating near the children's play area at Barlaston Park, making it easier for parents to watch their children on the play equipment. The land belongs to Stafford Borough Council, but the Parish Council will explore whether this is possible. The lease for the land off Meadow Road has been negotiated and will be ready to sign at the next full council meeting.

Safety and Security

Wedgwood Memorial College has been highlighted as a concern after it became unsecured following the apparent theft of security fencing, attracting trespassers and urban explorers. The Parish Council has contacted the Police, who are maintaining increased vigilance. The Clerk is also attempting to contact the site owners.

Finance and Governance

The external auditor issued a clean report for the 2024/25 accounts, with no matters of concern. The audited documents, including the AGAR and the Notice of Conclusion of Audit, have been published on the council website and on the noticeboard at Orchard Place. The council also approved new policies for investment and IT. A grant of £150 was awarded to the Barlaston Community Group to support litter-picking volunteers with protective clothing.

We welcomed two new councillors: Cllr Olivia Sear, representing Barlaston West Ward, and Cllr Sue Thomas, representing Barlaston Park. We are delighted to have them join the council.

Equipment and Infrastructure

The council is considering electronic devices for councillors and the Clerk to improve accessibility, reduce paper and ink usage, comply with GDPR, and better secure council information. A replacement speed gun for the Speedwatch group and a new planter for Orchard Place were approved. The Chain of Office will be sent for additional silver bars to show the names of recent Chairmen. As a key asset of the council and village, it is important to keep it updated.

We're also looking forward to seeing the newly restored Level Crossing notice board back in place, with a new map of the village approved at this meeting. The board will feature a QR code linking to a history of the Barlaston station - a beautiful addition for residents and visitors. Many thanks to the volunteers who contributed their time to make this possible.

Neighbourhood Planning Support and Other Updates
The Parish Council has sent a letter urging the continuation of dedicated funding and support for Neighbourhood Plans to our MP.

Remedial works will take place at the Downs Car Park later in the year, reusing the existing hedge. The Methodist Church has been successfully registered as an Asset of Community Value for five years. The repainting of the goal posts has been completed, with thanks expressed to the volunteer who kindly carried out the work.

Health, Safety and Environmental Matters
Emergency tree works were carried out on Village Green in August following damage to tree T20. The tree was found to be unsafe, and remedial works were authorised by the Clerk.

Following residents' concerns about trees on the Village Green potentially obscuring drivers' visibility at the junction of Station Road and Longton Road, the Clerk raised a query with County Highways. The case was closed, confirming that the clearance and views from the junction are acceptable.

In September, a lifted manhole cover and foul sewage were reported on the pathway at Downs Car Park. Severn Trent attended promptly, identified a blocked grid, and will clear and sanitise the pathway to ensure it is safe for public use.

The annual ROSPA inspection report was received, and minor remedial work will be scheduled for the MUGA and the Wild Play Area.

Next Meeting
The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday 14 October 2025 at 7:15pm** at the Methodist Church Hall.