Barlaston Parish Council – November 2025:

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 9 December at 7:15pm at the Methodist Church Hall. Residents are always welcome to attend the public forum to raise issues and stay involved in decisions affecting the village.

Village Improvements and Assets

The Council has approved several important purchases and improvements to village facilities:

- **Bus Stop Bench:** A new 100% recycled bench will be installed to replace the damaged one at the Station Road bus stop.
- **Village Entry Gates:** Work will soon begin on installing two new, high-quality, low-maintenance timber-effect gates at the entrance to the village on Meaford Road.

  The existing gates were badly damaged during a recent storm and are now beyond economic repair. With approximately 640,000 vehicles passing along the road every year, the new gates will provide a clear and attractive visual gateway, reinforcing that drivers are entering a residential area and encouraging them to slow down.
- **Orchard Place Noticeboard:** The noticeboard is now in a poor condition: one door is broken and the Perspex on both car-park-facing doors has become opaque due to prolonged sun exposure, making notices almost impossible to read.

  We have obtained costings for repair/replacement of the doors and Perspex, but these are proving high. The Council is therefore also seeking quotations for a new noticeboard to provide a more durable and cost-effective long-term solution.
- **MUGA Remedial Works:** The Parish Council has approved additional investment to fully refurbish the MUGA, with work scheduled for March–April 2026 (weather permitting). The project will involve comprehensive repair of the existing surface, cleaning, sealing and repainting with a new durable coating, and fresh line markings for both basketball and 5-a-side football. This major overhaul will extend the life of the facility for many years and ensure it remains a safe and attractive asset for children and young people in the village.

The Council has approved a new secure laptop for the Clerk. To improve data security, ensure full GDPR compliance and make council business easier and more inclusive for all members, the Council is exploring providing parish-owned tablets together with a Mobile Device Management system. Quotations are being obtained.

Play Parks and Community Spaces

The inaugural Play Park Working Group met to discuss plans for the Meadow Road Play Area. Consultation plans will be brought to the next Council meeting for approval, potentially in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Plan. The next meeting of the working group is scheduled for 6 December.

Barlaston Community Speedwatch – 12-Month Summary (Oct 2024 – Sep 2025)

Our dedicated Speedwatch volunteers have again been out with radar guns and they have been monitoring the council's Speed Indication Devices. The latest figures make sobering reading:

- **Meaford Road** – 642,000 vehicles recorded over the year (approx. 2,000 per day). Average speed 35 mph, with 38% of vehicles exceeding 35 mph and 1,500 travelling at 60 mph or more. The highest speed recorded was an astonishing 110 mph.
- **Old Road** – 167,000 vehicles (600 daily). Despite the narrow road, bends and nearby homes, 8% exceeded 35 mph and speeds up to 66 mph were recorded.
- **Station Road** – 299,000 vehicles (1,000 daily). A busy route past the school and village green crossroads. 9% over 35 mph, with peaks of 86 mph.

These statistics underline why Barlaston Speedwatch remains so important. A huge thank-you to the team for their time and commitment - and a reminder to all drivers: please slow down and keep our village safe.

Grants and Community Support: The Council has awarded grants to support local groups:

- **St John's Church:** £35 towards printing Orders of Service for Remembrance Sunday.
- **Barlaston Village Hall:** £1,500 towards essential plumbing and heating works.

Other Updates

- **Cricket Club Lease:** Nearing completion, with signing expected soon.
- **Speed Indication Device Batteries:** Replacement batteries have been provided to the Speedwatch group and a new Speeg Gun has been purchased.
- **Defibrillator Pads:** Replaced to maintain emergency readiness.
- **Planters:** Thanks to Joe Poultney who has planted our troughs with winter flowers.
- **Tree Survey:** Scheduled for January 2026.

Looking Ahead
The Parish Council's Finance Committee will reconvene in January to finalise the 2026/27 budget and precept requirement.

Viv O'Dunne - Clerk to Barlaston Parish Council