Barlaston Parish Council – March 2026:

The Parish Council met on 10 March 2026 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. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 April at 7:15pm in the Methodist Church Hall. Agendas for all meetings are published on the Parish Council website and displayed on notice boards at Orchard Place, Barlaston Park, The Country Cabin, and the Village Hall.

Community Safety and Local Updates

County Councillor Bagguley provided updates on local issues including efforts to reduce mud on the roads, surface water issues, damaged verges at Barlaston Park, and speed monitoring. Councillors noted that average speed checks undertaken in January on Station Road did not reflect the speed/volume of vehicles during school crossing times. Cllr Bagguley has offered to visit and observe the traffic at these times. Visits from the mobile enforcement speed van continue. The Parish Council thanked Cllr Bagguley for his prompt assistance with clearing the Old Road pavement after hedge cutting last month.

Play Parks and Community Spaces

Renovation and resurfacing of the Multi-use Games Area at Barlaston Park will hopefully have taken place by the time you get to read this.

Community Initiatives and Awards

The Parish Council was delighted to consider the nominations for Villager of the Year 2025. After careful review, it was resolved to award the title to Tim Cockin, recognising his extraordinary voluntary contributions to village life. Tim has organised the Barlaston Wassail for 21 years, a free, historically themed event attracting visitors from across Staffordshire. He creates all the props, manages the script, and leads the torch-lit walk. Beyond the Wassail, Tim runs the Barlaston History Snippets Facebook group, has produced village maps, researches local history, writes engaging articles, maintains hedgerows, supports Wombling events, and actively promotes community engagement across all generations. Tim's creativity, energy, and dedication have made him a cornerstone of Barlaston village life.

Certificates of Commendation will be awarded to three outstanding residents:

- Claire Bailey – For over 22 years of service to Barlaston Cricket Club, mentoring juniors as Junior Co-ordinator, supporting women and girls' cricket, and serving as Vice-Chair. She is also Vice-Chair of Barlaston First School PTA and a trustee for Barlaston & Tittensor Scouts, showing remarkable commitment to youth and community development.
- Sandie Buxton – A stalwart of village life, Sandie has contributed as Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee, organised community events such as Golden

Agers parties and concerts, delivered the Parish Gazette, volunteered with the Womblers, participated in Speedwatch, and leads walks for Strollers & Striders. Her decades of dedication and practical support have strengthened the fabric of village life.

- Dennis Croome – For his leadership and dedication to the local church and wider community, Dennis has maintained services, pastoral support, and family ceremonies during gaps in leadership. He communicates actively via social media and newsletters, ensuring residents are informed and engaged, while also supporting charities and village initiatives across generations.

The award ceremony will take place on Sunday 3 May 2026 at St John's Church, 10:30am. All residents are warmly invited to attend. Following the presentations, a finger buffet and refreshments will be served. This annual recognition celebrates the spirit of volunteering and highlights the vital contributions of individuals who make Barlaston such a thriving and welcoming community.

Viv O'Dunne
Clerk to Barlaston Parish Council – clerk@barlastonparishcouncil.gov.uk