



**Barrowford
Parish Council
Annual Report
2011-12**

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Membership of the Council

Carr Hall

Cllr. R. Oliver Vice Chairman

Cllr. P. Maltby

Cllr. R.J. Nelson

Newbridge

Cllr. A. Stringer

Cllr. A. Vickerman

Cllr. T. Titchiner

Central Ward

Cllr. E. Jackson

Cllr. B. Norcross

Cllr. Holgate

Cllr. S. Nike Vice Chairman GP Committee

Higherford

Cllr. J. Begley Chairman GP Committee

Cllr. J. Pope Chairman of the Council

Holmefield House

After 5 years as offices and a monitoring centre for Housing Pendle Holmefield House became vacant and was declared surplus by Pendle Borough Council and was to be offered for sale on the open market. After discussions between the Parish Council and Barrowford Borough Councillors it was decided to try and save the building for public use.

With the support of the Area Committee the Parish Council approached Pendle Borough Council and the first question asked was can we have the building for free, but due to the central government reductions in funding to the Borough this was rejected. The Parish Council negotiated to buy the building for £50,000 a small fraction of its true value.

Holmefield House was signed over to the Parish Council at the end of January and is undergoing extensive refurbishment phased over several years. Around £30,000 of external funding has been found towards these renovation costs with £9,800 from Awards for All and £20,000 from the Area Committee. The first phase of the works is nearing completion and it is hoped that the Luncheon Club will move in before long.

Friends of Holmefield House

It is intended that the community side of Holmefield House will be managed by a group of volunteers with a management committee consisting of predominantly users with a small proportion of parish councillors. An open day is to be arranged for Saturday 9th June from 10am until 3pm. anyone can attend and if you wish to use Holmefield house or be part of the Friends please come along.

Barrowford in Bloom

Barrowford Parish Council in cooperation with the newly formed Barrowford Environmental Action Group and other interested parties entered Barrowford into

the 2011 Northwest in Bloom Competition and was awarded a Silver Gilt the second highest award. Interested parties have since formed a fully constituted Barrowford in Bloom group to run this year's entry. The Parish Council will support the group where possible in all their endeavours and feels that these Community Led organisations improve village participation and a sense of belonging to Barrowford. Judging will again take place in July so please help wherever you can.

Christmas Decorations

The decorations for 2011/12 saw no expansion to the scheme as budget reductions at Pendle Borough Council restricted additional expense, but the decorations were again up to the usual high standards.

Allotments

The mania for self sufficiency and "growing your own" still shows no sign of abating with demand for allotments outstripping supply. The current average waiting time for an allotment is has been reduced from last years 9 months for most sites. This has been achieved by splitting larger allotments into two and improving the most neglected plots before offering for let. The upsurge in interest has improved the Council's rental income from allotments in the last

Remembrance Sunday Service

Once again the combined Barrowford Churches Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade was very well attended with the Nelson and District Branch of the Royal British Legion providing both a Standard Bearer and a Parade Marshall. The Parish Council provides the funding for this event and helps with the organisation and logistics on the day and supports the Royal British Legion wherever possible.

Carol Service in the Cruck Barn

The Carol service in the Cruck Barn grows year on year with increasing attendance and is like the Remembrance Sunday a true co-operation between the churches of Barrowford with financial and logistical support from the Parish Council. The Parish Council would like to acknowledge and thank the Heritage Trust for the Northwest for the provision of the barn.

Best Kept Garden Competition

The Best Kept Garden Competition saw its 21st anniversary and continues to grow and goes from strength to strength in both the quantity and quality of the entries. New categories have been introduced over the last few years to make the competition both more open and inclusive to all villagers from a small hanging basket a large formal garden so why not enter? The Council held a presentation night at Barrowford Working Men's Club with around eighty competitors and friends attending. The judge was again Kevin Singleton and he was amazed at the quality of the gardens within Barrowford and the friendly camaraderie and community spirit that was shown at the presentation night and hopes that the competition will continue to be successful for many years.

Friends of Barrowford Park

The Friends Group applied for an Award for All Grant and was awarded £9,047 to create a viewing area overlooking both the salmon ladder and the caul, create a picnic area overlooking the best aspects of the park near the cemetery and do some planting around both the bog garden and memorial garden.

The project has been a close co-operation between the Friends the Parish Council the Parks and the Heritage Centre with the Parish Council undertaking the majority

of the work on behalf of the Friends Group. The viewing area was completed last summer and has proved exceptionally popular both with villagers and visitors. Construction work on the picnic sites has begun and completion is hoped to be by the end of June, with the area also being planted with a wildflower mix to add colour and habitat to the area. It is hoped that all works including planting will be completed by the end of the summer.

Contacting Your Parish Council

If you wish to contact the Council the office is open to the public: **Tuesdays 1.00-3.00pm, Thursdays 10.00-12.00am, Saturday 10.00-12.00am** The Clerk can be contacted on Tel. 01282 619738 if the Clerk is not available please leave a message and the Clerk will return your call as soon as he returns.

Council Meetings for 2011 – 12

At the Full Council meeting there is a 15 minute Public Question Time where members of the public can ask a question regarding any Council matter not on that meetings agenda. The Council will endeavour to answer the question there and then or write with an answer as soon as possible.

If members of the public wish to speak on any agenda item they must contact the Clerk before 12.00 noon on the day of the meeting to confirm which agenda item you wish to speak on. If it is not possible to contact the Clerk prior to the meeting they may still be allowed to speak at the discretion of the Chairman of the meeting.

Members of the public and press are quite welcome to attend both the Full Council meetings and The General Purposes Committee meetings.

Full Council Meeting

7.00pm 20th June 2012
7.00pm 18th July 2012
7.00pm 15th August 2012
7.00pm 19th September 2012
7.00pm 17th October 2012
7.00pm 21st November 2012
7.00pm 19th December 2012
7.00pm 16th January 2013
7.00pm 20th February 2013
7.00pm 20th March 2013
7.00pm 17th April 2012
Annual Meeting 7.00pm 15th May 2013
Annual Meeting of the Council 7.30pm
15th May 2013

General Purpose Meeting

7.00pm 6th June 2012
7.00pm 4th July 2012
No Meeting
7.00pm 5th September 2012
7.00pm 3rd October 2012
7.00pm 7th November 2012
7.00pm 5th December 2012
No Meeting
7.00pm 6th February 2013
7.00pm 6th March 2013
7.00pm 3rd April 2013
7.00pm 1st May 2013

Finances 2011-2012

Overview

The continuing financial climate has seen further reductions in funding to both Borough and County Councils coupled with zero community charge increases which continue to put pressure on the non essential services that are provided within Barrowford this has resulted in the closure of the Civic Hall, the loss of the Locality working Officer for Barrowford and the Western Parishes and massive reductions in the funding for the Parks which will increase pressure on the Friends Groups to source funding.

Income

Income for 2011-12 was £131,324.12 with £71,825 being the precept. Allotment rents and water charges provided £7,461.50. Income from interest is still at a very low level compared to a few years ago and looks set to stop low for the foreseeable future. Grants of £45,333 were awarded from outside bodies to the Parish for various projects.

Expenditure

The total expenditure for 2011-12 was £94,093.51 a breakdown can be seen in the balance sheet.

Unaudited Balance Sheet 2011-12

The following is the unaudited balance sheet for the year 2011 -12.

Balance Sheet Receipts & Payments Accounts 2011-2012

Unaudited

Receipts

Payments

Grant	9,628.00	Administration	7,609.39
Precept	71,825.00	Wages & Salaries	51,394.59
Allotment Rents	6,153.50	Events/Donations	1,993.39
Allotment water	1,308.00	Works	6,501.62
Interest	46.49	Allotments	2,640.93
Others (Inc. Donations)	315.00	Council Office	2,105.85
Grants to Projects	35,705.00	Projects	16,884.95
Outstanding Vat Reclaim 2010-11	2,807.85		
Vat Reclaims	3,535.28	Vat Paid	4,962.79
Total Receipts	131,324.12	Total Payments	94,093.51
Total Receipts	131,324.12		
Total Payments	94,093.51		
Receipts Over Payments	37,230.61		
Opening Balance	37,245.55		
01/04/2011			

Closing Balance

Total	74,476.16	31/03/2012	74,476.16
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Prepared by Iain Lord Clerk to the Council May 2012

