



**Barrowford
Parish Council
Annual Report
2016-17**

Barrowford Parish Council

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Membership of the Council

Carr Hall

Cllr. R. Oliver Chairman of the Council	Cllr. R. Windley, Vice-Chairman of the Council
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Cllr. G. Gibson

Newbridge

Cllr. A. Stringer, Vice-Chairman GP Committee	Cllr. A. Vickerman
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Cllr. T. Titchiner

Central Ward

Cllr. S. Nike, Chairman GP Committee	Cllr. B. Norcross
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Cllr. P. Thompson	Vacancy
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Higherford

Cllr. K. Turner	Cllr. M. Waddington
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Changes to the Council and Councillors during 2016-17

Cllr. Jackson left the Council and a vacancy exists which is advertised both at Holmefield House and the Central Ward notice board at the Fleece.

Holmefield House

Renovation of the buildings at Holmefield House has been completed. The next phase is the creation of an extended car park to the side and a vegetable growing area for the Luncheon Club. Use of the building has expanded with activities or meetings most days except Sunday. Users now include: Pendle Borough Council's Area Committee, Pub Watch, Barrowford in Bloom, the Friends of Barrowford Memorial Park, Mr. A. Stephenson MP, The Luncheon Club, Knit & Natter, Yoga Clubs, Pendle Crafters, Dancersize and DJ Sessions for teenagers.

Friends of Holmefield House

The Friends Group continues to organise activities and events both within

the building and outdoor on the field. Several Craft and Car boot fairs were held, but due to inclement weather attendance at some was low. The Group has helped to fund new chairs for the lounge. The Group's organising committee holds its meetings at Holmefield House and if you want any further information, or to make a booking, contact the Chairman, Linda Crossley, on 760199.

The Luncheon Club

The Luncheon Club has had a steady third year with numbers attending averaging between 16 and 20. Several themed party days have taken place. These special events have been made possible by generous donations from the Barrowford Lifestyle Event and a Fund Raising Evening organised and hosted by Claire Byrne Acupuncture & Holistic Therapy of Barrowford. There is still room for further attendance, with the room catering for up to 25 members. The Luncheon Club provided over 821 meals last year in a warm inviting setting. If you would like to attend please contact the Clerk, Iain Lord, on 696349.

Christmas Decorations

2016 was the second year that all Christmas decorations within Barrowford were funded by the Parish Council. The tree at Dickie Nook was refurbished during the summer ready for the December switch-on and the Council also installed around seventy trees to shop frontages. The Council will supply trees to other shops and businesses along the main road if the owner/proprietor will install a suitable outside socket at first floor level and light the trees throughout the Christmas period.

Allotments

Allotments seem to be as popular as ever on some sites, but there are some vacant plots, particularly at Lower Clough Street. If you would like an allotment please contact the Clerk on 696349 for an application form.

Remembrance Sunday Service

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

Carol Service in the Cruck Barn

The Carol Service in the Cruck Barn was enjoyed by all who attended and

was followed by coffee and a mince pie in the Heritage Centre. The Parish Council will continue to assist the local churches in organising and preparing for this important village event. The Parish Council wish it to be noted that this event could not continue without the support and use of the Heritage Centre and its staff.

Best Kept Garden Competition

The Best Kept Garden Competition continues to thrive. The Presentation Night was held at Holmefield House with around 50 competitors and friends attending. The judging was done by a small group of councillors, and highlighted the quality of gardens within Barrowford. Awards were presented by Cllr. Oliver, Chairman of the Council.

Barrowford Memorial Park

Pendle Borough Council's plan to devolve maintenance of parks to Parish & Town Councils moved a step forward with its intentions being marked by a £90,000 cut in the parks maintenance budget for 2017-18.

Barrowford Parish Council had already been engaged in negotiations with Pendle that will enable the Parish, instead of just funding maintenance, to take ownership of both the Park and the buildings and land leased to the Heritage Centre.

Payments representing one third of the maintenance costs will be made to Pendle during 2017-18 to continue maintenance at the present level. It is envisaged that the freehold will be transferred during 2018-19.

The Council intends to work closely with The Friends Group, who hold regular work sessions within the Park; their cooperation will help with future decision making.

Public Toilets in the Village Centre (former Fleece Inn site)

Barrowford Parish Council took over the Fleece Toilets after numerous requests from various sources. The toilets had been closed for around a year after Pendle removed funding. Remedial work including new doors has been carried out and charging introduced. The charges were not designed to bring in income but to act as a means of restricting access during night time.

Public Toilets at the Bowling Pavilion

The Council also inherited the cleaning and maintenance of the toilets at the Bowling Pavilion in Barrowford Park. These were the converted disabled toilet with a coin operated access and a RADAR key for the disabled. The initial cost to Pendle was around £3000 with most of the funding coming from the Barrowford and Western Parishes Area Committee.

This mechanism was fraught with teething problems and, sadly, when finally working, was smashed to pieces, gaining the perpetrator less than £10.

The unit was replaced by Pendle Borough Council on the understanding that any future responsibility would fall to the parish at a cost of around £2500. This unit lasted around six months before it too was smashed to pieces two days after it was emptied, netting less than £2. The perpetrator also took the opportunity of smashing through the ceilings and into the pavilion where some damage was done.

Discussions have taken place between Pendle Borough Council, Barrowford Parish Council and the Friends of Barrowford Memorial Park and sadly the conclusion was that these toilets should remain closed.

Bus Shelters & Roadside Benches

Pendle Borough Council resolved to stop funding both bus shelters and benches, compelling Parish & Town Councils to either take on future maintenance or, when the individual item reached the end of its useful life, seeing it removed forever.

Benches

The benches were transferred first, with several being in a shocking state of disrepair. The Parish Council has implemented a repair programme starting with the worst benches first. The work is carried out in house when time allows and during the year seven benches were refurbished, with a rolling programme continuing until all benches are of a uniform standard.

Bus Shelters

The transfer of bus shelters was delayed due to negotiations regarding essential repairs. In particular the shelter at Dickie Nook needed a self-seeded tree removing as it was slowly pushing the shelter, causing stress fractures to the wall. It was decided jointly for Pendle to retain and monitor this shelter for a further twelve months before transfer.

The agreement was drawn up to transfer the other shelters when an unidentified vehicle collided with the Dickie Nook shelter leaving it structurally unsound. Pendle Borough Council had no option but to proceed to its immediate demolition.

Pendle Borough Council contacted the Parish stating that the shelter would not be replaced and that the site therefore need not be transferred. But the Parish Council, having acquired a shelter from the Lancaster area, offered to install it and a grant was made available from the Area Committee for the installation costs.

The cost of a new replacement shelter would not have been met by Pendle and far exceeded the budgeted funds available to the Parish.

The joint actions taken have seen a replacement shelter installed at Dickie Nook and a new Parish Noticeboard within the funds that were available.

The Parish Council has started routine maintenance of bus shelters, with all shelters being power washed to remove years of grime. Some of them will need to be re-painted during 2017-18.

Other Assets Devolved from Pendle BC

Barrowford Parish Council agreed the devolvment of several small pieces of land within the village which the Parish Council felt could ultimately come under threat of development or alternative uses. These pieces include the land between Broadway and Gisburn Road, the Rose Garden between Gisburn Road and Church Street, the triangle of land between Hill Top and Church Street and a narrow strip of land on Riverway which forms the entrance to the car park to the rear of the shops.

To offset the maintenance costs the Parish negotiated the transfer of the three garages at Hill Top and the garage site situated between Pendle Street and Holme Street, which generate sufficient income to currently maintain the devolved sites.

The aim of the Parish was over time to enter into similar agreements so that ownership and maintenance of public spaces would return to a local level, whilst offsetting the additional financial cost by the transfer of other essential assets that generate an income.

Unfortunately, due to perceived potential asset stripping for no effective savings, Pendle has currently suspended these types of public asset transfer.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan has progressed through the year and is currently at a stage where the next Draft Plan is ready to go before the full Council and then progressing to a six week public consultation. Following re-assessment in light of any responses received, it can move on to Inspection and finally public referendum.

Disposal of Former Parish Office

Barrowford Parish Council sold its former office during the year after it had been on the market for over a year. The income generated from the sale can only be used as a capital receipt and spent on future capital projects.

The bulk of the money will be spent on extending and resurfacing the car park at Holmefield House, including the widening of both entrances to allow a one way system to operate. £10,000 has been allocated as match funding to a Grant from BWPAC for mowing equipment, with the balance being put into reserves for future capital spending.

Joint Ventures and outside Funding

Barrowford Parish Council has been working in co-operation with other organisations for improvements to areas and institutions where these can be achieved. There have been several projects in joint venture with the Barrowford Lifestyle Event, including the pruning of trees, shrubs and bushes on the area between Broadway and Gisburn Road, the provision of a public defibrillator at the Fleece Toilets, and a generous donation to the refurbishment of the pavilion at Barrowford Cricket Club. The support received from the Lifestyle Festival was around £5,000, which enabled unfunded work to be carried out.

Barrowford Cricket Club:

Barrowford Cricket Club's pavilion had in recent years declined to the status of a semi derelict building. The secretary Mr. J. Ormerod contacted the council as the club was near to closing due to the lack of usable facilities. The Council agreed that the club needed to be supported and helped to survive. A working group was set up with members including Cllr. Crossley, officers from Pendle BC community team and representatives of the parish.

During 2016-17 the main structural problems such as the leaking roof, collapsed ceilings, and doors and windows were addressed, along with refurbishment of the changing rooms and immediate repairs to toilets. By the start of the 2016 season the pavilion was beginning to look loved again. During the spring of 2017 the kitchen was replaced with one donated by Howdens of Nelson.

The Parish Council oversaw these works, with council handymen carrying out much of the refurbishment with the aid of local tradesmen.

Funding for materials was received from the following organisations:

Police Commissioner for Lancashire, Howdens Joinery Co Nelson Branch, Barrowford Lifestyle Festival, Pendle Powerfest, Barrowford & Western Parishes Area Committee, Pendle Blinds and Barrowford Parish Council.

Barrowford Parish Council would like to acknowledge and thank Mr. G. Whitehead and Mrs. A. Drinkwater from the Pendle Community Team for their help and assistance through the year.

Contacting Your Parish Council

If you wish to contact the Council, the office at Holmefield House is open to the public on **Tuesdays 1.00-3.00 pm, Thursdays 10.00-12.00 am, and Saturday 10.00-12.00 am**. The Clerk can be contacted on 01282 696349. If he is not available, please leave a message and he will return your call as soon as he returns, or you can email to barrowfordpc@barrowford.org.uk.

Council Meetings for 2017 – 18

At Full Council meetings there is a 15 minute Public Question Time where members of the public can ask a question regarding any Council matter not on that meeting's 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 they 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	General Purposes Meeting
7.00pm 21st June 2017	Cancelled due to Election
7.00pm 19 th July 2017	7.00pm 5 th July 2017
7.00pm 16 th August 2017	No Meeting
7.00pm 20 th September 2017	7.00pm 6 th September 2017
7.00pm 18 th October 2017	7.00pm 4 th October 2017
7.00pm 15 th November 2017	7.00pm 1 st November 2017
7.00pm 6 th December 2017	No Meeting
7.00pm 17 th January 2018	No Meeting
7.00pm 21 st February 2018	7.00pm 7 th February 2018
7.00pm 21 st March 2018	7.00pm 7 th March 2018
7.00pm 19 th April 2018	7.00pm 4 th April 2018

The above meeting dates are provisional and are subject to approval by the Council at its Annual Meeting on the 24th May 2016.

The Annual Meeting with the Electorate and the Annual Meeting of the Council for 2018 will be held on the 16th May 2018. This may be subject to change but must be held in May.

Finances 2016 – 17

Overview

The grant from Pendle was phased out for 2016-17 but a redressing of the Council's tax base has increased the amount of income generated per £1 of precept and this has almost compensated for the loss of grant. Income from the transferred garage sites met the maintenance expenses of the devolved sites.

The sale of 55 Gisburn Road generated an income of £95,000 (£91,810 net of fees) which accounts for the bulk of increase in balances carried forward, £75,000 of these capital receipts are ear marked for the proposed car park phase at Holmefield House. This project has fallen behind schedule due to the precise interpretation of permitted development rights and the need to obtain planning permission. To help clarify the position the Council has engaged a local architect to draw up the plans and submit them to the planning authority.

Income

Income for 2016-17 was £238,481.65 (including receipts from the sale of 55 Gisburn Road) with the precept being £103,048.00. Rents and water charges provided £13,368.50. (Significantly up on the previous year due to garage site acquisitions) Income from interest is still at an extremely low level. Grants of £7,646.00 with other income of £8,250.21 and Luncheon Club receipts of £4153.00 made up the bulk of the remainder of the Council's income.

Expenditure

The total expenditure for 2016-17 was £136,327.53 Wages, salaries and associated costs were £69,481.52; Holmefield House, including building repayment to Pendle of £12,500 was £19,468.46, works including all Christmas decorations and planting schemes cost £14,308, with projects costing £9,467.21. Expenditure on the Luncheon Club including wages and other ongoing costs was £4,284.16 giving an operating deficit for the year of £131.16, the bulk of the deficit resulting from the additional on costs of providing the Christmas Lunch.

Barrowford Parish Council**Balance Sheet Receipts & Payments Accounts 2016-2017****Unaudited**

Receipts		Payments	
Precept	103,048.00	Wages & Salaries	69,481.52
Rents	12,156.50	Administration	13,439.20
Allotment water	1,212.00	Events/Donations	1,190.01
Interest	58.94	Works	14,308.00
Others (Inc. Donations)	8,250.21	Allotments	755.62
Grants to Projects	7,646.00	Holmefield House	19,468.46
Luncheon Club	2,595.36	Projects	9,467.21
Luncheon Club Provisions	1,557.80	Luncheon Club Provisions	1,557.80
Friends H/Field House	865.00	Vat Paid	6,659.71
Toilet Receipts	198.95		
Sale of 55 Gisburn Road	95,000.00		
Outstanding Vat Reclaim 2015-16	1151.76		
Vat Reclaims 2016-17	4741.13		
Total Receipts	238,481.65	Total Payments	136,327.53
Total Receipts	238,481.65		
Total Payments	136,327.53		
Receipts Over Payments	102,154.12		
Opening Balance 01/04/2016	51,103.10		
Total	153,257.22	Closing Balance 31/03/2017	153,257.22

Barrowford Parish Council
Balance Sheet Receipts & Payments Accounts 2015-2016
Audited

Receipts		Payments	
Precept	84,420.00	Wages & Salaries	69,177.66
Grant	3,358.00	Administration	7,366.07
Grant 2	7,685.00	Events/Donations	1,091.40
Rents	9,424.50	Works	12,050.23
Allotment water	1,224.00	Allotments	2,040.17
Interest	44.89	Holmefield House	20,507.80
Others (Inc. Donations)	6,709.61	Projects	11,944.35
Grants to Projects	5,806.00	Vat Paid	5,964.14
Luncheon Club	1,927.26		
Friends H/Field House	795.00		
Interest Reclaim PBC	1725.00		
Outstanding Vat Reclaim 2014-15	676.65		
Vat Reclaims 2015-16	4,812.61		
Total Receipts	128,608.52	Total Payments	130,141.82
Total Receipts	128,608.52		
Total Payments	130,141.82		
Receipts Over Payments	-1,533.30		
Opening Balance 01/04/2015	52,636.40		
Total	51,103.10	Closing Balance 31/03/2016	51,103.10

