



**Barrowford
Parish Council
Annual Report
2025-26**

Barrowford Parish Council

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Membership of the Council

Carr Hall

Cllr. R. Oliver, Vice Chair of the Council 2025-26	Cllr. M. Iqbal
Cllr. J. Gibson Vice-Chair of the GP Committee 2025-26	

Newbridge

Cllr. A. Stringer, Chair of the Council 2025-26	Cllr. A. Vickerman
Cllr. T. Titchiner	

Central Ward

Cllr. S. Nike, Chair of the GP Committee 2025-26	Cllr. L. Ashworth
Cllr. P. Thompson	Vacancy*

Higherford

Cllr. M. Waddington	Cllr. C. Ashton
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* If you wish to apply for co-option onto the Council see the noticeboard at Holmeffield House

Luncheon Club: The Luncheon Club has seen stabilisation in numbers who are attending with the average attendance now being between 16 per week. There is still scope for more people to attend and if anybody wants to attend, please contact the Clerk on 01282 696349 to initially book.

Community Orchard Planted at Holmeffield House: The trees at Holmeffield House are now in their third year and produced some fruit last year. The trees will need pruning this back end but seem to be well established. In addition to the fruit shrubs and Honeysuckle planted to the corner of Lucy Street and Gisburn Road to add to the insect and bird

habitat after several requests to not mow the area until after May to provide early food sources for both insects and birds the area was left uncut along with the margins to the fields at Holmefield House.

The second phase of 21 mixed fruit trees were planted on Broadway after significant pruning was carried out the previous. The cost of the trees came from a DEFRA fund set up to Commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III but saw slow growth due to the exceptionally dry spring, mixed spring bulbs including Snowdrops, Crocus, Tulip and Dwarf bulbs were salvaged from the planters and replanted within the fruit trees at both Holmefield. This process will be carried out in 2026-27 and include Broadway.

Holmefield House: Holmefield House has been awarded funding towards a new main kitchen from the Pride in Pendle Fund with a further application for solar panels and a large Council/Communal notice board to the side of Gisburn Road near the entrance to Holmefield House. Use of the facility has increased with new users and is currently being used for Library Classes whilst the Library is being renovated.

Friends of Holmefield House: The Friends Group under Chair, Mr. Peter Clegg paid for new flooring to the lounge, new radiators to two of the downstairs toilets and painting materials. The Group's Annual General Meeting will be held in June date to be arranged.

Christmas Decorations: Barrowford Parish Council continues to provide Christmas decorations if any of the shops along Gisburn road that currently not part of the scheme wishes to be considered they would need to install a weatherproof outside socket please contact the Clerk on 01282 696249 to discuss what is required before the end of September to enable brackets to be installed and trees and lights to be ordered. The Council has plans to increase the number of Column Lighting set and hopefully extend the scheme to Higherford Methodists subject to PIP Grant.

Planters: The Council plant and water planters through the village these are planted both Spring and Autumn to try and provide colour throughout the year. The Spring Plants will be brought in May with the summer planting being done by early June.

Allotments: The Parish Council currently manages 6 allotment sites and there are several currently available so if you wish to rent an allotment, please contact the Council Clerk on 01282 696349 or barrowfordpc@barrowford.org.uk for an application form.

Barrowford Memorial Park: Following the refurbishment of the Memorial Garden last year. A booklet was given out at the Wreath Laying Service to Mark the 80th anniversary of the Second World War giving brief details of each fallen serviceman and where available a picture of the serviceman. This year's improvements in the park included a new safety surface at the toddlers play area. The creation of a new path to the rear of the lake and removal of the old raised boardwalk which was rotten and unsafe, alterations to the railings at the White Bear entrance to enable easier access for disabled scooters and prams and the provision of a new bin on Coronation Walk. It is planned to renovate Coronation Walk and the adjacent walls this year, and improve play equipment on the older children's play area. These two projects have been awarded funding from the Pride in Pendle Funding and hopefully will begin shortly. There are applications to the PIP fund for new Gym Equipment and Fingerpost Signage but these have yet to be included in the second tranche of PIP funding and if approved could be started this year. It is hoped that the river wall will be repaired this year after a licence to do the work was approved by the Environmental Agency with Pendle being given the go ahead to start mid-June.

Friends of Barrowford Memorial Park:

The Friends Group are often seen carrying out workdays within the park and if you feel that you could help, please contact Cllr. Nike Chair of the Friends Group or Iain Lord on 01282 696349.

Cruck Barn Christmas Carol Service:

This event has been running for around two decades and is still going strong, last year saw an increase in attendance on the previous year. The Parish Council would like to thank both the Local Churches and the Heritage Centre that organise this Village event.

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 when he returns, or you can email the Council at: barrowfordpc@barrowford.org.uk.

Council Meetings for 20256 - 27

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 Chair 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 17 th June 2026	7.00pm 10 th June 2026
7.00pm 15 th July 2026	Other Dates to be arranged.
7.00pm 19 th August 2026	
7.00pm 16 th September 2026	
7.00pm 21 th October 2026	
7.00pm 18 th November 2026	
7.00pm 16 th December 2026	
7.00pm 20 th January 2027	
7.00pm 17 th February 2027	
7.00pm 17 th March 2027	
7.00pm 19 th April 2027	

The above meeting dates are provisional and are subject to approval by the Council at its Annual Meeting on the 20th May 2026.

The Annual Meeting with the Electorate and the Annual Meeting of the Council for 2026 will be held on the 19th May 202. This may be subject to change but must be held in May.

Finances 2025 – 26

Income:

Income for 2025-26 was £294,088.29 with the precept being £243,500 with rents and water charges providing an additional £17,444.50 £16,051.50 (up £1,393.00 on the previous year). Income from interest has increased to £7,778.82 up £3,573.07 on the previous year but did include a one-off windfall payment from Pendle Borough Council. Grants and Other income amounted to £9,254.62 significantly up on the previous year. The Luncheon Club income improved slightly from £4,135.55 to £3,806.01. This is due to a small increase in numbers attending, the Luncheon Club is still actively promoting the Luncheon Club.

Expenditure:

The total expenditure for 2025-26 was £246,142.31:

Wages & Salaries: Wages & salaries and associated costs rose from £109,160.57 to £115,487.17 through the increase in employers National Insurance and the 2025-26 National Wage Agreement increase.

Events and Donations: The Council spent £932.43 on expenses attributed to Remembrance Sunday and the Cruck Barn Carol Service and some small grants to outside organisations. This figure does not include council staff wages.

Works: Expenditure on works was £77,504.55 down on £84,442.69 spent the previous year. Works includes park maintenance Memorial Garden refurbishment at Barrowford Memorial Park, a voluntary contribution to Victoria Park, general maintenance cost of other council owned land, Christmas decorations, and the Summer and Winter planter's new tools and equipment.

The Parish Council is expected and budgeted for the costs to increase significantly for 2025-26 when it is hoped that a scheme for works to the river wall will be approved by the Environment Agency and done within this financial year the Council has set aside over the last few years £85,000 towards this essential repair cost, the Granting of an Environmental Agency Licence means that the Parish Council this work will be carried out during the 2026-27 Financial Year. The Council created funding contingencies from the 2025-26 budget to create matched funding for some of the Pride in Pendle Funding for projects within the Park at Holmefield House and to additional Festive Decoration.

Allotments: The cost of repairs and water utility costs came to £12,220.22 a significant increase on £4,916.57 the previous year utilising the 6,000 budgeted the previous year for essential repairs to Allotment

infrastructure. The Council has again increased the spending for 2026-27 to carry on these essential works.

Holmefield House: These costs can be broken down into two distinct areas, Administration and Repairs & Maintenance, The Administration costs for running the Councils office including insurance of all council assets was £112759.21 an increase on the previous year. Repair and Maintenance cost rose from £12,091.13 to £16,827.80 mainly through new flooring and essential roof repairs to the front roof valley.

