



Barrowford Parish Council Annual Report 2015-16

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

Cllr. G. Gibson

Newbridge

Cllr. A. Stringer, Vice-Chairman GP Committee

Cllr. A. Vickerman

Cllr. T. Titchiner

Central Ward

Cllr. E. Jackson

Cllr. B. Norcross

Cllr. P. Thompson

Cllr. S. Nike, Chairman GP Committee

Higherford

Cllr. K. Turner

Cllr. M. Waddington

Changes to the Council and Councillors during 2015-16

Both Cllr. Turner and Cllr. Waddington were co-opted during the year as no candidates for Higherford stood at the Parish Council Elections held in May. All other Councillors were elected unopposed.

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, Zen Therapy and Gong Therapy. At the start of May 2015 Age UK started holding weekly Dancersize and Yoga for older residents, but unfortunately could not continue to financially support them. After negotiation with the tutors these classes are being run independently of Age UK.

Friends of Holmefield House

The Friends Group continues to organise activities and events both within the building and outdoor on the field. The Group has helped to fund new tables for the lounge. The Group's organising committee meets monthly and if you want any

further information, or to make bookings, contact the Chairman, Linda Crossley, on 760199.

The Luncheon Club

The Luncheon Club has had a steady second year with numbers attending still averaging between 14 and 18. Several themed party days have taken place including marking the Queen as longest reigning monarch, Christmas and a surprise 100th party for one of the regulars. These special events have been made possible by both a generous donation 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 780 meals last year in a warm inviting setting. If you would like to attend please contact the Clerk, Iain Lord, on 696349.

Barrowford in Bloom

Barrowford Parish Council would like to congratulate Barrowford in Bloom for their efforts again this year. The group has held working days throughout the year, including improvement work at Hilltop, the corner of Gisburn Road and Church Street, the raised bed at the junction of Riverway and Gisburn Road and again on Rushton Street. Litter-picking sessions have also been held throughout the village, and a plant sale at Holmefield House was held to help raise funds. The group saw more success in the Northwest in Bloom competition, again being awarded a Silver Gilt. If you would like to help or make a donation to the group, please contact Joyce Roscoe on 01282 693189.

Christmas Decorations

2015 was the first year that all Christmas decorations within Barrowford were funded by the Parish Council and saw a return to the 2013 level of decorations after a reduction in 2014. The tree at Carr Hall 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. New categories have been introduced over the last few years to make the competition more open to all villagers, ranging from Small Hanging Basket to Large Formal Garden, and everyone is encouraged to enter. 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.

Friends of Barrowford Memorial Park

The Friends Group have held several work days within the Park during the year and have been working in collaboration with Pendle Parks Department and the Parish Council in rectifying the drainage problems to the rear of the Memorial Garden and installing a path around the Memorial Garden. The work was overseen and carried out by the Parish Council, with materials funded by Pendle Borough Council, and is yet another example of how co-operation can still enable essential projects to be carried out despite difficult financial times.

Neighbourhood Plan

Barrowford Parish Council decided to develop a Neighbourhood Plan and is in the early stages of its development. The designated area has been approved which encompasses all of the defined Parish of Barrowford. The Neighbourhood Plan will be written by a Steering Group responsible to the Council and will involve stakeholders and residents at appropriate times during drafting. The Council has engaged a local Neighbourhood Planning Company, Kirkwells, to assist with the technical drafting.

Once written, the plan goes out for a six week consultation for comments and additions where appropriate and necessary. It is then scrutinised by both Pendle Planning Officers and an Independent Inspector to check its validity and conformity to planning law and, if it passes inspection, it goes to a referendum vote of villagers. If endorsed at the ballot it becomes part of the planning documents that are used to determine planning applications.

By law the plan must conform to the Borough Council's Local Plan and so cannot be used to prevent all new development within the plan area, but can help decide what is necessary, where it is located, the level of design and the quality of materials. The Plan can also identify areas where local infrastructure problems including access, roads and services would need to be considerably upgraded before any development should be considered.

The Neighbourhood Plan can take from twelve months onwards to develop; the Parish Council will work at a pace that allows the Plan to best develop to meet the needs and aspirations of Barrowford up to 2030.

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 2016 – 17

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

7.00pm 15th June 2016
7.00pm 20th July 2016
7.00pm 17th August 2016
7.00pm 21st September 2016
7.00pm 19th October 2016
7.00pm 16th November 2016
7.00pm 7th December 2016
7.00pm 18th January 2017
7.00pm 14th February 2017
7.00pm 14th March 2017
7.00pm 19th April 2017

General Purposes Meeting

7.00pm 1st June 2016
7.00pm 6th July 2016
No Meeting
7.00pm 7th September 2016
7.00pm 5th October 2016
7.00pm 2nd November 2016
No Meeting
7.00pm 4th January 2017
7.00pm 1st February 2017
7.00pm 1st March 2017
7.00pm 5th April 2016

Finances 2015 – 16

Overview

The grant from Pendle was halved for 2015-16 and will be phased out for 2016-17. In light of continuing requests from members of the public and Pendle Borough Council the Parish Council decided to re-open and run the public conveniences following prolonged closure. Coin operated mechanisms and new doors to the toilets have been installed and the work was completed in time for an Easter opening. The costs were partially funded by several generous donations from local businesses instigated by the work of Cllr Windley.

Pendle Borough Council transferred responsibility for street benches to the Parish from late 2015, with the Parish removing the damaged ones singly for refurbishment as time allows. Bus shelters will become the responsibility of the Parish from April 2016 and in separate negotiations several pieces of land and two garage sites will also be transferred in April.

The refurbishment of the former annex at Holmefield House into an office for the Royal British Legion has given the village two benefits: a locally based office for villagers who wish to use the services provided by the RBL and a rental income to the Parish Council.

The biggest concern facing the Parish Council is Pendle's plan to devolve local parks down to Parish and Town Councils. This is currently beyond the financial and maintenance capabilities of the Parish Council and we hope that Pendle Borough Council will have alternative plans for smaller Parish and Town Councils.

Income

Income for 2015-16 was £128,608.52 with £84,420.00 being the precept. Rents and water charges provided £10,648.50. Income from interest is still at a very low level. Grants of £16,849 and other income of £6,709.61 made up the bulk of the remainder of the Council's income.

Expenditure

The total expenditure for 2015-16 was £130,141.82. Wages, salaries and associated costs were £69,177.66; Holmefield House, including the renovation of the Annex, £20,507.80.

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

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

