



**Barrowford
Parish Council
Annual Report
2017-18**

Barrowford Parish Council

Annual Report 2017-18

Membership of the Council

Carr Hall

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

Cllr. J. Gibson

Newbridge

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

Cllr. T. Titchiner

Central Ward

Cllr. S. Nike, Chairman GP Committee Cllr. B. Norcross*

Cllr. P. Thompson Vacancy

Higherford

Cllr. K. Turner Cllr. M. Waddington

Changes to the Council and Councillors during 2017-18

Cllr. Norcross left the Council and two vacancies exist which are advertised both at Holmefield House and on all Council notice boards.

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 including some Sundays. Users now include: Pendle Borough Council's Area Committee, Barrowford in Bloom, the Friends of Barrowford Memorial Park, Mr. A. Stephenson MP, The Luncheon Club, Knit & Natter, and several Yoga sessions run by two different teachers, Pendle Crafters, Dancersize and Sewing Machining Courses, Pilates.

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 a new

storage hut to the rear and is looking at providing both a hearing loop and sound system to the main lounge and a hearing loop system to the main upstairs room during 2018-19. The Group is also funding the replacement of the flooring in the main lounge. The Friends of Holmefield House 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 fourth year with numbers attending averaging between 18 and 22. Several themed party days have taken place. These special events have been made possible by kind donations in previous years and a generous donation of £500 from the Directors of Barrowford Show Ltd. There is still room for a small increase in attendance, with the room catering for up to 25 members. The Luncheon Club provided over 876 meals last year in a warm inviting setting. If you would like to attend please contact the Clerk, Iain Lord, on 696349.

Christmas Decorations

Shop front Christmas trees were slightly reduced this year. This usually occurs as a result of shop front refurbishment removing the electrical supply point, or the erection of fixed canopies which prohibit the installation of the tree. The Council is looking at renewing the lighting to the tree at Fountain Square and introducing lighting to the Lime tree outside Holmefield House for 2018.

Allotments

Allotments seem to be as popular as ever on most 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 newly formed Armed Forces Support Group 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 will support the Armed Forces Support Group at future events.

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 devolution of maintenance costs for parks to Parish & Town Councils started with a £90,000 cut in the parks maintenance budget for 2017-18. Barrowford Parish Council paid the equivalent of 25% of the maintenance costs for Barrowford Memorial Park.

Barrowford Parish Council is still engaged in negotiations with Pendle to take ownership of both the Park and the buildings and land leased to the Heritage Centre. This has been a slower than expected process, mainly due to the intricacies of negotiating an updated lease with the representatives of the Heritage Centre.

Victoria Park

Decisions over the future maintenance costs of Victoria Park have been problematic, as this Park is located in both Nelson and Barrowford. Historically the Park was created, owned and managed by the former Nelson Borough Council, up to the creation of Pendle in the early 1970s. This continued up to recently with all decisions relating to the Park being taken by the Nelson Area Committee. But after a joint meeting with Pendle and Nelson Town Council a long term funding solution was not agreed. The Parish Council has resolved to make a voluntary contribution of £6500 towards the 2018-19 maintenance costs.

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

Barrowford Parish Council has seen several small scale acts of vandalism to the public toilets and appropriate refurbishment will need to be factored into future budgets. The income generated from the toilets is quite small, but the need for these facilities within the village will be of paramount importance in the Council's future decisions.

Benches

Public roadside benches are now the responsibility of the Parish Council and their condition has been assessed. Several have been refurbished

and repaired; this will be an ongoing process as both time and need allow.

Other Assets Devolved from Pendle Borough Council

Barrowford Parish Council agreed the devolvement 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. These currently generate sufficient income to 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, owing 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 progress to a six-week public consultation to be set up by Pendle Council. Following re-assessment in light of any responses received, it can move on to Inspection and finally Public Referendum.

Barrowford Cricket Club

Barrowford Cricket Club has finally been reconnected to the electricity mains in time for the forthcoming season. The main works of laying the cable across Bullholme were funded by the Barrowford & Western Parishes Area Committee. Additional funds were generously donated by the Directors of Barrowford Show Ltd which recently distributed the remains of its assets between numerous local organisations following its winding-up.

The Cricket Club has seen both an upgrade in facilities and an improvement in the fortune of its two teams over the last two years, with all local supporters including Pendle Borough Council's Area Committee and Barrowford Parish Council being happy to help turn around the fortunes of the club.

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 2018 - 19

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 20th June 2018	7.00pm 6 th June 2018
7.00pm 18th July 2018	7.00pm 4 th July 2018
7.00pm 15 th August 2018	No Meeting
7.00pm 19 th September 2018	7.00pm 5 th September 2018
7.00pm 17 th October 2018	No Meeting
7.00pm 21 st November 2018	7.00pm 1 st November 2018
7.00pm 5 th December 2018	No Meeting
7.00pm 16 th January 2019	No Meeting
7.00pm 20 th February 2019	7.00pm 6 th February 2019
7.00pm 21 th March 2019	No Meeting
7.00pm 17 th April 2019	7.00pm 3 rd April 2019

The above meeting dates are provisional and are subject to approval by the Council at its Annual Meeting on the 16th May 2018.

The Annual Meeting with the Electorate and the Annual Meeting of the Council for 2019 will be held on the 15th May 2019. This may be subject to change but must be held in May.

Finances 2017 – 18

Overview

Devolved services such as the park maintenance led to a 33% increase in the Parish Council precept and although that is big in percentage terms it only equated to a £10.98 rise on the lowest (Band A) properties, equating to just over 21p per week.

No council likes to increase the precept, but in these extraordinary times where Local Authorities are squeezed for cash and are forced either to devolve services or to phase out non-statutory services, the Parish Council has to decide which services local residents feel are crucial to their quality of life, and precept accordingly.

Income

Income for 2017-18 was £180,519.19 with the precept being £138,100.00. Rents and water charges provided £12991.75. Income from interest is still at an extremely low level. Grants of £13,805 with other income of £2,297.82 and Luncheon Club receipts of £4,436.00 made up the bulk of the remainder of the Council's income.

Expenditure

The total expenditure for 2017-18 was £158,950.76. Wages, salaries and associated costs were £78,873.32; Holmefield House, including building repayment to Pendle of £12,500 was £21,409.31; works, including all Christmas decorations and planting schemes, cost £31,481.87, with projects costing £5,268.12. Income from the Luncheon Club exceeded expenditure including wages and other ongoing expenses, giving a small surplus of £194.66.

Unaudited Balance Sheet Barrowford Parish Council 2017-18

Balance Sheet Receipts & Payments Accounts 2017-2018

Receipts		Payments	
Precept	138,100.00	Wages & Salaries	73,915.32
Rents	11,908.75	Administration	15,237.22
Allotment water	1,083.00	Events/Donations	883.50
Interest	155.56	Works	31,481.87
Others (Inc. Donations)	3,672.32	Allotments	790.30
Grants to Projects	13,805.00	Holmefield House	22,996.31
Luncheon Club	2,849.00	Projects	5,268.12
Luncheon Club Provisions	1,587.00	Vat Paid	8,378.12
Friends H/Field House	760.00		
Fleece Toilets	163.00		
Outstanding Vat Reclaim 2016-17	1997.82		
Vat Reclaims 2017-18	4437.74		
Total Receipts	180,519.19	Total Payments	158,950.76
Total Receipts	180,519.19		
Total Payments	158,950.76		
Receipts Over Payments	21,568.43		
Opening Balance 01/04/2018	153,257.22		
Total	174,825.65	Closing Balance 31/03/2018	174,825.65

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

