



**Barrowford
Parish Council
Annual Report
2018-19**

Note from the Chairman

The Council's Annual Report is the best opportunity to show what we have been up to during the past year and I hope residents will be interested to read through it all.

2018-19 has been a busy year for the Council. Improvements to Holmefield House facilities, both inside and out, are the most noticeable changes, but work on Barrowford Memorial Park and refurbishment at the Cricket Club have been other major projects we have been involved in. The Neighbourhood Plan should finally come to fruition in the coming year, as well as the much delayed transfer of the Park.

Taking all the above on while maintaining regular activities such as the Luncheon Club, the Best Kept Garden Competition and the Cruck Barn Carol Service requires considerable time and effort, and I should like to express my appreciation to the Council's staff members.

I should also like to express my thanks to the members of the Council, all of them volunteers who give up their time for the village. In particular Cllr Roy Windley, who is standing down this year, has been a massive help throughout his time on the Council; we wish him well in the future.

Robert Oliver

Barrowford Parish Council

Annual Report 2018-19

Membership of the Council

All Councillors were elected unopposed at the 2 May 2019 elections. The only changes to the Council are that Cllr. Peake and Cllr. Turner have stood in wards in which they live, having previously been co-opted on to the Council to fill vacant seats, and we welcome Cllr. Iqbal, a new Councillor for Carr Hall. There is a vacancy in Central Ward and any person wishing to be selected for co-option should in the first instance contact the Clerk on 01282 696349.

Carr Hall

Cllr. R. Oliver, Chairman of the Council 2018-19	Cllr. M. Iqbal
Cllr. J. Gibson Vice-Chairman of the GP Committee 2018-19	

Newbridge

Cllr. A. Stringer, Vice-Chairman of the Council 2018-19	Cllr. A. Vickerman
Cllr. T. Titchiner	

Central Ward

Cllr. S. Nike, Chairman of the GP Committee 2018-19	Cllr. K. Turner
Cllr. P. Thompson	Vacancy

Higherford

Cllr. M. Waddington	Cllr. L. Peake
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Holmefield House

Use of the building has expanded with activities or meetings taking place on 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, Pendle Crafters, Dancersize and several Yoga sessions run by two different teachers. The increase in usage necessitated the expansion of the existing car park from 6 spaces to 26 spaces. The work

was carried out through late summer and early autumn by a local contractor. The work has been completed to a high a standard with only signage, minor entrance and exit works and tree planting to be completed when the conditions are signed off by the planning authority. The cost of the car park was met from the sale of the former Council Office at 55 Gisburn Road.

Friends of Holmefield House

The Friends Group continues to organise activities and events both within the building and outdoor on the field. The Group helped to fund both a hearing loop, overhead projector and sound system to the large meeting room and a hearing loop system to the main upstairs room, with the aid of a generous grant from the Barrowford and Western Parishes Area Committee. The Group also funded the replacement of the flooring in the large meeting room. The Group also organised two successful play productions and funded the materials to build a portable stage after the first play.

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 fifth year, with numbers attending averaging between 18 and 24, and a total of 930 meals being provided. Several themed party days have taken place. These special events have been made possible by kind donations and free essential groceries from Asda Colne. There is still room for a small increase in attendance, as the room caters for up to 25 members. The Luncheon Club, which meets on Tuesdays, provides a warm inviting setting. If you would like to attend please contact the Clerk, Iain Lord, on 696349.

Christmas Decorations

The number of shop front Christmas trees was slightly reduced this year, as a result of shop front refurbishment removing the electrical supply point, or the erection of fixed canopies which prohibit the installation of a tree. The Council introduced lighting to the Lime tree at Holmefield House and this year hopes to renew the lighting at Fountains Square which is coming to the end of its useful life.

Allotments

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

Remembrance Sunday Service

The 2018 event marked the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice. Rev. Julie Smith and Cllr. Oliver read out the names of the fallen whilst wreaths were being laid. As part of the WW1 Centenary events starting in 2014 Barrowford Parish Council has been displaying information on Barrowford casualties on the anniversary year of their death. To mark the Armistice Centenary the Council produced a small handbook containing details of each known casualty, including photos where available. The booklet was handed out at the Service at the Memorial.

The Parade part of the Day of Remembrance was in jeopardy until a few days before the event, as funding cuts and policy changes meant the Police were unable to assist to the same degree as in previous years. The essential Police presence was not finalised until shortly before the event, with many of the local Police officers volunteering to come in. This could be the last year where a Police presence to assist in road closures for the parade is available.

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 purchased replacement lighting to light the path from the Heritage Centre to the Cruck Barn and will continue where possible 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 saw reduced entries owing to bad early spring weather. The Presentation Night was held at Holmefield House with around 40 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

2018-19 was the second year of Pendle Borough Council's devolution of maintenance costs for its parks to Parish & Town Councils, with an additional cut of £90,000 to its parks maintenance budget. The Parish Council paid £14,705, approximately 50% of the maintenance costs, for Barrowford Memorial Park, which will increase to around £22,000 for 2019-20. The Friends of Barrowford Memorial Park, in conjunction with both Pendle Council and the Parish, have engaged a local firm to remove

much of the sludge from the Park lake and recycle it in the wetland area. This work was funded by generous donations from both the Barrowford Lifestyle Event and Barrowford Show Ltd.

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 Pendle Borough Council's negotiating an updated lease with the representatives of the Heritage Centre.

Victoria Park

The Parish Council made a voluntary contribution of £6500 towards the 2018-19 maintenance costs and has agreed to pay around £7,000 towards the 2019-20 costs.

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

The 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

When Pendle Council devolved public roadside benches to the Parish Council, many needed urgent major repairs. The Parish Council's work team have now restored over half the benches, with urgent repairs being carried out as necessary.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan is coming to its final stage. The Plan has been out to Public Consultation for the final time and an Examiner has been appointed. The examination is due to start in early May and then, subject to the Examiner's report, progress to Public Referendum.

Barrowford Cricket Club

Barrowford Cricket Club has seen major refurbishment of its pavilion with the help of the Parish Council and other local organisations. But still more work needs to be done in relation to the scoreboard and side screens, and there is a lack of decent mowing equipment. If anyone feels that they could help with funding or running the club, please contact Iain Lord on 696349 and he will put you in touch with the Club Secretary.

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 2019 - 20

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 19th June 2019	7.00pm 5 th June 2019
7.00pm 17th July 2019	7.00pm 3 rd July 2019
7.00pm 21 st August 2019	No Meeting
7.00pm 18 th September 2019	7.00pm 4 th September 2019
7.00pm 16 th October 2019	No Meeting
7.00pm 20 th November 2019	7.00pm 6 th November 2019
7.00pm 11 th December 2019	No Meeting
7.00pm 15 th January 2020	No Meeting
7.00pm 19 th February 2020	7.00pm 5 th February 2020
7.00pm 18 th March 2020	No Meeting
7.00pm 15 th April 2020	7.00pm 1 st April 2020

The above meeting dates are provisional and are subject to approval by the Council at its Annual Meeting on the 15th May 2019.

The Annual Meeting with the Electorate and the Annual Meeting of the Council for 2020 will be held on the 20th May 2020. This may be subject to change but must be held in May.

Finances 2018 – 19

Overview

Increases in contributions towards both Barrowford Memorial Park and Victoria Park forced the Council to raise the Precept by approximately 11%. This equated to £4.99 on a Band A property for the year.

The approved increase for 2019-20 will be less than 6%, with a Band A property seeing an increase of £2.85 for the year. Barrowford Parish Council strives to keep Precept increases to a minimum, but continues to have to fund what it considers to be essential services which would otherwise have been lost as a result of the recent austerity forced on Local Government.

Income

Income for 2018-19 was £209,866.72 with the precept being £154,200.00. Rents and water charges provided £12,735. Income from interest increased slightly to £535.95. Grants of £11,499 were awarded to Council Projects, with other income of £5,519.66 and Luncheon Club receipts up slightly at £4,623.64 making up the bulk of the remainder.

Expenditure

The total expenditure for 2018-19 was £246,646.73. Wages, salaries and associated costs were £77,644.17; Holmefield House, including the construction of the new car park, was £84,677.47; works, notably all Christmas decorations, including the new lighting at Holmefield House, and planting schemes, cost £45,073.86, with projects falling from £5,268.12 in the previous year to £248.36.

Unaudited Balance Sheet Barrowford Parish Council 2018-19

Balance Sheet Receipts & Payments Accounts 2018-2019

Receipts		Payments	
Precept	154,200.00	Administration	14,501.49
Rents	11,606.00	Wages & Salaries	77,644.17
Allotment water	1,129.00	Events/Donations	1,319.46
Interest	535.95	Works	45,073.86
Others (Inc. Donations)	5,519.66	Allotments	1,987.54
Grants From Other Bodies	11,499.00	Holmefield House	84,677.47
Luncheon Club	2,918.09	Projects	248.36
Luncheon Club Provisions	1,705.55	Vat Paid	21194.38
Friends H/Field House	705.00		
Toilet Receipts	120.90		
Outstanding Vat Reclaim 2017-18	2565.88		
Vat Reclaims 2018-19	17361.69		
Total Receipts	209,866.72	Total Payments	246,646.73
Total Receipts	209,866.72		
Total Payments	246,646.73		
Receipts Over Payments	-36,780.01		
Opening Balance 01/04/2018	174,825.65		
Total	138,045.64	Closing Balance 31/03/2019	138,045.64

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 From Other Bodies	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

