



Parish Council Annual Report 2014-15

Barrowford Parish Council

Annual Report 2014-15

Membership of the Council

Carr Hall

Cllr. R. Oliver, Vice-Chairman

Cllr. P. Maltby, Vice-Chairman, General Purposes Committee

Cllr. R.J. Nelson*

Newbridge

Cllr. A. Stringer

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. J. Begley, Chairman of the Council

Cllr. J. Pope

Changes to the Council and Councillors during 2014-15

*Cllr. Nelson sadly passed away and his seat was taken by Cllr. Royce Windley

Holmefield House

Renovation of Holmefield House has been almost 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 the Parish Council's office moving in upstairs early in the year. Users now include: Pendle Borough Council's Area Committee, the Community Safety Partnership, Pub Watch, Barrowford in Bloom, the Friends of Barrowford Memorial Park, Mr. A. Stephenson MP, The Luncheon Club, Knit & Natter, Yoga Clubs, Pendle Crafters and a monthly Citizen's Advice Bureaux drop-in

session. From the start of May 2015 Age UK will be holding a weekly keep fit class for older residents.

Friends of Holmefield House

The Friends Group continues to organise activities and events within the building and is keen to see more events, including outdoor village events on the field. The group has helped to fund blinds and an advertising screen, and has contributed to the installation of a chairlift to make the first floor more accessible. 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 Annex

The Nelson & District Branch of the Royal British Legion were looking for a permanent base and had hoped to take over the former Parish Council Offices, but funding difficulties prevented this. In a joint collaboration with the Parish Council, the RBL secured £20,000 of funding from the Asda Foundation to completely renovate the former rent office annex and create a modern up to date base. The RBL moved in in August 2014 and are open to help former service people and their families. The RBL are again holding an Armed Forces Day event on the field over the weekend of 19th – 22nd June 2015.

The Luncheon Club

Pendle Borough Council has withdrawn financial support for all luncheon clubs across Pendle. The prospect of losing the Barrowford Club was considered by the Parish Council and it was decided to step in and run the Club. The first full year under Parish control has seen a steady increase in numbers, from 6-8 in the early days to an average of 14-16 during 2014-15. 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

Christmas decorations were not quite up to the usual standard this year, owing to funding reductions from Pendle Borough Council which saw maintenance budgets squeezed and resulted in the poor showing at Carr Hall. Pendle have cut all their funding to Festive Decorations from the end of the 2014-15 financial year and unilaterally devolved the function to the Parish Council, which has been forced to allocate £6,000 in the 2015-16 budget to retain current provision. The sum includes the refurbishment of the Carr Hall Tree.

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 changed from a Monday to a Tuesday last year and attendance fell significantly. Although numbers increased this year they are still down on previous years, but it is hoped they will continue to rise.

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. Begley, Chairman of the Council.

Friends of Barrowford Memorial Park

The Friends Group have held several work days within the Park, but funding is coming under more pressure owing to Borough Council cutbacks. Innovative thinking is going to be needed over the next few years if the Park is to be kept up to its present standard. If you wish to know more about the Parks Friends Groups please contact Miss Julie Hibbert at Pendle on 661661.

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 2015 – 16

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 17th June 2015
7.00pm 15th July 2015
7.00pm 19th August 2015
7.00pm 16th September 2015
7.00pm 21st October 2015
7.00pm 18th November 2015
7.00pm 16th December 2015
7.00pm 20th January 2016
7.00pm 17th February 2016
7.00pm 16th March 2016
7.00pm 20th April 2016

General Purposes Meeting

7.00pm 3rd June 2015
7.00pm 1st July 2015
No Meeting
7.00pm 2nd September 2015
7.00pm 7th October 2015
7.00pm 4th November 2015
7.00pm 2nd December 2015
7.00pm 6th January 2016
7.00pm 3rd February 2016
7.00pm 2nd March 2016
7.00pm 6th April 2016

Finances 2014 – 15

Overview

The grant from Pendle was again cut for 2014-15, and the remaining grant and the Council Tax Support grant will be halved for 2015-16 and phased out for 2016-17. Pendle Borough Council decided to stop funding public conveniences from the start of the 2014-15 year, expecting Parish & Town Councils to take on the responsibility. In Barrowford's case this would be around £10,000 per year, or around £5.40 extra precept on a Band D house. Due to the extensive refurbishment works at Holmefield House, the Parish Council asked if the closure and sale of the toilets could be postponed until the sale of the former Council offices, but Pendle declined and offered them for sale. Pendle gave the Parish a second opportunity to run the toilets just before the closing date for the sealed bid sale, but unfortunately the Parish Council was still not in a financial position to take up the offer immediately. This devolving of functions to the Parish & Town Councils reduces Pendle Borough Council's spending requirement, allowing it to make savings and not increase Council Tax, but the consequence is that either local residents lose services or the Parish & Town Councils are forced to significantly increase their precept requirement to fund these services.

Income

Income for 2014-15 was £135,227.46 with £73,250.00 being the precept. Allotment rents and water charges provided £8,177. Income from interest is still at a very low level. Grants of £25,463 and other income of £18,488.10 made up the bulk of the remainder of the Council's income.

Expenditure

The total expenditure for 2013-14 was £127,937.85. This included renovation costs for both Holmefield House and the Annex.

Barrowford Parish Council
Balance Sheet Receipts & Payments Accounts 2014-2015
Unaudited

Receipts		Payments	
Precept	73,250.00	Wages & Salaries	67,905.44
Grant 1	6,717.00	Administration	4,294.78
Grant 2	15,370.00	Events/Donations	1,195.34
Allotment Rents	7,047.00	Works	7,123.29
Allotment water	1,130.00	Allotments	1,995.66
Interest	42.57	Holmefield House	26,568.98
Others (Inc. Donations)	18,448.10	Projects	13,612.15
Grants to Projects	3,376.00	Miscellaneous	0.19
Luncheon Club	2,204.69	Vat Paid	5,272.02
Friends H/Field House	770.00		
Outstanding Vat Reclaim 2013-14	2,204.69		
Vat Reclaims	4,596.43		
Total Receipts	135,227.46	Total Payments	127,937.85
Total Receipts	135,227.46		
Total Payments	127,937.85		
Receipts Over Payments	7,289.61		
Opening Balance 01/04/2014	45,346.79		
Total	52,636.40	Closing Balance 31/03/2015	52,636.40

