

Minutes of the meeting of the Barrowford and Western Parishes Community Safety Area Working held on 22nd September, 2015 at Holmefield House

Present

G. Jackson – Chairman

Iain Lord	Barrowford Parish Council
Elaine Lord	Barrowford Parish Council
C.W. Webster	
A Vickerman	Barrowford Parish Council
Cllr Linda Crossley	Pendle Borough Council
B. Newman	Old Laund Booth Parish Council
A. Drinkwater	Pendle Borough Council
Cllr James Starkie	Pendle Borough Council

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Christopher Burt and Councillor Wakeford

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th July, 2015 were approved as a true and correct record.

3. Matters arising

Parking problems continue on Higher Causeway and at the bottom of Church Street.

4. PACT – Police and Communities Together

No police officer in attendance to provide information / update.

5. Crime Statistics

No police officer in attendance to provide information / update.

6. Future of Meeting

It was reported at the last meeting that due to budget cuts and reduction in police officers, police presence at future Community Safety Partnership Area Working Groups was being considered, and a decision was expected in October.

As previously reported, Councillor Starkie had suggested that this meeting could be merged with the Area Committee. His view was that there was nothing coming out of these meetings due to cutbacks at Lancashire County Council, Pendle Council and the Police and that the meetings have become less proactive.

Councillor Linda Crossley declared that she was against this Area Working Group merging with the Barrowford & Western Parishes Area Committee.

The Chairman confirmed that Blacko Parish Council had instructed that if there was to be no Police presence at future meetings to vote for these meetings to cease.

The general view was that whatever the outcome the Group had a desire to keep these meetings going. However, attendance at the Area Working Group would need to improve –**not all the Parish Councils representatives were attending meetings or sending a deputy.**

Councillor Starkie believed this was due in part to representatives not knowing when the meetings were being held and/or inconsistency in meeting dates. It was pointed out that dates of the meetings for the calendar year were circulated at the beginning of the year.

Residents, too, are welcome to attend these meetings and should be encouraged to do so.

Action: Parish Councils Representatives to attend/send a deputy to meetings and to encourage residents in their area

Questions / concerns were raised about:

- crime statistics and how information would be disseminated,
- the format of the meetings if the Area Committee and Area Working Group are merged
- what support could be expected from the Police at Area Committee

It was agreed that until the Area Working Group had received information from the Police then no decision could be made on the future of the Area Working Group. It was agreed that the Chairman would speak to Inspector Paul Goodall at the earliest opportunity and inform this Group (via Audrey) of the outcome of these discussions.

Action: Geoff / Audrey

It was further agreed that the Chairman would write (a draft of the letter to be circulated to members of this group for their comments) to the Police Commissioner outlining the Group's concerns about future PACT meetings.

Action: Geoff

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 17th November, 2015 commencing at 6.30pm at Holmefield House.