

# **Minutes of the meeting of the Barrowford and Western Parishes Community Safety Area Working Group held on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Holmefield House.**

## **Present**

G. Jackson – Chairman

Elaine Lord	Barrowford Parish Council
Iain Lord	Barrowford Parish Council
C. B. Webster	Resident
Chris Burt	Goldshaw Booth Parish Council
Brenda Norcross	Barrowford Parish Council

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Ray Hudson and Councillor Vickerman.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 were amended. One attendee felt that it should say “Chairman,” rather than “Chair,” and that dates of meetings could easily be circulated with the minutes. The minutes were then approved as a correct record.

After the meeting it was noted that the minutes were headed with the date marked as 2016, not 2015, so this also should be changed.

### **3. Matters arising**

The Chairman noted that contact had been made with the police who had confirmed that police officers were under instruction not to attend Area Working Group meetings. He had taken it upon himself to thank Officer Dibb for his efforts, via the communicating sergeant on behalf of this meeting.

The Chairman had also had a draft letter to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire (Clive Grunshaw) circulated, then after allowing time for a response, sent to the Commissioner. The reply had been circulated, but it was felt to be rather bland and had not really dealt with the issues raised.

### **4. Communication with Police**

Crime statistics had been presented at the Area Committee Meeting, but these had not been separated into areas as previously had been the case, which meant that Barrowford (for example) could not see what crime had been recorded in their area as opposed to various Pendle villages.

The question asked was “How do we get separated statistics?”

The reason we do not get things done is because the various bodies were no longer sending representatives to the meetings. This included the Police (who were almost the last to stop their representatives attending), Pendle Borough Council, County (who had stopped officers attending – even occasionally – some time previously, and even the Parish Councils had been reluctant to send representatives).

It was generally felt that most people were unlikely to attend Area Meetings to comment to the police.

## **5. Pendle Community Safety Partnership Event 25<sup>th</sup> November**

The recommendations from Geoff Whitehead which were presented to and accepted by the Meeting at Nelson Town Hall during October were read out.

It was felt by the meeting that having one representative in areas which were cohesive like Nelson or Colne could work, but in our area there was little similarity between the needs and problems of Barrowford and those to be found in the seven villages, therefore the concept was unlikely to work effectively for our area.

With regard to the first recommendation made by Geoff Whitehead, the question was asked whether police attendance at the Area Committees could really be guaranteed.

***The feeling of the meeting was that we had deliberately been circumvented as the decision was made without prior consultation with Area Working Groups.***

The Chairman was commissioned to express the feeling of the meeting that there were two problems currently:

That the opportunities for arranging grants of finance for local projects with local consultation had been dealt a severe blow, for it has previously come about through contacts made at the Area Working Group meetings.

***That there had been the loss of a layer of democracy without any consultation or hope of redress. This was discussed at length and was regarded by every person at the meeting as being a serious loss.***