

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF  
BARROWFORD AND WESTERN PARISHES COMMITTEE  
HELD AT HOLMFIELD HOUSE  
ON 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020**

*PRESENT*

*Councillor L. M. Crossley – Chairman (in the Chair)*

**Councillors**

*C. Lioni  
N. McEvoy  
B. Newman  
K. Turner*

**Co-optees**

*A. Stringer - Barrowford Parish Council  
M. Tetley - Higham with West Close Booth Parish Council  
R. Donovan – Goldshaw Booth Parish Council  
A. Walker – Roughlee Booth Parish Council  
N. Hodgson – Blacko Parish Council  
N. Goodall – Old Laund Booth Parish Council*

**Police**

*PC M. Dibb*

**Officers in Attendance**

<i>D. Walker</i>	<i>Environmental Services Manager</i>
<i>K. Hughes</i>	<i>Principal Development Management Officer</i>
<i>J. Eccles</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>

*(Apologies were received from Councillor C. Wakeford.)*



*The following people attended and spoke at the meeting on the items indicated –*

<i>Mark Sugden</i>	<i>19/0912/FUL - Full: Erection of No. 4 three bedroom detached dwellings at Garage Site, Back Gisburn Road, Blacko</i>	<i>Minute No. 106(a)</i>
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<i>Robin Willoughby</i>	<i>Structure of Area Committees</i>	<i>Minute No. 109</i>
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**102. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests.

**103. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

S. Nike of Barrowford spoke on behalf of a resident of Barley who had been trying for several months to get a dog waste bin placed at the bottom of the steps on Pendle Hill near her property. The Environmental Services Manager said he would try to find some funding for it, look at the servicing arrangements, and contact the owner to take this forward.

**104. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of this Committee, at the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2020, be approved as a correct record.

**105. POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES**

PC M. Dibb presented the following crime statistics for January 2020 compared to the same period and answered related questions –

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Burglary - Residential	3	2
Burglary - Commercial	1	2
Vehicle Crime	3	1
Hate Crime	0	0
Assaults	7	4
Theft	13	6
Criminal Damage/Arson	4	5
Other Crime	19	10
<b>ALL CRIME</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>30</b>
Anti-Social Behaviour	11	9

There had been a daytime break-in in Blacko and Ribble Valley had also been hit hard. The Police suspected offenders were coming into the area from West Yorkshire and hitting the more rural areas. They were going to do some mapping to look at patterns of the break-ins. There was a possibility that drones were being used to look at access routes to some isolated properties.

There had been issues with door to door sales in Blacko. Trading Standards had agreed to look at making Blacko a No Cold Calling Area, and the Police would be supporting this move.

The Police would be visiting Pendle Heritage Centre with Barrowford Parish Council, prior to the Parish Council taking on responsibility for the premises, to see if there were any measures they could take to improve security and prevent future break-ins.

**106. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**(a) Planning Applications to be determined**

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report on the following planning application for determination -

**19/0912/FUL Full: Erection of No. 4 three bedroom detached dwellings at Garage Site, Back Gisburn Road, Blacko for Mr Mark Sugden**

*(A site visit was undertaken prior to the meeting.)*

The Principal Development Management Officer submitted an update at the meeting reporting additional comments from LCC Highways and PBC Environmental Health. Also a further

neighbour comment. There were two recommended condition amendments. The recommendation for approval still stood.

## **RESOLVED**

That planning permission be **refused** for the following reason –

1. The design of the proposed dwellinghouses would be out of keeping with the style and character of the area. The proposed curtilages of Plots 1-3 are limited in depth and would not be proportionate to the scale of the dwellings resulting in a cramped layout and therefore would represent poor design contrary to Policies ENV2 and LIV5 of the Pendle Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy (2011-2030) and Paragraph 130 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

## **(b) Planning Appeals**

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report on planning appeals for information.

### **107. ENFORCEMENT ACTION**

The Head of Legal Services submitted a report on enforcement action which was noted.

The Principal Development Manager Officer had visited the Spenbrook Mill site with the Enforcement Officer earlier in the week, following various complaints about a number of operational issues, and had asked for necessary improvements, including use of the wheel wash. Both PBC and LCC had been in touch with the developers about the condition of the road. The Trees Officer had also been in touch with the developers. She assured Members that the complaints were being dealt with seriously and hopefully they would see improvements on site very shortly.

### **108. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20**

The Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager submitted a report on the Committee's 2019/20 Capital Programme. The balance stood at £4,776.

Members considered the following bids –

- Goldshaw Booth Parish Council - £3,000 towards the purchase of two defibrillators
- Barrowford Cricket Club - £1,300 for a new scoreboard

It was noted that Andrew Stephenson MP had had a number of defibrillators available for groups and organisations to apply for, and it was suggested that the Parish Council check to see if they had all been taken.

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) That £1,300 be allocated to Barrowford Cricket Club for a new scoreboard.
- (2) That the bid from Goldshaw Booth Parish Council for £3,000 towards the purchase of two defibrillators be deferred until the next meeting to allow the Parish Council time to discuss the possibility of acquiring them from Andrew Stephenson MP.

**REASON**

***To enable the Capital Programme to be allocated efficiently and effectively.***

**109. STRUCTURE OF AREA COMMITTEES**

The Governance Working Group asked Members to consider the future structure of area committees following the recently completed ward review. Reducing the number of Councillors from 49 to 33 meant that it was no longer feasible to have 5 area committees and Members were asked to consider whether they preferred to have 4 or 3 area committees in their place.

The views of area committees would be reported to the Annual Council in May when the decision would be taken.

Members discussed the various options, including joining Brierfield West and Reedley, but the overall consensus was that in view of the unique position in relation to the AONB and Green Belt that Barrowford and Pendleside should stand alone.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council be recommended to reduce the number of area committees to 4 in the new Municipal year so that Barrowford and Pendleside could stand alone as a Committee.

**REASON**

***The area committee should reflect this rural part of Pendle with its AONB and Green Belt.***

**110. VACANT HOUSES**

The Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager submitted a report for information on vacant houses in the Barrowford and Western Parishes area, which was noted. The vacancy rate across Pendle was now 1.73%, significantly below the average to the NW of England (3.2%) and average for England (2.6%). There were 65 empty properties in Barrowford and the Western Parishes representing 1.49% of the housing stock covered by the Committee's wards.

Members discussed a particular property in Fence which had been empty for many years. Although work was carried out from time to time, on occasion it became unsightly, causing a problem for neighbours, and it was in a prominent position in the village.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the Empty Homes officer be asked to contact the owners of a particular property in Fence, which had been vacant for many years, to see if anything further could be done to bring it back into use, and
- (2) That the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager be asked to see if this property could be looked at as a potential problem building.

**REASON**

*In the interests of visual amenity.*

**111. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Members agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during the following items of business in pursuance of the power contained in Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 as amended when it was likely, in view of the nature of the proceedings or the business to be transacted, that there would be disclosure of exempt information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

**112. ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME**

The Environmental Services Manager submitted a report on environmental crime for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

In the last quarter there had been 4 FPNs issued for dog fouling offences in Barrowford – 2 at Park Avenue, one at Parrock Road and one by the Canal.

Members were concerned that the District Enforcement Officers spent most of their time in Nelson and the other town centres of Pendle rather than in the rural areas, where there were many dog owners and where many people exercised their dogs. The Environmental Services Manager explained that District Enforcement would patrol any areas that required attention with littering or dog fouling. He encouraged Members to report specific cases and problem areas so that District Enforcement Officers could react to them and adjust their patrols accordingly.

**RESOLVED**

That the Environmental Services Manager supply Roughlee Booth Parish Council with notices to put up in their area asking owners to pick up after their dogs.

**REASON**

*To try and address the problem with dog fouling in Roughlee.*