

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
BARROWFORD AND WESTERN PARISHES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 2ND MARCH, 2022
AT NELSON TOWN HALL**

PRESENT

Councillors

*N. Ahmed
C. Lioni
B. Newman*

Co-optees

*D. Goldsbrough – Barley with Wheatley Booth Parish Council
R. Oliver – Barrowford Parish Council
R. Willoughby – Higham with West Close Booth Parish Council
A. Walker - Roughlee Booth Parish Council*

Officers in Attendance

*W. Forrest
K. Hughes
L. Barnes
J. Robinson*

*Housing Needs Manager (Area Co-ordinator)
Principal Development Management Officer
Planning Officer
Committee Administrator*

Police

PC. M. Dibb

Also in Attendance

County Councillor H. Hartley

(Apologies for absence were received from N. McEvoy, (Blacko Parish Council) and A. Macadam, Goldshaw Booth Parish Council).



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

| | | |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| <i>Janet Sharp</i> | <i>21/0962/FUL - Full: Change of use of a domestic annexe to tourist accommodation (1 Bedroom) at Height Top Smithy, Stump Hall Road, Higham</i> | <i>Minute No. 136(a)</i> |
| <i>Susan Nike Kenneth Turner Terry McGinn Janine Snowdon</i> | <i>21/0949/FUL - Full: Major: Erection of 257 No. dwellinghouses and associated works at Land to the South West of Pasture Lane and the North West of Appleby Drive, Pasture Lane, Barrowford</i> | <i>Minute No. 136(b)</i> |
| <i>Lindsay Marshall</i> | <i>Enforcement Action – Land at 128 Wheatley Lane Road, Barrowford</i> | <i>Minute No. 137</i> |
| <i>Ian Ingham</i> | <i>Enforcement Action – Belgarth Nursing Home, Barrowford</i> | |



130. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

That Councillor N. Ahmed be appointed as Chairman for this meeting only.

Councillor N. Ahmed – Chairman (in the Chair)

131. COUNCILLOR LINDA CROSSLEY

Members paid tribute and observed a minutes silence as a mark of respect following the sudden death of Councillor Linda Crossley.

It was agreed that, on behalf of this Committee, a letter of condolence be sent to Councillor Crossley's family.

132. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

133. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A Barrowford Parish Councillor spoke on behalf of a Barrowford resident who rents fields on Pasture Lane, Barrowford to keep their horses and who had recently received a letter from the Council restricting that rental for 6 months before Notice to Leave is served. She added that the Council intend to plant trees in the field in question and asked that this be reconsidered and thought about in a more creative way.

The Chairman said that the matter would be raised with the appropriate Officers and asked that contact details for the Tenant be provided so that they could be kept updated on the progress.

134. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of this Committee, at the meeting held on 2nd February, 2022, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

135. POLICE MATTERS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

The following crime statistics for February 2022 compared to the same period in the previous year had been circulated prior to the meeting.

| FEBRUARY | 2021 | 2022 |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Burglary – Residential | 1 | 1 |
| Burglary - Commercial | 1 | 0 |
| Vehicle Crime | 3 | 4 |
| Hate Crime | 1 | 0 |
| Assaults | 4 | 5 |
| Theft | 4 | 3 |
| Criminal Damage/Arson | 3 | 3 |
| Other Crime | 16 | 9 |
| ALL CRIME | 33 | 25 |
| Anti-Social Behaviour | 41 | 6 |

The crime figures for February were showing no increase with the exception of Vehicle Crime and Assaults. There was an 85% decrease in the number of reported anti-social behaviour incidents. PC Dibb reported that a Dispersal Zone had been introduced in the North Valley area of Colne over the last few weekends and that so far there was no evidence to suggest that this action had resulted in moving the issue on to Barrowford but added that this would be closely monitored.

PC Dibb gave his apologies for not attending the last few meetings due to ill health and said that this would be his last meeting as he would be retiring at the end of this month. He reported that his replacement had not yet been appointed. He further reported that Claire Pearson had been appointed as Inspector of the Neighbourhood Policing Team and that John Sutcliffe had been appointed as its Sergeant and that their contact details would be circulated to Members in due course.

The issue of anti-social driving on roads in the Barrowford and Western Parishes area was again raised. PC Dibb reported that a County wide operation was currently being undertaken by Tac Ops Officers who were actively targeting anti-social drivers in unmarked cars. He further urged Members and Members of the Public to report each and every incident they witness via the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership website (www.lancsroadsafety.co.uk). He added that reporting using this site assists in flagging up hotspot areas and gives the Police an argument to take positive action.

PC Dibb also reported that the Police Helicopter had recently been deployed over Barrowford to pursue a vehicle driving the wrong way up the M65 and that three suspects had been arrested. He further reported that a male from Bradford who had been targeting farms and rural properties in the Barrowford and Western Parishes area had been arrested in Ribble Valley.

PC Dibb was asked whether it was still planned to build a new Police Station at the bottom of Carr Road, Nelson, he said as far as he was aware it was but that he did not know of the timescales for the commencement of works.

The persistent problem with anti-social behaviour, drinking and drug use around the duckpond in Victoria Park was mentioned. PC Dibb stated that the removal of benches and a concrete shelter in the area could be considered to help tackle the problem. It was reported that the Friends of Victoria Park were already in discussions with the Council's Green Spaces Manager about removing the concrete shelter and replacing it with a shelter that would allow better visibility.

Members gave thanks to PC Dibb for his many years of service to the people of the Barrowford and Western Parishes area and wished him well for the future.

136. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) Planning application for determination

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

21/0962/FUL Full: Change of use of a domestic annexe to tourist accommodation (1 Bedroom) at Height Top Smithy, Stump Hall Road, Higham for Mr. M Stath

RESOLVED

That determination of the application be **deferred** to the next meeting to allow for the objection relating to the work not adhering to the original permission for the extension, specifically the rendering, to be investigated.

(b) Planning application for comment

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report which invited comments on the following planning application –

21/0949/FUL Full: Major: Erection of 257 no. dwelling houses and associated works at Land to the South West of Pasture Lane and the North West of Appleby Drive, Barrowford for Castle Green Homes

RESOLVED

That the Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to **refuse** the application for the following reasons:-

- Significant highway impact including inadequate access and lack of pavements;
- Principle of development totally unacceptable as Barrowford does not need any more housing and not in conformity with policy to develop this site;
- Design and layout – too many houses;
- Impact on trees and ecology;
- Development on this scale would compromise the rural character and have a detrimental impact on landscape views within and out of the area contrary to policy ENV1 and BNDP 08;
- The development would create an urbanising feature which would erode the visual qualities of the historic field patterns contrary to policy ENV1;
- Impact on the two PRoW have not been fully considered or described as part of the application contrary to policy ENV1;
- Open countryside;
- Increasing pressure on the social infrastructure, which is already at capacity, including health, schools and roads, contrary to policy ENV7;
- Damage to highways;
- A lack of any form of renewable energy considerations and designing for climate change contrary to policy ENV2;
- Lack of affordable housing;
- Detrimental impact on existing drainage systems placing increasing pressure on known drainage ‘hot spots’ areas contrary to policy ENV7;
- Brownfield sites not Greenfield policy;
- Inappropriate suburban housing with no consideration of the surrounding context contrary to ENV2;
- No integration with the surrounding area, creating a separate urban extension into a green field site contrary to policy ENV1; and
- Unbalanced mixture of housing type, not fulfilling requirements set out in policy LIV3.

(c) Planning Appeals

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager reported that as at 10th February, 2022 there were no outstanding planning appeals.

137. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The Head of Legal Services submitted a report on enforcement action in the Barrowford and Western Parishes area.

The owner of the land at 128 Wheatley Lane Road, Barrowford requested an extension of time before further enforcement action is taken due to extenuating personal circumstances. Whilst Members did express concerns given that the Enforcement Notice had expired some time ago on 30th November, 2021, they did sympathise with the owner and agreed a one month extension from the date of this meeting. Members added that should the land not be cleared in this time then enforcement action would recommence immediately. The owner also asked why they were required to remove the trailer from their land when their neighbour was able to store a caravan on theirs. The Principal Development Officer said they would request information from the Council's Legal Department on this.

A resident who had been affected for years by issues associated with Belgarth Nursing Home asked when significant action would be taken as they did not feel any had been taken so far. Members sympathised with the resident and explained the Council's Legal Department had been instructed to commence prosecution should a re-served Section 79 Notice not be complied with by 3rd March, 2022. It was further explained that the Courts would then decide what action would be taken. Members were not clear what the approximate timescales for and implications of prosecution would be and asked that this information be requested from the Legal Department.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Council's Legal Department be instructed to extend the date to comply with the Enforcement Notice requiring the owner of the land at 128 Wheatley Lane Road, Barrowford by one month from the date of this meeting and to immediately recommence enforcement action if not complied with in this time.
- (2) That a report setting out the approximate timescales for and implications of prosecution for Belgarth Nursing Home be submitted to the next meeting.

REASON

In the interests of visual amenity and public health and safety.

138. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22

The Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager reported that all the money from the Committee's 2021/22 Capital Programme had been allocated and that a full report would be submitted in due course.

It was also reported that the remaining £3,700 of capital funding under the non-grant budget for Covid measures would be rolled into the Capital Programme budget for financial year 2022/23 and would then be at the disposal of this Committee.

139. HIGHWAY SAFETY ISSUES

It was reported that further to the decision at the meeting of this Committee on 5th January, 2022, a meeting was held with appropriate representatives at which highway safety issues, maintenance issues and speeding cars on specific roads in the Barrowford and Western Parishes area, including the A6068 were discussed and possible interventions to improve road safety were looked at.

It was agreed that:

- The Lancashire Road Safety Partnership would be asked to review the location and efficacy of Speed Cameras on the A6068.
- Lancashire County Council would carry out a Traffic Survey on the A6068 as soon as is practicable.
- Joint working towards delivering future walking/cycling/road safety schemes in the Barrowford and Western Parishes area would be continued.

It was further reported that there would be regular discussions and that this Committee would be apprised of progress and developments.

140. RESIDENTS-ONLY PARKING ON FOREST VIEW, BARROWFORD

The Housing, Health and Engineering Services Manager reported that the matter had been referred to Lancashire County Council and an update on progress was given at the meeting. Members were informed that the Residents Only Parking Team at Lancashire County Council were liaising with their Developer Support Team and would address the issue as soon as is possible.

141. ENVIRONMENTAL BLIGHT

Members were advised that there were currently no Environmental Blight sites in the Barrowford and Western Parishes area.

Any new sites should be reported to Tricia Wilson (tricia.wilson@pendle.gov.uk) or Julie Whittaker (julie.whittaker@pendle.gov.uk) with a brief description of the site and the problem along with contact details.

142. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Funding Opportunities for Brownfield Sites

Members discussed funding opportunities for Brownfield sites. It was reported that the Council was currently preparing a bid for Levelling Up funding and that Parish Councils would be encouraged to put forward Brownfield sites in their area that could benefit from such funding.

143. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

- (a) Traffic Issues on Wilton Street, Barrowford (2/2/22)
- (b) Traffic Concerns at the Junction of Gisburn Road and Ingham Street, Barrowford (2/2/22)

144. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Members agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during the following item 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 was likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

145. PROBLEM SITES

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report on problem sites in the Barrowford and Western Parishes area and a verbal update was given at the meeting.

RESOLVED

That a proposal to consider the Compulsory Purchase of the site referenced 2 on the list be deferred.

REASON

In the interests of visual amenity and public health and safety.

Chairman _____