

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
BARROWFORD AND WESTERN PARISHES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 5TH JULY, 2023
AT HOLMEFIELD HOUSE**

PRESENT

His Worship the Mayor – Councillor B. Newman

Councillor N. Ahmed (Chair)

Councillors

*D. Gallear
M. Stone*

Co-optees

*D. Heap - Barley with Wheatley Booth Parish Council
R. Oliver – Barrowford Parish Council
N. Hodgson - Blacko Parish Council
K. Wilkinson – Goldshaw Booth Parish Council
M. Tetley – Higham with West Close Booth Parish Council
D. Hall – Old Laund Booth Parish Council
M. Schofield - Roughlee Booth Parish Council*

Officers in Attendance

*W. Forrest
L. Barnes
J. Robinson*

*Housing Needs Manager (Area Co-ordinator)
Senior Planning Officer
Committee Administrator*

Also in Attendance

County Councillor H. Hartley



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

<i>Howard Hartley Jackie Heaps Robin Willoughby</i>	<i>23/0285/FUL - Full: Demolition of existing vacant farm shop and the erection of 8 no. dwellings with associated infrastructure at Roaming Roosters, Barrowford Road, Higham</i>	<i>Minute No. 34a</i>
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30.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

31.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A representative of Barrowford Parish Council expressed serious concerns regarding current and also future highway safety on Church Street, Barrowford now the appeal against refusal of planning permission for the erection 79 dwellings on land to the North East of Saint Thomas Church, Wheatley Lane Road, Barrowford had been allowed. A Residents' Action Group was

being established and would put pressure on Lancashire County Council (LCC) Highways to find a solution to the current issues and those that would undoubtedly arise both during and following construction. Support from this Committee, in the form of the matter being included as an item on a future agenda, was requested.

The Chair agreed with the concerns raised. This Committee at its meeting on 8th June, 2022 had recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee refuse the application for three reasons, one of which was the significant highway impact it would have including highway safety, inadequate access, narrow pavements, increased traffic and congestion. The Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 21st July, 2022 had also refused the application citing highway safety, particularly for pedestrians with the lack of a footpath on part of Church Street, as one of their three reasons for refusal. Advice, in the first instance, would be sought from the Council's Engineering Department with a view to working with LCC Highways to find the necessary solution. A report would be brought back to a future meeting of this Committee.

RESOLVED

That advice on the current and potential highway safety issues on Church Street, Barrowford be sought from the Council's Engineering Department and be reported back to a future meeting of this Committee.

32. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of this Committee, at the meeting held on 7th June, 2023, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

33. POLICE MATTERS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

The following crime statistics for June, 2023 compared to the same period in the previous year had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Police were not able to attend this meeting.

JUNE	2022	2023
Burglary – Residential	0	0
Burglary – Commercial	0	1
Vehicle Crime	4	2
Hate Crime	0	0
Assaults	3	6
Theft	3	8
Criminal Damage	4	1
All Other Recordable Incidents	34	38
ALL CRIME	48	56
Anti-Social Behaviour	14	5

PCSO A. Fielding had circulated some commentary on the crime figures prior to the meeting. This commentary stated that the crime figures for June were, in the main, very positive. The one commercial burglary was at a premises in Barrowford where unfortunately the cameras were deactivated on the day for maintenance purposes and as such no evidence was available to find a possible offender.

There had been increase of thefts in Blacko and Higherford these including 2 bike thefts, 1 attempted theft where nothing was taken and the theft of the planters in Blacko village. With regards to the bike thefts, PCSO Fielding was currently seeking funding to QR code bikes free of charge to hopefully deter crime and increase confidence. An appeal was made to all residents to remain vigilant and to continue to check their security at home.

Of the All Other Recordable Incidents there had been 9 logs that related to the Pendle Pub Walk of which 3 were a duplicate of the same log.

There was an 64% decrease in the number of reported anti-social behaviour incidents which was very positive and was due to the committed and continued work of the Neighbourhood Policing Team in the Barrowford and the Western Parishes area. Of the 5 cases, 2 were youth anti-social behaviour incidents and had been dealt with via home meetings with parents and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts being issued to the youths involved, the other 3 cases related to adults.

Some criticism of the Police was expressed which the majority of the Members felt was unjust. It was reported that the Community Beat Manager for the Barrowford and Western Parishes area, PC L. Bolton, had been office based for some time and that any 'beat' work was being undertaken by PCSO A. Fielding who did not have the same powers. The work of PCSO Fielding in spite of his more limited powers was praised. The Chair proposed that a letter be sent on the behalf of this Committee to PC L. Bolton to enquire as to the cover arrangements in place whilst she was office based and the reasons why if there weren't any. A request for arrangements to be made as a matter of urgency could also be made in the letter.

RESOLVED

That a letter be sent from the Chair, on the behalf of the Committee, to PC L. Bolton to enquire as to the cover arrangements in place whilst she was office based and to request for some arrangements to be made as a matter of urgency if there currently weren't any.

34.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) Planning application for determination

The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted the following planning application for determination: -

23/0285/FUL Full: Demolition of existing vacant farm shop and the erection of 8 no. dwellings with associated infrastructure at Roaming Roosters, Barrowford Road, Higham for Mr. C. McDermott

This application had been deferred from the last meeting of this Committee to allow for the information provided in the verbal update given at the meeting to be considered fully.

A verbal update was given at this meeting in which it was reported that, given that there were some re-grading works required to the grass verge to the west of the proposed access, the Council's Environment Officer (Trees) had asked that an informative be added to any Decision Notice which would ensure that works were only carried out outside the bird nesting season. This, however, did not change the overall recommendation to approve the application, subject to conditions.

RESOLVED

That planning permission be **refused** for the following reasons: -

1. The proposed development would have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt than the existing development. It would not preserve the openness of the Green Belt and would thus amount to inappropriate development as it would not be one of the developments set out in the National Planning Policy Framework that would not be inappropriate development. The development is larger and more spread out than the existing development and thus the development does not accord with any exceptions set out in the National Planning Policy Framework or with Policy ENV2 of the adopted Pendle Local Plan Part 1 - Core Strategy which requires new development to maintain openness.
2. The proposed layout, use of materials and overall design is not a design that is in keeping with the designs in the local area. The development would thus be out of character with the area and represents a poor design for the site. As such the development is contrary to paragraph 134 of the National Planning Policy Framework and to policy ENV2 of the adopted Pendle Local Plan Part 1.

(b) Planning Appeals

The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report, for information, on planning appeals, which was noted.

35. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report, for information, giving the up-to-date position on prosecutions, which was noted.

36. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2023/24

The Head of Housing and Environmental Health reported that £24,187 of the Committee's 2023/24 Budget was uncommitted.

Members were asked to consider the following bids totaling £50,062 from Parish Councils (PCs), Pendle Council St. Anne's Church, Fence, Pendle Council, Higherford Residents' Action Group and Barrowford Cricket Club: -

Higham with West Close Booth PC – Tarmac on Kiln Hill	£1,500
Barrowford PC – Barrowford Memorial Park River Wall	£6,500
St. Anne's Church – Refectory Walled Garden	£1,500
Barley with Wheatley Booth PC – Barley Village Green Wall	£2,500
Pendle Council – Premises Improvement Grants 2023/24	£3,000
Pendle Council – Litter and Dog Waste Bins	£1,000
Old Laund Booth PC – Encouraging Environmental Endeavours	£5,000
Blacko PC – Play Equipment	£2,000
Barley with Wheatley Booth PC – Playground Improvements	£3,000
Goldshaw Booth PC – Spen Brook Gateway Project	£2,000
Goldshaw Booth PC – Newchurch-in-Pendle Woodland Area	£1,500
Roughlee Booth PC – Village Centre Fencing Project	£2,900
Roughlee Booth PC – Happy Valley Planter Project	£962

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Roughlee Booth PC – Gas Tank Project	£450
Higham with West Close Booth PC – Threepenny Bit	£3,000
Higherford Residents’ Action Group – Riverside Tree Coppicing	£750
Barrowford Cricket Club – Improved Security	£12,500

Members were also asked to consider a request to deallocate £3,011 from the Pendle Council Higher Causeway to Dalesway Footpath Improvements Scheme (Scheme 3 in Appendix 1 attached to the report) as it could not go ahead without additional funding and no ‘top-up’ bid had been submitted.

RESOLVED

- (1) That it be noted that £24,187 of the Committee’s 2023/24 Budget was uncommitted.
- (2) That the Head of Housing and Environmental Health be requested to allocate the following amounts from the 2023/24 Budget: –

Higham with West Close Booth PC – Tarmac on Kiln Hill	£1,000
Barrowford PC – Barrowford Memorial Park River Wall	£6,500
St. Anne’s Church – Refectory Walled Garden	£1,500
Barley with Wheatley Booth PC – Barley Village Green Wall	£2,500
Pendle Council – Premises Improvement Grants 2023/24	£3,000
Pendle Council – Litter and Dog Waste Bins	£1,000
Blacko PC – Play Equipment	£2,000
Barley with Wheatley Booth PC – Playground Improvements	£3,000
Goldshaw Booth PC – Spen Brook Gateway Project	£1,000
Goldshaw Booth PC – Newchurch-in-Pendle Woodland Area	£1,500
Roughlee Booth PC – Village Centre Fencing Project	£2,000
Roughlee Booth PC – Happy Valley Planter Project	£962
Roughlee Booth PC – Gas Tank Project	£450
Higherford Residents Action Group – Riverside Tree Coppicing	£750
Total	£27,162

- (3) That the following bids be refused: -

Old Laund Booth PC – Encouraging Environmental Endeavours	£5,000
Higham with West Close Booth PC – Threepenny Bit	£3,000
Barrowford Cricket Club – Improved Security	£12,500

- (4) That the Head of Housing and Environmental Health be requested to deallocate £3,011 from the Pendle Council Higher Causeway to Dalesway Footpath Improvements Scheme (Scheme 3 in Appendix 1 attached to the report).
- (5) That the Executive be requested to agree a supplementary estimate of £12,500 to Barrowford Cricket Club for Improved Security.

REASONS

- (1) ***To enable the Committee’s Budget to be allocated effectively.***

- (2) ***The Barrowford and Western Parishes Committee deem the Barrowford Cricket Club bid to have considerable merit but do not have sufficient funding in their Budget to approve it.***

37. BARROWFORD PREMISES IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report on Barrowford Premises Improvement Grants.

Members considered a request to appoint two Grant Panel Members for Barrowford in 2023/24. They had already considered and approved an allocation of £3,000 from the Committee's 2023/24 Budget to the Premises Improvement Grant Scheme in Barrowford.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That Councillors B. Newman and M. Stone be appointed Grant Panel Members for Barrowford in 2023/24.

REASON

To allow the Premises Improvement Grants Scheme to continue in Barrowford for 2023/24.

38. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2023/24

At the Annual meeting of the Council the responsibility for appointing representatives to some outside bodies was referred to Area Committees. It was reported that there was in fact only one vacancy on the Reuben Burton Foundation Trust as A. Macadam had been appointed as a representative in 2021/22 and she had not resigned and was still co-opted onto this Committee. Therefore, Members were asked to consider the appointment of a second representative on the Reuben Burton Foundation Trust to join A. Macadam.

RESOLVED

That Councillor David Gallear be appointed as a representative on the Reuben Burton Foundation Trust until such time as he resigned or was no longer a Member of this Committee.

REASON

To maintain Council representation on outside bodies.

39. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

- (a) Traffic Issues on Wilton Street, Barrowford (4/1/23)
- (b) Condition of the Old Corn Mill, Higherford (7/6/23)

40. 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 was likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

41. VACANT PROPERTY

The Director of Resources submitted a report for Members' information, which was noted.

42. PROBLEM SITES

The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report on problem sites in the Barrowford and Western Parishes area, which was noted.

43. ENFORCEMENT ISSUE

A verbal update on progress since the last meeting was given. There had been a recent site visit at which agreements were made.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services be instructed to give the owner 6 weeks to carefully remove the deposited material on the site.
- (2) That the Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services be requested to report back to a future meeting of this Committee following the expiry of the 6 week period.

REASON

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

Chair _____