

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
BARROWFORD AND WESTERN PARISHES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 27TH MARCH 2024
AT HOLMEFIELD HOUSE**

PRESENT

Councillor N. Ahmed (Chair)

Councillors

*D. Gallear
M. Stone*

Co-optees

*R. Oliver – Barrowford Parish Council
K. Wilkinson – Goldshaw Booth Parish Council
D. Perrin - 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
J. Robinson*

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

Police

PCSO Alan Fielding

(An apology for absence was received from His Worship the Mayor – Councillor B. Newman).



135. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

136. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

137. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of this Committee, at the meeting held on 7th February 2024, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

138. POLICE MATTERS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

The crime statistics for February 2024 compared to the same period in the previous year had been circulated prior to the meeting.

FEBRUARY	2023	2024
Burglary – Residential	4	3
Burglary – Commercial	1	1
Vehicle Crime	2	0
Hate Crime	2	0
Assaults	8	11
Theft	3	2
Criminal Damage	0	6
All Other Recordable Incidents	22	28
ALL CRIME	42	51
Anti-Social Behaviour	14	20

The crime figures for February were showing no increase with the exception of Assaults, Criminal Damage and All Other Recordable Incidents. There had been a 30% increase in the number of reported anti-social behaviour incidents. PCSO Fielding explained that this increase had resulted from a number of youths from Nelson coming into Barrowford and ‘door-kicking’. The offenders had been identified and had been dealt with by way of a Community Resolution and would be issued with a formal caution should they come into Barrowford again. The offenders had also written sincere letters of apology to their victims.

There was some speed enforcement activity undertaken on Wheatley Lane Road, Barrowford during the week commencing 18th March, 2024 using laser speed guns. In the space of 45 minutes four speeding tickets and six words of advice were issued. Alarming, the fastest speed recorded was 42mph on the 30mph limited road. Further speeding enforcement activity in the Western Parishes was planned in the coming weeks. It was asked what was being done to address speeding issues on Cuckstool Lane, Fence. This was known to be a problem area and PCSO Fielding urged those present to report each and every incident they witnessed in that area or any other area to the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership (<https://lancsroadsafety.co.uk/submit-concern/>) as the Police needed to have an evidence base when determining how to allocate their finite resources.

A lack of CCTV in the Barrowford and Western Parishes area was making the timely identification of perpetrators of all types of crime more difficult but the Police were working hard to enforce the law and keep crime figures as low as possible and would continue to do so.

Work on the new Police Station for Pendle on Carr Road, Nelson had commenced and was expected to be completed in 2 years’ time. Colne and Nelson Police Stations would close once the new Station was fully operational.

139. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning Appeals

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

140. 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.

141. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2023/24

The Head of Housing and Environmental Health reported that the unallocated sum of the Committee's Budget was £36 and that a full report would be submitted to the next meeting, which was noted.

142. TRAFFIC LIAISON MEETING

The minutes of the Traffic Liaison Meeting held on 28th February, 2024, were submitted for information and noted.

143. PROPOSED DIVERSION OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH FP1315093 AT CHURCHILL WAY (EXTENSION), LOMESHAYE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

The Assistant Director Operational Services submitted a report to request that Members consider an application for the making and confirmation of an Order to divert public footpath FP1315093 at Churchill Way (Extension), Lomeshaye Industrial Estate.

The proposals for the diversion, which was required to allow a development with planning permission (22/0131/FUL) to be carried out, were outlined on a map attached to the report at Appendix B. The proposed diversion was over land owned by the Council which did not have any other intended use.

Informal consultation had been undertaken and there had been one initial objection and a claim from a neighbouring landowner that the diversion might impact on a private right of way in their ownership. The objection had since been withdrawn following a revision to the proposals map and it had been confirmed that the proposed diversion would have no effect on that particular or on any other private rights of way. Should any issues be deemed to be affecting private rights of ways going forward they would be resolved outside of the public path order process.

Whilst Members agreed with the recommendations as set out in the report, they expressed disappointment that the Developer had not made this application prior to commencing works as that work had had the effect of obstructing the footpath without any lawful authority.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be instructed to make an Order to divert public footpath FP1315093 at Churchill Way (Extension), Lomeshaye Industrial Estate under Section 257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- (3) That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be instructed to confirm the Order as unopposed in the event of no objections being received.
- (4) That the Order be referred to the Secretary of State to appoint an independent Inspector for a decision on confirming the Order in the event of any objections made and not withdrawn after the Order has been made.

REASONS

- (1) *The proposed diversion is necessary to allow a development with planning permission to be carried out.***
- (2) *The Order can only take effect if it has been duly confirmed.***
- (3) *In the event of outstanding objections the Order can only be confirmed by a decision taken by an independent Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State at the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs.***

144. PREMISES IMPROVEMENT GRANT SCHEME – SUMMARY 2023/24

The Head of Economic Growth submitted a report on the Premises Improvement Grant Scheme in 2023/24.

Three enquiries for Grants had been received in 2023/24, one of which was eligible but had already carried out the work, Grants could not be given retrospectively. There continued to be moderate interest in the Scheme and Barrowford would continue to be targeted though the Economic Development Team's digital newsletter.

Members expressed disappointment that the change in the boundary criteria for the Scheme to include Newbridge Local Shopping Area they had agreed on 10th May, 2023 had not had the positive impact on the take up of the Scheme they had hoped for. They felt that further publicity around the Scheme was needed.

Members then considered the request to agree to a funding allocation of £3,000 from the Committee's 2023/24 Budget for Premises Improvement Grants for the 2024/25 financial year to support one application based on the maximum Grant amount. They also considered a request to nominate a minimum of two Grant Panel Members for 2024/25.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the Head of Economic Growth and the Economic Development Team be requested to publicise the Barrowford Premises Improvement Grant Scheme more widely.
- (3) That consideration of the request to allocate £3,000 from the Committee's Budget to the Premises Improvement Grant Scheme for 2024/25 be deferred to the next meeting.
- (4) That the nomination of a minimum of two Grant Panel Members for 2024/25 be deferred to the next meeting.

REASONS

- (1) *To allow Members of the Committee to see the outcomes of the Premises Improvement Grant Scheme so far in the 2023/24 financial year.***
- (2) *To have a positive impact on take up of the Premises Improvement Grant Scheme within Barrowford.***
- (3) *To allow the Premises Improvement Grant programme to fund future projects in 2024/25. To allow for all existing approved grants to be given to businesses within a reasonable timeframe.***

- (4) To allow Grant Panel Members to be decided by the Members of the Committee.**
- (5) To allow Members to make decisions that support the ongoing regeneration of Barrowford Town Centre.**

145. 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) with a brief description of the site and the problem along with contact details.

146. FLOODING ISSUES/RISKS

Flooding Issue on Clough Springs, Barrowford

There was an issue at the substation on Wheatley Lane Road, Barrowford which was contributing to the highway flooding on Clough Springs, Barrowford and various other locations on Wheatley Lane Road. This issue would be added to the Ordinary Making Space for Water list for further investigation.

Lancashire County Council (LCC) were aware of other issues in the area and works had been programmed to clear a debris screen and undertake a CCTV survey to address them.

It was reported that a separate report had since been made to LCC regarding water that had been pouring from a culvert on Wheatley Lane Road that was suspected to be blocked on a dry day. LCC's response to this further report was awaited. As this issue was ongoing Members requested that a further update on this issue be provided at a future meeting.

Flooding Issue on Beverley Road, Blacko

LCC felt this issue might relate to the rural section of Beverley Road, Blacko which leads to the former Cross Gaits Inn and had asked that it be reported via the Love Clean Streets webpage (<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/flooding-and-drainage/>) or app (<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/report-it-on-the-go/>) for action to be considered. This report was made and remedial works had since been identified and programmed by LCC.

As LCC had not provided an indication as to when works might commence Members requested that a further update on this issue be provided at a future meeting.

Flooding Issue on Red Lane, Blacko

LCC were aware of an issue with a drainage pipe/outlet on Red Lane, Blacko becoming blocked on a regular basis and were currently looking into options to prevent the blockages including the installation of either a larger storm drain at the canal or a trash or non-return screen at the outlet.

As LCC had not provided an indication as to when remedial works might be programmed Members requested that a further update on this issue be provided at a future meeting.

New Issues

It was reported that, in spite of repeated reports made by Roughlee Parish Council via Love Clean Streets about flooding on Stang Top Road, Roughlee, the issues in this area were still persisting and were causing the side of the road to disappear. It was felt that the issue was being caused by blocked drains and gullies on the road that were backing up during rainfall events.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the updates be noted.
- (2) That the flooding issues on Clough Springs, Barrowford, Red Lane, Blacko and Beverley Road, Blacko be moved to the Outstanding Items list in order for updates on each ongoing issue to be provided at future meetings.
- (3) That the new flooding issue on Stang Top Road, Roughlee be reported to Lancashire County Council to be addressed.

REASON

To reduce the risk of flooding in the Barrowford and Western Parishes area.

147.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Lack of Street Lighting on East Bank, Barrowford

It was reported that a resident had complained about the lack of street lighting on East Bank, Barrowford. It was further reported that the matter had already been referred to Lancashire County Council (LCC) who had advised that they could change the lantern to a higher wattage one in the existing street light on East Bank or, should this Committee be minded to provide the necessary funding, they could erect a new street lighting column. The cost would be in the region of £1,500 for a 5/6m column, lantern and a new connection. Once erected the column would be maintained by LCC.

The Committee could not currently meet the estimated cost as there was only the sum of £36 unallocated in their Budget and they would not receive their new Budget allocation until the new financial year.

RESOLVED

That this item be deferred until the next meeting.

Providing Financial Support and Assistance to Barrowford Cricket Club

Barrowford Cricket Club (BCC) had previously submitted a bid for £12,500 for improved security to this Committee's 2023/24 Budget following an invitation to do so. BCC's bid had been considered at a meeting on 5th July, 2023 and it had been resolved that it be refused but that the Executive Committee be requested to agree a supplementary estimate of £12,500 to BCC. This request was made and noted by the Executive on 20th July, 2023. Things had not since improved for BCC and they had again requested the support and assistance of this Committee.

It was felt BCC's main issue remained the absence of a boundary fence between their premises and land and Bullholme playing fields. Members were also aware of issues with BCC's property being vandalised due to it being open to access.

Whilst the Committee would want to assist it was likely it would not be feasible for them to do so given the level of financial support and assistance required by BCC. Members thought grants from Sport England, the Pendle Community Safety Partnership and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire might be available but could not be certain and sought clarification on this.

RESOLVED

- (1) That advice be sought from relevant Officers on funding sources available, including but not limited to, grants from Sport England, the Pendle Community Safety Partnership and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire, that could potentially provide Barrowford Cricket Club with the financial support and assistance they required.
- (2) That any potential funding sources identified in (1) be discussed further at the next meeting.

REASON

The Committee recognises Barrowford Cricket Club's need for financial support and assistance but would be unable to provide it given the level required.

148. OUTSTANDING ISSUE

- Traffic Issues on Wilton Street, Barrowford (1/11/2023)

149. 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.

150. PROBLEM SITES

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

It was reported that the only referenced site was falling back into an untidy state. It was further reported that some of the wooden hoardings erected were no longer sufficiently securing the site.

Concerns were expressed that anti-social behaviour could again become an issue on the site if some action was not to be taken as a matter of priority, particularly given that an indication as to when works to develop the site would commence was still awaited from the owner.

RESOLVED

That the Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services be instructed to require the owner of the only referenced site to tidy it and ensure it was sufficiently secured.

REASON

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

Chair _____