

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
BARROWFORD AND WESTERN PARISHES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 2ND APRIL, 2025
AT HOLMEFIELD HOUSE**

PRESENT

Councillor N. Ahmed (Chair)

Councillors

*D. Gallear
B. Newman
M. Stone*

Co-optees

*R. Oliver – Barrowford Parish Council
F. Shiers - Goldshaw Booth Parish Council
T. Butterfield - Higham with West Close Booth Parish Council*

Officers in Attendance

*W. Forrest
N. Watson

A. Pushpagaran
J. Robinson*

*Housing Needs Manager (Area Co-ordinator)
Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory
Services
Planning Officer
Committee Administrator*

*(Apologies for absence were received from N. Hodgson, Blacko Parish Council, D. Hall, Old
Laund Booth Parish Council and M. Schofield, Roughlee Booth Parish Council.)*

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The following persons attended the meeting and spoke on the following item:

*Graham Burns
Graham Fielding
Mark Hanson
Andrew Powell
Robin Willoughby*

*24/0857/FUL - Full: Change of use of land to be
used as a Shooting Club (Sui Generis) including
formation of Earth Bund at end of existing track
and the creation of car parking area on existing
yard at Hunters Holme, Grove Lane, Higham*

Minute No. 145a

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141.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded of the requirements of the Member Code of Conduct concerning the Declaration of Interests. There were no Declarations of Interest.

142.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A resident, who had attended the previous four meetings to speak about the same matter, was in attendance again as he felt the action agreed at last meeting of this Committee had not been undertaken which meant that the fence on some land in Higham still continued to cause a serious hazard for vehicles entering the A6068 owing to visibility splay obstruction. The issue had more recently been raised with Jonathan Hinder MP and he would be looking into it as a safety matter, particularly given he was already aware of the fence through his use of the A6068.

The Chair thanked the resident for attending another meeting and for again raising his concerns. The Chair then assured the resident that his concerns had been heard, and that the Committee were working with Officers to resolve the issues raised.

The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services advised the resident that the further site visit agreed at the last meeting had been undertaken. The resident was further advised that the owner, via their agent, had been asked to consider removing the offending section fencing at the side but had not responded.

The Chair said the request would be made again following this meeting and that, if there was no positive response, the next steps would be determined by this Committee at a future meeting. This proposed course of action was welcomed by the resident.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the owner of the land in question in Higham, via their agent, be again asked to consider removing the offending section of side fencing on that land.
- (2) That the next steps then be determined by this Committee at a future meeting should there be no positive response to the request referred to in (1).

REASON

In the interests of highway safety.

143.

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of this Committee, at the meeting held on 5th March, 2025, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

144.

POLICE MATTERS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

The crime statistics for March 2025 compared to the same period in the previous year had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Police were unable to attend this meeting.

MARCH	2025	2024
Burglary – Residential	2	1
Burglary – Other than Dwelling	0	0
Vehicle Crime	5	3
Hate Crime	0	1
Assaults	16	15
Theft	2	5
Arson/Criminal Damage	4	1
All Other Recordable Incidents	43	50
All Other Recordable Incidents (Year to Date)	111	N/A
Anti-Social Behaviour	4	14

The crime figures for March, where comparisons could be made, were showing no increases with the exception of Burglary – Residential, Vehicle Crime, Assaults and Arson/Criminal Damage. There had been a 71% decrease in the number of reported Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents.

PCSO A. Fielding had circulated some commentary on the crime figures prior to the meeting. This commentary stated that the Police had had a very intensive and successful couple of weeks, finishing on Monday 31st March, 2025, with regard to speed enforcement and car related offences. They had been particularly active in Blacko, Fence, Higham and Newchurch-in-Pendle over the last week with enforcement for various driving/vehicle offences. Barley and Roughlee would be targeted in the coming week. Members welcomed this positive report but said there was a need to continue lobbying for extra resources to deal with this particular issue given its seriousness.

The Police had been working with Lancashire County Council's Parking Enforcement Team and had asked them to pay particular attention to Barley and to undertake their visits to Parish schools at both the start and the end of the school day.

With regards to the ASB in Barrowford, both incidents were youth ASB and were connected to one address. One of the offences was difficult to investigate as there was no evidence and the other was concluded by the youths and their parents being formally spoken to. All the other Parishes had had very little or no ASB.

With regards to the Assaults in Barrowford, one involved a schoolboy travelling on a bus, one was nighttime disorder related, two were dog bites and the remaining four were domestic violence related. After further investigation it was discovered that there had been a glitch in the reporting system and that the total number of Assaults in Blacko, Higherford and Old Laund Booth should be two and not six. The two reported Assaults were both nighttime disorder at the Fence Gate pub.

In Blacko there had been two thefts, a vehicle theft and the theft of tools from a vehicle that was left insecure by its owner.

Members expressed disappointment that the Police had not attended the last three meetings of this Committee. Members had wanted to enquire as to the Police's plans for tackling the setting off of fireworks late at night as the nights got lighter during the spring and summer months.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Police be requested to attend future meetings of this Committee on a more frequent basis.
- (2) That the Police be requested to advise the Committee of their plans for tackling issues relating to the setting off of fireworks late at night during the spring and summer months.

REASONS

- (1) ***In the interests of the prevention and control of crime and anti-social activity in the Barrowford and Western Parishes area.***
- (2) ***It is anticipated that the setting off of late night fireworks will increasingly become an issue as the nights get lighter.***

145.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) Application to be determined

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

24/0857/FUL Full: Change of use of land to be used as a Shooting Club (Sui Generis) including formation of Earth Bund at end of existing track and the creation of car parking area on existing yard at Hunters Holme, Grove Lane, Higham for Mrs. Adele Hanson

Determination of this item had been deferred from the last meeting of this Committee to allow discussions with the applicant relating to the recently submitted risk assessment, method statement and standard operating procedure to conclude and also to allow time for comments from the Health and Safety Executive to be received.

The Assistant Director Planning Building Control and Regulatory Services had circulated a detailed update report prior to the meeting which advised that, following the full assessment of the risk assessment, method statement and standard operating procedure submitted by the applicant, and also the receipt of comments from the Health and Safety Executive, the recommendation to approve the application had altered to refusal.

RESOLVED

That determination of this application be **deferred** to the next meeting of this Committee to allow further discussions between the Assistant Director Planning Building Control and Regulatory Services and the applicant to take place.

(b) Planning Appeals

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

146.

ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted an update on enforcement matters.

In a verbal update it was reported that the owner of The Bungalow, Dam Head Farm, Blacko Bar Road, Roughlee (Case 1) had pleaded not guilty at a recent Hearing and that a Trial date had since been set for late June 2025. It was further reported that most of the non-agricultural items had been removed from Field No 9346 Jinny Lane, Roughlee (Case 4) with the exception of the container.

The result of the Trial of 19th March, 2025 against the owner of the Land adjacent Pasture Barn East, Pasture Lane, Barrowford (Case 3) was enquired about. It was likely that a further Enforcement Notice would be served due to there being an unregistered interest in the land so that the case could be heard by the Planning Inspectorate rather than by a Magistrate.

147. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2024/25

The Head of Housing and Environmental Health reported that the unallocated sum of the Committee's Budget from 2024/25 was £363. The Budget for 2025/26 would be £17,850.

A full report would be submitted to the next meeting.

It was reported that an e-mail had been sent to the Clerks of all Parish Councils in the Barrowford and Western Parishes area inviting them to submit any bids not later than 1st May, 2025 so that they could be considered at the June 2025 meeting of this Committee.

148. PREMISES IMPROVEMENT GRANT SCHEME – SUMMARY 2024/25

The Head of Economic Growth submitted a report on the Premises Improvement Grant Scheme in 2024/25.

Four enquiries for grants had been received in 2024/25. One had progressed to application and a payment of £1,224 would be made once the works at the premises were completed. The remaining three enquiries would not be progressing to application.

Members considered a request to agree to a funding allocation of £3,000 from the Committee's Budget. The money would support the outstanding grant payment and support one further application in 2025/26. They also considered a request to nominate a minimum of two Grant Panel Members for 2025/26.

As there was only £363 remaining in the Committee's 2024/25 Budget an allocation of £3,000 could not be agreed at this meeting. Members would reconsider this request at the next meeting once the 2025/26 Committee Budget allocation had been received. The request to nominate a minimum of two Grant Panel Members for 2025/26 would also be considered at the next meeting.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That consideration of the request to allocate £3,000 from the Committee's Budget to the Premises Improvement Grant Scheme be deferred to the next meeting.
- (3) That the nomination of a minimum of two Grant Panel Members for 2025/26 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 2024/25 financial year.*
- (2) *To allow the Premises Improvement Grant programme to fund future projects in 2025/26. To allow for all existing approved grants to be given to businesses within a reasonable timeframe.*
- (3) *To allow Grant Panel Members to be decided by the Members of the Committee.*
- (4) *To allow Members to make decisions that support the ongoing regeneration of Barrowford town centre.*

150.

FLOODING ISSUES/RISKS

Three new flooding/drainage issues were raised by Members at the meeting including on Pasture Lane, Barrowford and in the vicinities of the Forest pub in Fence and the Public Toilets in Newchurch-in-Pendle.

Flooding/Drainage Issue on Pasture Lane, Barrowford

It was reported that water was running all year round down Pasture Lane, Barrowford from half way down the hill and just before Roughlee. This issue had been ongoing for two years and had previously been reported to United Utilities. It was felt it could be caused by either a burst water main or run-off from a field drain.

Flooding/Drainage Issue in the Vicinity of the Forest pub, Fence

It was reported that the presence of foul water had been noticed in the vicinity of the Forest pub in Fence.

Flooding/Drainage Issue in the Vicinity of the Public Toilets in Newchurch-in-Pendle

It was reported that a small stream of water was running from a Public Footpath and down the steps that lead towards the Public Toilets in Newchurch-in-Pendle. This issue had also been raised with United Utilities.

RESOLVED

That the flooding/drainage issues raised at this meeting, including on Pasture Lane, Barrowford and in the vicinities of the Forest pub in Fence and the Public Toilets in Newchurch-in-Pendle, be referred the relevant responsible authorities/organisations for further investigation and action.

REASON

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

Chair _____