

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
BARROWFORD AND WESTERN PARISHES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 7TH JANUARY 2026
AT HOLMEFIELD HOUSE**

PRESENT
Councillor N. Ahmed (Chair)

Councillors

*B. Newman
M. Stone*

Officers in Attendance

*E. Barker
A. Pushpagaran
J. Eccles*

Co-optees

*R. Oliver – Barrowford Parish Council
B. Murrell – Goldshaw Booth Parish Council
J. Hartley – Old Laund Booth Parish Council
M. Schofield – Roughlee Booth Parish Council*

*Legal Services Manager (Area Co-ordinator)
Planning Officer
Committee Administrator*

Also in Attendance

County Councillor H. Hartley

(Apologies for absence were given by Mr D. Heap (Barley with Wheatley Booth Parish Council), N. Hodgson (Blacko Parish Council) and Councillor D. Gallear.)

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104.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded of the legal requirements concerning the declaration of interests. Members' attention was also drawn to the requirements of the Council's Code of Conduct relating to the disclosure of Other Registrable Interests and Non-Registrable Interests.

105.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A resident from Barrowford asked about the recent spate of burglaries in the Fence and Barrowford area and whether more could be done to alert the public to make them more vigilant and to keep people informed of progress. This was discussed along with the monthly crime statistics under the Police Matters item below.

106.

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of this Committee, at the meeting held on 3rd December 2025, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

107.

POLICE MATTERS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

PCSO A. Fielding had sent his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting but circulated the crime statistics for December. He had commented on the high number of burglaries saying that the Police had put various resources in place and had so far recovered 3 of the cars stolen.

Barrowford and Western Parishes Committee (07.01.2026)

The Committee agreed that the recent spate of break-ins and burglaries was worrying. They recognised how upsetting it must have been for those affected, particularly elderly residents that had been disturbed. The Chair said that he would pass on residents' concerns to the police and see what more could be done to raise awareness of crimes in an area and provide feedback on progress, so that residents could be reassured that action was being taken.

Several Members of the Committee had been in touch with the Police over the Festive period and had been assured that additional resources had been brought into the area to deal with the spike in car theft. The Police had been working with West Yorkshire Police and Blackburn's Police Force on this operation. It was acknowledged that details of action being taken, could not always be broadcast, until after arrests had been made.

The Chair commented that overall crime figures were still low. Speeding cars, reported previously, was still an issue. At the last meeting Members had asked for a meeting to be arranged with Building Bridges to discuss ways of tackling the use of fireworks in the community, following numerous complaints by residents. This has been raised with the Council's Community Safety Officer.

Members had been informed that the Police were intending to reintroduce an initiative that had worked well in the past but lapsed in the last couple of years. From the start of the next wedding season members of the community would advise the Police of upcoming weddings so the families could be visited and given advice on the lawful use of fireworks. This would more directly target those who needed to know rather than going through Building Bridges and the mosques, because the Police would give the clearest messages of what could be done and the consequences of anything else.

Residents were encouraged to report all crimes to the Police so that an accurate picture could be built up across Barrowford and the Western Parishes and the Police could respond accordingly.

RESOLVED

- (1) That concerns about the recent spate of burglaries in the area be conveyed to PCSO A. Fielding and his colleagues; that they be asked if more could be done to increase public awareness of ongoing crimes in their local areas, e.g. more social media posts; and that feedback also be provided on action taken or arrests made.
- (2) That Members of the Committee and residents be encouraged to attend PCSO A. Fielding's open meeting at 11.15am at Booths on Friday 9th January.

108.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

(a) Planning applications for determination

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

25/0646/FUL *Full: Conversion of existing public house (Sui Generis) to 1 no. dwelling (Use Class C3) and the erection of 1 no. dwelling in the adjacent car park at Cross Gaits Inn, Beverley Road, Blacko for Mr John Kay*

Barrowford and Western Parishes Committee (07.01.2026)

An update was submitted prior to the meeting reporting receipt of a Business Buyer & Market appraisal valuation report by the Cross Gaits Community Group in support of their business plan (previously submitted) demonstrating the viability of the Cross Gaits as a community pub. The applicant had requested more time to examine and respond to this document. It was therefore recommended to defer consideration of the application to allow the applicant time to respond to the submitted information.

RESOLVED

That planning permission be **deferred** to allow the applicant time to respond to recently submitted information.

25/0647/LBC Listed Building Consent: Conversion of existing public house (Sui Generis) to 1 no. dwelling (Use Class C3) and the erection of 1 no. dwelling in the adjacent car park at Cross Gaits Inn, Beverley Road, Blacko for Mr John Kay

An update was submitted prior to the meeting as reported for the full application (25/0646/FUL) detailed above.

RESOLVED

That planning permission be **deferred** to allow the applicant time to respond to recently submitted information.

(b) Planning Appeals

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

109. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

The Legal and Democratic Services Manager submitted a report giving the up-to-date position on prosecutions. At the meeting the Legal Services Manager gave a verbal update on the lack of progress at The Bungalow at Dam Head Farm, Blacko Bar Road, Roughlee despite several fines, and that consideration was being given to seeking an injunction at the High Court. It was also reported that officers had recently visited Land south of Heights House, Height Lane, Fence and had requested updates from the owner on the outstanding matters.

RESOLVED

That the Chief Executive be asked to authorise the Council's Legal Team to seek an injunction if the breach of the enforcement notice continued at The Bungalow, Dam Head Farm, Blacko Bar Road, Roughlee.

110. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2025/26

The Legal Services Manager reported that the Committee had committed all of its 2025/26 budget and an update would be submitted in due course. Parish Councils were reminded that they should try to spend the funding before the year end and to report any potential issues as soon as possible.

111.

THE PRIDE IN PLACE IMPACT FUND

Members discussed the Pride in Place Impact Fund - a new £1.5m programme of central government funding allocated to Pendle for use on capital projects in 2025/26 and 2026/27. At the Executive meeting on 17th December it was agreed to allocate funding of £192,934 for projects in Barrowford.

Members were asked to consider possible projects that could deliver and spend by 31st March 2027. It was noted that eligible activities must fall within one of three objectives -

- Spaces – The focus of this objective is buildings and indoor spaces.
- Public spaces – The focus of this objective is outdoor recreation spaces.
- High streets & town centre revitalisation – The focus of this objective is regenerating high streets and local shopping areas.

Barrowford Councillors and Barrowford Parish Council were meeting officers on Monday 12th January to find out more and discuss initial ideas.

There was a question over whether some of the allocation for Barrowford could be allocated to the Parish Councils, from the outset, or maybe after a certain period of time if there were not enough projects for Barrowford that could deliver and spend by 31st March 2027.

RESOLVED

That clarification be sought on whether some of the allocation of the Pride in Place Impact Funding for Barrowford could be allocated to the Parish Councils.

REASON

To agree on the criteria for the distribution of Pride in Place Impact Funding allocated for Barrowford to enable discussions on possible eligible projects to start as soon as possible.

112.

FLOODING/DRAINAGE ISSUES

(a) An opportunity for new flooding/drainage issues to be raised

There were no new issues raised.

Residents were asked to report any existing or new highway/flooding issues including blocked gulleys on the LCC Love Clean Streets App. This would allow LCC's Inspector to review issues and arrange remedial action as required in accordance with their Highway Safety Inspection Policy.

(b) Outstanding Flooding/Drainage Issues

It was noted that there was no progress with the following LCC drainage issues previously reported –

- At Park Avenue at the bottom of Lower Parrock Road, Barrowford; and

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- The flow of water coming onto the A6068 from the field below Enty's Eats at Pendle Forest Sports Club.

Chair _____

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