



**Barrowford
Parish Council
Annual Report
2024-25**

Barrowford Parish Council

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Membership of the Council

Carr Hall

Cllr. R. Oliver, Vice Chair of the Council 2024-25	Cllr. M. Iqbal
Cllr. J. Gibson Vice-Chair of the GP Committee 2024-25	

Newbridge

Cllr. A. Stringer, Chair of the Council 2024-25	Cllr. A. Vickerman
Cllr. T. Titchiner	

Central Ward

Cllr. S. Nike, Chair of the GP Committee 2024-25	Cllr. L. Ashworth
Cllr. P. Thompson	Vacancy*

Higherford

Cllr. M. Waddington	Cllr. C. Ashton
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* If you wish to apply for co-option onto the Council see the noticeboard at Holmefield House

Luncheon Club: The Luncheon Club has seen growth in numbers who are attending with the average attendance now being between 14 and 18 per week. There is still scope for more people to attend and if anybody wants to attend, please contact the Clerk on 01282 696349 to initially book.

Community Orchard Planted at Holmefield House: The trees at Holmefield House are now in their second year and only one has failed after being hit by an electric bike and snapped of at ground level. Some fruit shrubs and Honeysuckle were planted to the corner of Lucy Street and Gisburn Road to add to the insect and bird habitat.

A second phase of 21 mixed fruit trees were planted on Broadway after significant pruning was carried out in December. The cost of the trees came from a DEFRA fund set up to Commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III. After a successful showing of mixed spring bulbs including Snowdrops, Crocus, Tulip and Dwarf Dafodills in the planters, it is planned to salvage these bulbs and replant within the fruit trees at both Holmefield House and Broadway. This will enhance the spring colour to both sites.

Friends of Holmefield House: The Friends Group has met this year under Chair, Mr. Peter Cleggsome decorating has been done and a new AED box provided for the outside wall at Holmefield House. The Group's Annual General Meeting will be held in June date to be arranged.

Christmas Decorations: Barrowford Parish Council continues to provide Christmas decorations if any of the shops along Gisburn road that currently not part of the scheme wishes to be considered they would need to install a weatherproof outside socket please contact the Clerk on 01282 696249 to discuss what is required before the end of September to enable brackets to be installed and trees and lights to be ordered.

Planters: The Council plant and water planters through the village these are planted both Spring and Autumn to try and provide colour throughout the year. The Spring Plants will be brought in before this meeting with the summer planting being done before the end of May.

Allotments: The Parish Council currently manages 6 allotment sites and there are several currently available so if you wish to rent an allotment, please contact the Council Clerk on 01282 696349 or barrowfordpc@barrowford.org.uk for an application form.

Barrowford Memorial Park: The Memorial Garden saw major renovation last summer with new natural stone paving's being laid replacing the worn-out concrete fags. Additional names of Barrowford's fallen from the Boar War to current were added to the Memorial. Much of this research has been done by Cllr. L. Ashworth. A booklet was given out at the Wreath Laying Service giving details of the new additions to the war Memorial. that all these works will be completed in time to be officially opened at the Remembrance Sunday Wreath Laying Service. This year's

works in the park will include improvements to the safety surface at the toddlers play area. The creation of a new path to the rear of the lake and removal of the old raised boardwalk which is now rotten and unsafe. Self-seeded saplings growing in the lake's wall will be removed as the growth is starting to damage the wall. It is also hoped that some renovation of Coronation Walk will begin this year as many of the existing flags are broken.

Friends of Barrowford Memorial Park:

The Friends Group are often seen carrying out workdays within the park and if you feel that you could help, please contact Cllr. Nike Chair of the Friends Group or Iain Lord on 01282 696349.

Cruck Barn Christmas Carol Service:

This event has been running for around two decades and is still going strong, last year saw an increase in attendance on the previous year.

The Parish Council would like to thank both the Local Churches and the Heritage Centre that organise this Village event.

Contacting Your Parish Council

If you wish to contact the Council, the office at Holmefield House is open to the public on **Tuesdays 1.00-3.00 pm, Thursdays 10.00-12.00 am,** and **Saturday 10.00-12.00 am.** The Clerk can be contacted on 01282 696349. If he is not available, please leave a message and he will return your call as soon as he returns, or you can email the Council at: barrowfordpc@barrowford.org.uk.

Council Meetings for 2025 - 26

At Full Council meetings there is a 15-minute Public Question Time where members of the public can ask a question regarding any Council matter not on that meeting's agenda. The Council will endeavour to answer the question there and then, or write with an answer as soon as possible. If members of the public wish to speak on any agenda item, they must contact the Clerk before 12.00 noon on the day of the meeting to confirm which agenda item they wish to speak on. If it is not possible to contact the Clerk prior to the meeting they may still be allowed to speak at the discretion of the Chair of the meeting.

Members of the public and press are quite welcome to attend both the Full Council meetings and the General Purposes Committee meetings.

Full Council Meeting	General Purposes Meeting
7.00pm 18 th June 2025	7.00pm 11 th June 2025
7.00pm 16 th July 2025	No Meeting
7.00pm 20 th August 2025	No Meeting
7.00pm 17 th September 2025	10 th September 2025
7.00pm 15 th October 2025	No Meeting
7.00pm 19 th November 2025	No Meeting
7.00pm 10 th December 2025	No Meeting
7.00pm 21 st January 2026	14 th January 2026
7.00pm 18 th February 2026	No Meeting
7.00pm 18 th March 2026	No Meeting
7.00pm 15 th April 2026	7.00pm 9 th April 2025

The above meeting dates are provisional and are subject to approval by the Council at its Annual Meeting on the 21st May 2025.

The Annual Meeting with the Electorate and the Annual Meeting of the Council for 2025 will be held on the 20th May 2026. This may be subject to change but must be held in May.

Finances 2024 – 25

Barrowford Parish Council: Unaudited Balance Sheet Receipts & Payments Accounts 2024-2025

Receipts		Payments	
Precept	219,470.00	Wages & Salaries	109,160.57
Rents	14,041.50	Administration	11,470.30
Allotment water	2,010.00	Events/Donations	1,417.64
Interest	4,205.43	Works	84,442.59
Others (Inc. Donations)	4,288.50	Allotments	4,916.57
Grants to Projects	14,015.00	Holmefield House	12,091.13
Luncheon Club	2,167.98	Annex Extension	8,800.00
Luncheon Club Contra Provisions	1638.03	Luncheon Club Contra	1,638.03
Outstanding Vat Reclaim 2022-23	9,425.04		
Vat Reclaims 2024-25	16,559.50	Vat Paid	19,418.95
Total Receipts	287,820.98	Total Payments	253,355.78
Total Receipts	287,820.98		
Total Payments	253,355.78		
Receipts Over Payments	34,465.20		
Opening Balance	225,234.16		
01/04/2024			
Total	259,699.36	Closing Balance	
		31/03/2025	259,699.36

Income:

Income for 2024-25 was £287,820.98 with the precept being £219,470.00 with rents and water charges providing an additional £16,051.50 (up £617 on the previous year). Income from interest has increased to £4205.43 (up £1,121.12 on the previous year). Grants and Other income fell from £18,303.50 due to the completion of the extension to the Annex at Holmefield House. The Luncheon Club income improved slightly from £3,637.81 to £3,806.01. this is due to an increase in numbers attending, the Luncheon Club is still actively promoting the Luncheon Club.

Expenditure:

The total expenditure for 2024-25 was £253,355.78:

Wages & Salaries: Wages & salaries and associated costs rose from £106,279.17 to £109,160.57 through the 2024-25 National Wage Agreement 2.5% increase.

Events and Donations: The Council spent £1,417.64 on expenses attributed to both New Plaques, Remembrance Sunday and the Cruck

Barn Carol Service and some small grants to outside organisations. This figure does not include council staff wages.

Works: Expenditure on works was £84,442.69 down on £88,489.14 down on the previous year. Works includes park maintenance Memorial Garden refurbishment at Barrowford Memorial Park, a voluntary contribution to Victoria Park, general maintenance cost of other council owned land, Christmas decorations, and the Summer and Winter planter's new tools and equipment.

The Parish Council is expecting the costs to increase significantly for 2025-26 when it is hoped that a scheme for works to the river wall will be approved by the Environment Agency and done within this financial year the Council has set aside over the last few years £85,000 towards this essential repair cost, the Council has also budgeted around £37,000 for the upgrade of safety surfaces on the Toddlers Play Area, creation of a new path with the removal of dangerous raised walkway to rear of park lake improvements and begin improvements to Coronation Walk which may be funded over two years..

Allotments: The cost of repairs and water utility charges and asbestos removal came to £4,916.57. The Council has budgeted an additional £6,000 for essential repairs to allotment infrastructure.

Holmefield House: These costs can be broken down into two distinct areas, Administration and Repairs & Maintenance, The Administration costs for running the Councils office including insurance of all council assets was £11,470.30 down on the previous year whilst Repair and Maintenance cost £12,091.13. **Holmefield Annex Extension:** The final payments for works were £8,800.00 this being covered by £8,800.00 a grant from the Armed Forces Support Group.

VAT: Vat payments of £19,418.95 were paid during 2024-25 with £16,559.50 being reclaimed in 2024-25. The outstanding £2,859.15 for the final quarter of 2024-5 was reclaimed in April 2025 and will be shown in the 2025-26 accounts.

