



## Annual Open Parish Meeting – Draft Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	22 May 2024		
<b>Place:</b>	Whalley Old Grammar School, Whalley, Clitheroe.		
<b>Present:</b>	Councillors: L. Crook, K. Heyworth, L. Street, D. Chiappi and E. Kinder		
<b>In attendance:</b>	Clerk to the Council: Mike Hill, Borough Cllr. D. Birtwhistle and County Councillor G. Mirfin and three members of the public.		
<b>Meeting started:</b>	18:00	<b>Meeting closed:</b>	18:30

Minute Reference 240508/PM/

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL OPEN PARISH MEETING HELD ON 15 MAY 2023.**

The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 15 May 2023 were approved and signed by the Chair.

**3. ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIR.**

The Chair's Annual Report is attached to these minutes.

**4. DRAFT FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024.**

The clerk updated members of the Council's financial position for the 12 months to the end of March 2024 and the report was received.

**5. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE ELECTORS OF BARROW AND OPEN FORUM**

Members of the public raised several matters including the 'rise' in the Parish Precept, the process of becoming a Parish Councillor, the rules governing parish councils, how to become a volunteer and the status of the transfer of ownership of 23-25 Old Row to the Parish Council.

The question regarding the 'rise' in the Parish Precept was emailed to the Clerk prior to the meeting and a response has been sent to the parishioner.

**Signed**

**Date**

## Annual Parish Meeting Chair's Report - 22 May 2024

### Good evening residents, members, and fellow Councillors,

Good evening and welcome to the Annual Parish Council Meeting. Serving as Chairman of Barrow Parish Council over the past 12 months has been a true honour. Our team of dedicated Council Members and our enthusiastic Parish Clerk have made our work both effective and enjoyable. It's important to remember that Council Members volunteer their time without any reward other than the satisfaction of making a positive impact on our community.

This year has been exceptional for us. The Parish Council has diligently worked to enhance our living environment. Through both formal and informal engagements within our community, we have developed a comprehensive plan and set our priorities for the coming period, which I will discuss shortly.

- **CCTV Installation:** We have installed CCTV around the village to enhance security and deter criminal activities. Key locations now covered include the Bay Horse Pub, where the main road and rear carpark are under surveillance. Also with CCTV covering the playing fields, a special thank you to Margaret for allowing us to use her property for this installation. This has significantly improved the safety and peace of mind for our residents and visitors.
- **Playing Fields Enhancements:** We installed new picnic benches and tables at the playing fields to encourage community gatherings and outdoor activities. Additionally, we carried out extensive improvements to the football pitches, including seeding new grass and installing new nets. These upgrades have been well-received, providing better facilities for local children.
- **Footpath Resurfacing:** The footpath from the car park to the school has been resurfaced to create a safer and more pleasant route for children and parents. This project was crucial in ensuring that our paths are accessible and well maintained, particularly during the bad weather when they are most needed.
- **Advice Surgery:** We initiated an advice surgery held before every council meeting, providing a platform for parishioners to voice their concerns and comments directly to Parish and Borough Councillors. This initiative has fostered greater transparency and communication between the council and the community.
- **New Defibrillator Installation:** A new defibrillator has been installed at Rhubarb Salon, ensuring that the bottom end of Barrow near the Eagle is covered in case of cardiac emergencies. Also we installed a new defibrillator at Harris Fitness to cover the Barrow Brook estate and surrounding area. This life saving equipment is accessible to everyone, improving emergency response capabilities within our village.
- **Litter Pick Event:** In the summer, we organised a community litter pick involving Parish and Borough Councillors along with volunteers. We targeted the Barrow Brook area and the main street of Barrow. This event not only helped clean up our village but also promoted community spirit and environmental awareness among participants. We plan to organise another during the summer.
- **Life Belt Installation:** We installed a life belt on the lodge across from McDonald's, a strategic safety measure given the proximity to water. This installation is part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety of our residents and visitors, particularly in areas near water bodies.
- **SPID Testing:** Numerous SPID (Speed Indicator Device) tests were conducted throughout the village at different locations and times to collect data on vehicle speeds. This information was crucial in understanding

traffic patterns and has been passed on to RVBC (Ribble Valley Borough Council) and LCC (Lancashire County Council) to help formulate traffic calming measures.

- **Traffic and Road Safety Group:** We actively participated in the Traffic and Road Safety Group, collaborating with other parish councils in the Ribble Valley area. Our comprehensive report identified and highlighted areas of concern in Barrow. We continue to work with the group to implement new strategies to enhance road safety and reduce traffic-related issues.
- **Remembrance Sunday:** On Remembrance Sunday, we presented a wreath at Wiswell and re-installed Tommy the Silhouette on Trafford Gardens. These actions were part of our commitment to honouring those who served and sacrificed for our country, ensuring their legacy is remembered within our community.
- **New Planters:** We introduced new planters throughout the village and supplied them with fresh plants, thanks to the efforts of Parish Councillors. These planters have brightened our streets and public spaces, contributing to the aesthetic appeal and environmental health of Barrow.
- **Boundary Stone Installation:** A boundary stone was installed on the roundabout near Whiteacre Lane, funded by the Barrow Action Group. A special thanks to the ladies who have tirelessly raised funds and contributed to Barrow over the last decade. This stone marks a significant point of pride and identity for our village.
- **New Lengthsman Appointment:** We appointed a new lengthsman responsible for maintaining and improving various parts of Barrow. This role is vital for keeping our village clean, well-kept and functioning smoothly, ensuring that both residents and visitors can enjoy a pleasant environment.
- **Children's Competition:** We held a competition for the children of Barrow Primary School to design a new coat of arms for our village. Due to the high quality of the entries, we decided to donate £100 to the school for the purchase of new books instead of selecting a single winner. This initiative fostered creativity and engagement among our young residents.
- **New Village Hall:** A significant achievement was securing a grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to acquire the old pub and develop a new village hall. A special thank you to Cllr Birtwhistle for all his hard work, along with our Clerk and parish councillors, this grant money will also include improvements to the car park and an attached cottage, which will serve as an office and community workspace. More importantly this new facility will be a vital part of the village once completed, bringing the community together by creating new activities and events and providing a much-needed space for communal gatherings. This project is a major step forward in enhancing our community infrastructure.

I would like to thank all our Parish Councillors, Borough Councillors, and our Clerk Mike for their dedication and commitment over the last 12 months. It has been an honour to serve as your chairman. I am very confident that there will only be more positive improvements to the village as we progress into the next 12 months. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lucy Crook Chair, Barrow Parish Council