

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF BARROW VILLAGE HALL
ON

Monday 13th April 2026

Present:

Cllr Holmes Cllr Pearson
Cllr Ford Cllr Steer Clerk in attendance:
Cllr Welbourn Cllr Wesley No Clerk, Minutes taken by Cllr Steer
Cllr O'Brien

6899 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Bragg
Cllr Cousins
Cllr Petit
Rachel Chiltern (Clerk)
Cllr Soons (-County Council)

6900 **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

Cllr Steer declared an interest in the Planning application . Item 19 on the agenda.

6901 **Cllr Becky Hopfensburger** introduced herself as standing for Thingoe and Barrow in the next county council elections on May 7th. This year we will be keeping District and County councillors.

Public Forum

8 members of public

The Post under the Barrow Sign needs attention and possible repair.

6902 There is an issue of cars parking on the verges along the main street. What can we do about it. This issue has been on the agenda to be discussed, item 10

Minutes of last meeting

Proposed: Cllr Wesley

6903 Seconded: Cllr Welbourn

Clerks Resignation – Clerk Rachel has resigned due to personal reasons as of May 1st. We are very sorry to see her leave.

6904 **There is an advert with SALC**

To receive the County Council Report

See attached report

District Councillor Report

Cllr Holder

Election is taking up councillors time as it has all been very last minute.

6905 Money is being spend on a new leisure facility in Western Way. This will bring increased facilities.

There is still the locality budget available – could be used for decorating the Hall, Resuscitation kit as examples.

Cllr Holder is standing for County Councillor; he will remain our District Councillor until 2027

Cllr Pearson asked Cllr Holder about our F.o.I request to determine how much Barrow generates in council tax compared to how much we receive in precept; the village has grown, but the precept does not reflect this.

Cllr Holder suggested that with LGR PC will have more to do and should ask for more precept.

6906 **Community Police Report – report attached**

Discussion around the increase in crime, seems mostly to be connected to drugs offences

Statement of persons nominated and notice of Poll for Election on May 7th attached.

Community Infrastructure

a) **School/Parent Parking.** Fencing has been replaced comprehensively, again. Speed sign staying at the school as it is a priority location. Other signs have different connections. 40 mph on Colethorpe Lane only comes on if you are over 40!

There has been no extension of the yellow lines, despite request

b) **Memorial Repair** – quotes received –

a) Abbeygate Masonry Ltd £6,850

b) Hibberts Cambridge - £17,147.88

c) Failed to respond.

Proposed acceptance of Abbeygate – unanimous decision. Cllr Wesley to take forward

6907 c) **Pergola in the Cemetery** - Cllr Welbourne suggested that a softwood could be used. This would be a life expectancy of 15 – 20 years. This was recommended. Cllr Welbourne will remove the IBC; he will liaise with Cllr Bragg on his return. Tile effect roof. A decision to be made; quotes to include installation costs.

d. **Grass Cutting on the Green and the Street** – see plans from Cllr Cousins

highlighting the proposed area to be left uncut according to his plan. Cllr Pearson was concerned about the need for wild flowers to be left on the green when fields have them too. Cllr Holmes suggested that the grass below the allotments instead of the Green. This was accepted unanimously.
Grass verges on the Street. It seems that several properties are manoeuvring their cars onto the grass into their properties. Can we discourage this behaviour with posts. Or dropped kerbs. We will write to residents with our intentions and give them the opportunity to apply for dropped kerbs. We can inform planners that we are in favour of dropped kerbs.

e. Denham flooding – caused by a blocked drain. This has been replaced by the council but only a 6 ins drain – needs to be 12 ins. Cllr Holmes said that the council are planning to replace the drain.

f. Colethorpe Lane flooding - The County Council have identified the problem and have thoughts about rectifying it, but they have a long backlog of jobs; response attached. We need to keep pushing it.

g. 20 mph limit for Barrow and Burthorpe. Cllr Steer reported on the progress of Moulton. She can collaborate with Moulton and other villages to progress the 20 mph. Cllr Steer to continue with the collaboration.

Community Facility Update

We are in possession of quotes to put in the foundations, drainage etc. this should happen in the next three weeks. Cllr Wesley to action

Request for fairground

Accepted for 27th July till August 3rd.

Devolution Update – SALC are holding a special board meeting on April 17th; Cllr O'Brien to report back.

Minor Charities request – See attached request.

The Barrow Minor charities would like a one off donation for £250 to return their funds to a better position plus £150 per year to support their desire to increase the amount of money they pay to their beneficiaries. Cllr Steer to ask the question of SALC in terms of where do we stand on giving to charities.

Planning – Call for Sites

Next round of WSC local plan has put out a call for sites. Landowners have till 20th May 2026 to respond. Sites will have to re apply or fall aside.

Fete and flower Show 2026

Schedules are going well from the Post Office and Rougham Plant Centre. Advertising boards around Barrow have had an impact.

Will need cricket Gazebo and Cllr Pearson's Gazebos.

Cllr Pearson has 3 Generators which will be useful; should be connected via pavilion by then.

Cllr O'Brien has designed an database to streamline the Flower show results.

Next meeting on Tuesday May 12th

SALC Update

Cllr Steer has a copy of the highways survey – send to Clerk for completion
Continued updates re devolution and LGR. This probably will increase the role of Parish Councillors. More regulation coming in for Parish councils. Should we be looking at SALC doing our audits?

Financial Matters

- To approve monthly (December/January) accounts; Check that £31,000 each has been refunded (Clerk) – Accepted Proposed by Cllr Wesley; Seconded by Cllr Holmes
- To receive council's current financial statement; need to have a definite pavement improvement proposal for 106 monies. A greater precept would enable us to contribute more to Highways improvements – Accepted Proposed by Cllr Wesley; seconded by Cllr Welbourne
- To confirm payments – proposed by Wesley; Seconded by Cllr Welbourne
- To approve invoices – accepted Proposed by Cllr Wesley; Seconded by Cllr Holmes
Fees for the cemetery to be decided at next meeting.

Planning Applications for Consideration – Cllr Steer left the meeting

Notes taken by John Pearson

A discussion was held to discuss additional documents submitted relating to the application on Barrow Hill.

Whilst it was welcomed that the extra green space provision was substantially increased it was noted that concerns around part of this Green provision should not be used to allow for the over development on Bury Road.

It was also resolved that the PC should emphasise the importance of bringing to the attention of West Suffolk Council the housing needs number that exists in their Local plan and the Neighbourhood plan of 165 houses for Barrow.

Meeting closed at

Date of next meeting Monday 11th May @ 7.15 in the Village Hall Committee Room.

J Pearson
11/5/2026 -