Barrow cum Denham Parish Council
Parish Clerk: Antonia King
Cocks Head House, Wickhambrook Road, Hargrave, Suffolk, IP29 5JB
Email: clerk@barrowcumdenham-pc.gov.uk
Website: https://barrowcumdenham-pc.gov.uk/

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 14th September 2026.
Councillors present: John Pearson (Chair), Jane Steer (Vice Chair), Trevor Bragg, David Cousins, David Holmes, David Wakeling, Robert Welbourn and Peter Westley.

Also present: Antonia King (Clerk), 4 members of the public.

6972	**1.**	**Chair's welcome and opening statement**: The meeting was opened at 7.15pm
6973	**2.**	**Apologies –** **To receive and accept apologies and reason for absence:** Cllr Ford gave his apologies which were duly accepted.
6974	**3.**	• **Declarations of disclosable pecuniary and local non-pecuniary interests:** None received. • **To note the determination of requests for dispensations for the agenda under discussion:** None received • **To receive declarations of gifts of hospitality exceeding £50:** None received.
6975	**4.**	PUBLIC FORUM – • **To receive questions and matters of concern from members of the public in attendance on the agenda:** None received. • **To receive comments or questions relating to Barrow in general:** o Concerns were raised over school parking. o Update regarding the Barrow Road development .
6976	**5.**	**To receive and approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 09/07/2026 and 10/08/2026 (planning) *(Paper copies to be signed off by the Chairman for the file)*:** Approval was given by all present, the Chair signed the paper copy of the minutes for the meeting held.
6977	**6.**	REPORTS FOR INFORMATION – • **Report from County Councillor:** Cllr Hopfensperger was not present. • **Report from District Councillor:** Verbal report received updating on the West Suffolk call for sites plan and suggestions given regarding school parking and police parking enforcement.
6978	**7.**	**Police Matters –** • **To receive reports of interest to Barrow:** None received • **To receive any reports from the community police team:** For a copy of the police report go to: Community-Police-Report-September-2026.pdf
6979	**8.**	**Matters arising from Minutes of the meeting –** **This covers any updates of actions agreed at the last meeting which are not an agenda item.** • **To note the request for increased Police presence during school pick up and drop off at the start of term:** Duly noted. • **To note the 3 dead trees located opposite Barrow Montesorri School have now been removed:** Duly noted.

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		• **To note Cllr Steer will be attending a NALC Local Government Reorganisation event in January:** Duly noted. • **To note a reported wasp nest was destroyed on the Mill Lane allotments after more eco friendly options proved impossible:** Duly noted. • **To note an updated settlement boundary for Barrow has been uploaded to the website:** Duly noted • **To note the listed building consent application for Barrow War Memorial has been submitted:** Duly noted.
6980	**9.**	**To receive and consider all financial matters coming forth from the RFO –** **For a copy of the finance reports please go to** Parish Council Meeting September 14th 2026 **a) To approve items for payment – future and retrospective:** Approved. **b) To note the accounts paid since the last meeting:** Noted. **c) To consider and receive the Bank Reconciliations for period ending 30.05.26 – 31.08.26:** Noted and approved. **d) To receive budget vs actual report:** Noted and approved as a fair representation of the councils finances for the year. **e) To review and approve the 10% increase in cemetery fees as discussed at the meeting held on July 6th 2026:** Full approval given, the increase will come into effect from Jan 1st 2027. **f) To receive an update regarding the current fixed asset register following Cllr Pearson's meeting with the village hall committee:** It was agreed the clerk would attend the next village hall committee meeting to establish an accurate overview of asset ownership. **g) To note the insurance is due to be renewed in November, the clerk will collate quotes for approval in the October meeting:** Following the meeting to be arranged with the village hall committee, the clerk will then collate quotes. **h) To note the clerk is to begin the accounts handover on Sept 17th 2026:** Duly noted. **i) To note the 2026-2027 pay settlement that has been agreed and approve the change to the clerk's salary:** Noted and approval given for the uplift. Salary increase to be backdated accordingly.
6981	**10.**	**To receive and consider matters relating to the following:** **a) To consider an amendment of the minutes of the annual meeting held on May 11th 2026 to confirm and record the election of the Chair and Vice Chair:** Due to an administrative omission the minutes of the annual meeting held on May 11th 2026 did not record the election of the Chair and Vice Chair. The council confirmed that Cllr Pearson and Cllr Steer were duly elected and resolved to agree to a correction of the minutes to reflect this. **b) To consider an amendment of the minutes of the parish council meeting held on February 2nd 2026 to record an administrative error on the year date:** Due to an administrative error the minutes of the meeting held on February 2nd 2026 showed the year to be 2025. The council resolved to agree to a correction of the minutes to show the year to be 2026.

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		c) To consider nominations for co-option onto the parish council to fill 2 x casual vacancy: None received. **d) To receive a report regarding the meeting held in Higham concerning the land put forward for development:** Cllr Pearson attended the meeting held on the 7th Sept and reported that the proposed development would engulf Higham and if it goes ahead will have a huge knock-on effect to all the surrounding villages including Barrow. Currently it is merely a parcel of land that has been put forwarded to West Suffolk as part of the Local Pan Call for Sites to be considered for housing and commercial use. In total 328 sites have been put forward throughout West Suffolk. Between now and Spring next year, West Suffolk will sift through all the sites, considering each one under 3 main categories – suitable, deliverable and availability. If the Higham development does not make it through the initial sift, then it would be considered dead in the water and Pigeon would not be able to appeal. However, if it does make it through it would very much become a fight against the developers and therefore much tougher. Higham are calling for supporters to write individually to all the councillors involved in the sorting process to protest. Also recommended was to write to the Head of Planning at West Suffolk – marie.smith@westsuffolk.gov.uk The parish council are encouraging villagers to write as individuals but will not be commenting as a body as it is still purely speculative. However, will comment as a consultee if the proposal becomes a reality. **e) To discuss feedback from Highways regarding the reported ongoing drainage problems on The Street, Barrow:** Highways confirmed there are some outstanding reports from Spring of this year with both closed off as 'under investigation' by the Drainage team. This indicates there is an underlying issue, but unfortunately no details have been added to indicate what the issue is. This is being followed up within Highways. The clerk is to update at the Oct meeting. **f) To discuss the concerns of the residents of Feltons Cottage, Bury Road at the bottom of Sharpes Hill regarding an overgrown drainage ditch that they are no longer able to tend:** The clerk reported that Highways have confirmed this is not their ditch and therefore not their responsibility but are following it up to establish who has responsibility. The clerk will report back with more information once received. A report has also been registered with Openreach following some work that they recently carried out. The soil that they dug out was left in the drainage ditch and will cause a blockage when the winter weather sets in. Report ref 00828923. The pipe that removes the water from the drainage ditch and runs under Bury Road is also blocked. The clerk is to report this to Highways. **g) To consider the options available to the council regarding the faded and broken signs within the village:** The clerk reported that the cost of stickers to be used to cover any faded signs was £40.00 per sticker. The cost of a replacement sign was significantly less costing £12.55. Any damaged posts could be replaced with costs ranging from £18.29 to £24.59 depending on pole length. It was agreed the latter option would be preferred. The clerk is to get a quote from an external contractor

		for installation of any new posts and confirmation on the number of replacement signs required. She will also contact CC Hopfensperger regarding funding available for the project. **h) To consider the options available to the council regarding the amount of lorries travelling through Barrow and surrounding villages:** Following an email from a concern resident regarding the increased number of lorries travelling through the village and concerns raised from neighbouring villages (Hargrave and Depden) about the lorries using the village roads as a cut through to the A143, it was agreed that a joint village course of action would be useful. The clerk is to contact Hargrave and Depden regarding an initial resident led survey of the lorry traffic to establish an accurate indication of the situation. A call for volunteers will be issued on Facebook and via Social Media. **i) To discuss the approach made to the parish council by a resident wishing to run a pop up bookshop in the village on a regular basis:** The council thought this was an excellent idea and advised that the carpark in front of the village hall would be a preferred site for the bookshop. The village green would not be suitable as it becomes waterlogged in the winter and there is no available parking. **j) To consider upgrading the parish council website to make it more user friendly and compliant:** The clerk reported the special offer of £150.00 from the current website provider and advised that it would improve the accessibility and useability of the current website which is in need of improvement. All in favour to upgrade. The clerk is to action. **k) To receive an update regarding the Community Facility works:** Cllr Pearson reported his disappointment over the progress of the Community Facility due to the poor service and broken promises from the provider. There is a remaining balance to be paid, and it was agreed that this would be withheld. **l) To receive an update regarding the installation of a pergola in Barrow cemetery:** Cllr Bragg reported that the installation of a base for the pergola has added to the cost. Norfolk Sheds who are providing the pergola have confirmed they are able to fit the base. Overall cost is now £3420.00, this was approved by all. Cllr Bragg is to go ahead with the order. **m) To receive a report regarding the flower show and fete held in July:** Cllr Steer reported that it was a great success despite the difficulties of the hot summer. £1000.00 was raised for the Village Hall. Plans for 2027 are underway, with the intention to run everything on the same day. Cllr Steer advised that 2027 would be her last year as organiser. **n) To receive feedback regarding the online newsletter published in July:** The council were happy with the newsletter and wished to continue with it in the digital format. The next newsletter will be published by the end of October to allow for promotion of the Firework event in November. **o) To review grit bins throughout the parish and establish if any need refilling before the winter season sets in:** Cllr Bragg volunteered to audit the grit bins and advise the clerk of any that required filling. It was discussed that an additional bin could be installed at Simpson Way/Barrow Hill junction.

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<table>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td>p) To review the collection schedule for the bins at the cemetery: Cllr Bragg reported that there appeared to no longer be an issue with the bin collection at the cemetery, but a sign on each of the bins to explain what could be put in them would be useful. The clerk is to action.
q) To note the resignation of Mr Ford and consider re-employment of his position: Following the resignation of Mr Ford and his suggestion of his replacement, it was agreed that Cllr Pearson and Cllr Steer would conduct an interview next week. The clerk is to organise.</td></tr>
<tr><td>6982</td><td>11.</td><td>Planning applications to be considered:
a) DC/26/1203/HH
Proposal: Householder planning application - a. addition of front door canopy b. single storey side extension (following demolition of existing conservatory and garage) c. replace window with door on rear elevation
Location: Hillcrest 1 Little Mill Lane Barrow Suffolk IP29 5BU
The council approved this application.

b) DC/25/1403/FUL
Planning Application - 172 dwellings, including 69 affordable homes, 16 custom build dwellings, land (0.22ha) reserved for Early Years education provision, access, public open space, landscaping, footpaths and cycle routes, sustainable drainage features and associated infrastructure
Location: Land south of Bury Road Barrow Suffolk
Due to time constraints and the volume of documentation to be reviewed, it was agreed that this application would be considered at a meeting to be held on Monday 21st September.</td></tr>
<tr><td>6983</td><td>12.</td><td>a) Next meetings – Monday 12th October 2026, Committee Room of Barrow Village Hall.
b) To confirm the meeting dates for 2027: The dates below were confirmed:
<table>
<tr><td>11.01.2027</td><td>03.05.2027</td><td>06.09.2027</td></tr>
<tr><td>01.02.2027</td><td>17.05.2027 (APM)</td><td>04.10.2027</td></tr>
<tr><td>01.03.2027</td><td>07.06.2027</td><td>01.11.2027</td></tr>
<tr><td>05.04.2027</td><td>05.07.2027</td><td>06.12.2027</td></tr>
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<tr><td>6984</td><td>13.</td><td colspan="2">There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.26pm.</td></tr>
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