

MINUTES

BARLOW ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 28th April 2026, 6.30pm
Barlow Village Hall

Attendees: Cllr T Thrall (Chairman), R Dean (Clerk/RFO), 4x residents

042601 Election of person to chair the Annual Parish Meeting

Cllr Thrall chaired the meeting

042602 Welcome

The chairman welcomed all to the meeting

042603 Apologies

To receive apologies and reasons for absence - None

042604 Approval of minutes

The council resolved to accept the minutes of the 27th May 2025 APM meeting as a true and accurate record
The Chairman signed the minutes

042605 To receive report of parish council activities since last APM

I am pleased to report that the Parish Council has managed to maintain a strong financial position throughout the year despite continued inflationary pressures and one-off costs relating to the objections raised by a resident to the 2023/24 annual return. The Council is also aware of the potential need to subsidise running costs of the Village Hall going forward if usage rates don't improve.

When I reported to the Annual Parish Meeting last May, the Council was still awaiting the final report of the external auditors regarding the objections raised by a resident to the 2023/24 Annual Report. The auditor's findings were finally received in July 2025 and I'm pleased to be able to report that most of the resident's objections were dismissed with two minor issues partially upheld. The clerk has subsequently reviewed and recommended minor changes to processes in light of the auditor's comments which the Council has now adopted. It remains a major disappointment that the entire matter resulted in cost approaching £5,000 being charged to the Council.

In my report to the last Annual Parish Meeting, I stated the Council's desire to publish all the correspondence between the objector, the auditors and the Council once the matter was settled. On advice received from YLCA and objections raised by the auditor, the Council subsequently decided it would not be appropriate to publish at this time.

As regards planning issues the major concerns of the Council remain unapproved developments on agricultural land within the Parish boundary and on adjacent land, particularly in Camblesforth parish. The Council maintains a frequent dialogue with both the planning authority and our County Council representative to ensure our views and concerns are heard.

We also continue to monitor the larger strategic planning issue currently impacting the wider area. These include the various proposed developments by Drax Power and the plethora of solar farm proposals in the district. The Council will continue to make our views on these matters known to the appropriate authorities and elected representatives.

Finally, Cllr Edmunds resigned from the Council in November 2025 due to his move out of the area. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Oliver for his time and effort whilst he served as a Councillors. As yet, the Council has not been able to fill the vacant position he left.

042606 Public forum – No comments

042607 Closure of APM