

Barrow Parish Council  
Chairs report 2024

Dear all,

It really doesn't seem possible that it has been 12 months since my last report. They say as you get older time flies, I must be ancient! The last twelve months have been reasonably quiet for us as a council, which is always a nice situation to find ourselves in. We have had a very contentious outline planning application to deal with on the land at the end of Floyer lane, Spout lane and the old Hilltop farm in Benthall. The application was withdrawn before it came to us to discuss, but it caused a lot of anxiety for the local community, which was unfortunate. Speculative planning applications are increasing, and I hope it's the last we have to deal with for a long time.

The Parish allotments continue to be a great success story, with all the plots being worked, some to a better standard than others, but all in use and a waiting list if any do become vacant. Our thanks to Councillors Anne Skinner, Steven Churchill and our clerk Jayne Madeley for their hard work in keeping these assets in such good order.

We will begin work, in conjunction with the Broseley group of Churches, on Barrow church grounds in the near future, a project that will take time and considerable resources to fill. It has taken some time to sort, but will be another successful project when completed.

Next year we have local elections and we already know one of our long serving members intends to retire. I hope there won't be others, but the possibility is there. So I encourage anyone who has an interest in helping their community to think about joining this small but effective council.

The parish council have commitments with several outside groups, for which we attend meetings and functions, many times during the year. These include Willey Village Hall committee, SALC, SGCT, Slaney almshouse trust, the Broseley Wood charity. This is all done, like anything we undertake as councillors, in our own time and with no financial gain, we do not get paid or receive any expenses!



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We are saying goodbye to our newest member, councillor Lisa Hancox, who has moved away from the area and can no longer serve with us. We wish her all the very best for her future endeavours, but know she will still have strong ties with Barrow Parish and the Willey area in particular. Thank you Lisa for your support and time given.

As always, my position as Chair is made very easy because of the support, commitment and dedication of my fellow councillors; Anne, Lisa, Steven and Philip, along with our Clerk, Jayne Madeley, who works very closely with us and keeps this rural parish council updated with laws and regulations and ensures that we operate in an appropriate manner. I want also to thank our Shropshire Council member, Dan Thomas, for his support and hard work on behalf of us all, and his attendance at our bi-monthly meetings. My thanks as always to you all.

Finally I want to thank you, the parishioners of Barrow, for your support, interest and encouragement. As I mentioned earlier this is a small but lovely community that we should all be proud of, and we should all work together to make this remain so.

Rural parishes and communities are only as good as the people that live within them, along with those who support us from near and far. Let's ensure that this continues.

Thank you,

Nick Downes,

Chair,

Barrow Parish Council