

Barwick-in-Elmet and Scholes Parish Council March 2021 Newsletter



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Chair of the Parish Council – Councillor Phil Maude

Welcome to our Spring newsletter. As I write this message the sun is shining and spring seems to be just around the corner after what feels like a winter to forget. As the vaccine programme continues to progress at pace, hopefully we can all dare to look forward to a fairly "normal" summer again. This means our sports teams will be able to start playing again and the long-forgotten coffee mornings will resume enabling us to all to get out and about and chat to our neighbours and friends.

The Parish Council continues to meet virtually on a monthly basis to deal with issues arising in the parish. Next year's budget has been set and the precept sought from Leeds City Council will remain unchanged. The PC has set a challenging programme of expenditure focused mainly on improving the facilities at Scholes Pavilion, in line with our "Vision for the Future" initiative, and dealing with the small area of open space at Scholes Lodge Lane. The maintenance of areas of open spaces in both villages will continue, as will the support to our Bloom Groups, who do a brilliant job making our villages look wonderful throughout the year. We are also looking into upgrading Barwick Playground.

In the absence of the Community Fund the PC formalised its policy on making grants to community groups in need of support during the pandemic.

Our funds are limited and applications have to satisfy that the expenditure is in the public interest. Anyone interested in applying should contact the Clerk for more details. However, the good news is that Leeds Festival is expecting to go ahead this year and if so, the Community Fund will be operating again.

A Steering Group including councillors and residents has been set up to carry out a review of the parish Neighbourhood Plan and there have been three meetings. The main issue being discussed at the moment is which boundaries should be included.

The PC has been advised that it will be consulted by Leeds City Council on a proposed park and ride facility to be located "somewhere" on the A64.

We continue to receive complaints about dog fouling and dogs creating divots on the cricket field at Scholes. Whilst most dog walkers behave in a responsible manner and clean up after their dog, there is always a minority who fail to do so. I appeal to all dog owners to keep dogs under control and have regard to the cricket fields in both villages.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that our website has been updated and is now live. My thanks go to Councillors Graham Slater and Jacque Ward for their hard work in putting this together. Please have a look at it and let us know what you think. It can be accessed at www.barwickandscholespc.org

Regards, Phil Maude, Chair

THE NEW WEBSITE

The PC has made a complete change to the website at <u>www.barwickandscholespc.org</u> making it the local website for news and information.

It has been updated, given a new fresh look and feel and it now incorporates many accessibility features as well as the standard Parish Council Notice of Meetings, Agendas and Minutes.

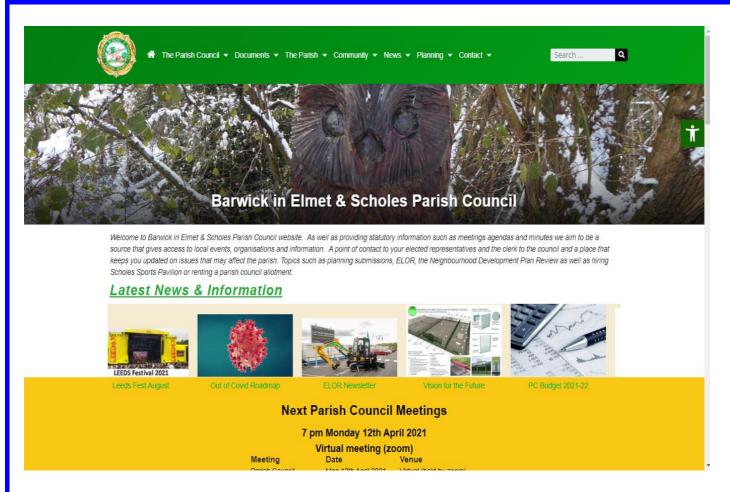
Over the past 3 months Financial Data such as Budget and Audited Accounts, Policy Documents and Terms of Reference for the various committees have been added. There will, when time allows, also be an extensive archive of these documents.

The main new features, however, provide a table of local organisations and local businesses, making it easier for you to get their contact details.

You can now book Scholes Pavilion for childrens' parties or other social functions via the pavilion webpage.

A parish map and details of the conservation areas for each village can either be viewed online or downloaded.

There are also pages that provide information about PC owned open spaces such as Hall Tower Field, Jack Heaps Field and Scholes Lodge Field. Also there is a page with suggested circular walks, that will be updated and changed regularly. Cycle tracks with suggested rides will be added in the not-too-distant future.



Do you know the origins of the names Barwick or Scholes? If not look at the ward information under the 'The Parish' navigation button on the 'Home' page.

If you want to report missed bin collections, fly tipping, lighting issues, noise or anything else to Leeds City Council then visit the parish council 'Contact' page for direct links to all these and more. No need to waste time trying to navigate around the huge LCC website when in 3 mouse clicks you can be on the correct webpage. The same 'Contact' tab also lets you contact the Clerk to the Parish Council, whose email address has been updated to reflect the parish theme.

The new email address for the Clerk is: <u>clerk@barwickandscholespc.org</u>.

Perhaps you want to contact one of your parish or Leeds councillors direct, then the 'Elected Representatives' tab gives a direct email, phone number or address for many of them. We have even included links to your Member of Parliament.

Whilst a lot of time and effort has gone into the new format website there will be things that we did not get right and we would really like your feedback.

If there are pages or topics you would like to see included or if there are any broken links then please email <u>grahamslater@mpcsl.com</u> with any suggestions or amendments.

Also, if you have taken any photos within the parish that you don't mind being used on our website Graham would be happy to receive them.

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NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR – WELCOME COUNCILLOR MIKE BRUNT

After a career in education, teaching and working at a senior level in local government, Mike moved to North Leeds in 2003. He then became a regional official for an education trade union (now the largest in the country). He moved from Chapel Allerton to Barwick-in-Elmet in late 2020 and was coopted to a vacancy on the Parish Council in February.

In retirement, apart from his interest in local community activities, Mike writes and publishes fiction and non-fiction under a pen name and plays competitive Bridge to a moderate standard online.



HAVE YOUR SAY - THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting has been currently scheduled for MONDAY 10th May 2021 at 7.00pm at John Rylie Hall, Carrfield Road, Barwick in Elmet – BUT THIS IS LIKELY TO CHANGE – SEE BELOW.

The Annual Parish Meeting is the opportunity for parishioners to attend and talk about issues of concern to them within the Parish. It is not a Parish Council meeting but is chaired by the Chair of the Parish Council. Other Parish Councillors will be present and will listen to the debates on the issues raised.

This meeting will be followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council; it will include elections for the positions of Chair, Vice chair and committees.

As there will have been public debate in the Annual Meeting there will not be any further public participation session at the Parish Council AGM.

If only everything was simple and straight forward! You will of course realise that we are (hopefully) coming out of the current lockdown from the Covid pandemic. Last year when the lockdown began the Government passed legislation which allowed parish councils to hold their meetings remotely; we have been holding meetings on Zoom throughout the year.

Unfortunately, this legislation only permitted remote meetings to be held on a temporary basis and the power to do this is due to expire on 7th May. At present the Government has not indicated any intention to extend this expiry date.

Under the Government's "roadmap" out of the lockdown rules it will not be possible to hold face-to-face meetings until probably 17th May at the earliest so this creates a problem if the meeting goes ahead on 10th May 2021. It would be possible to hold the meeting remotely during week commencing 3rd May, but not on 3rd May which is a Bank Holiday.

This newsletter has been printed before the Parish Council received any further information about the rules and before any final decision has been taken on the date for the meeting. Confirmation of arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting will be published as soon as possible if the date is changed. Please check the website for full details.

COMMUNITY FUND AND LEEDS FESTIVAL

Leeds Festival – Bramham Park 27th, 28th & 29th August 2021

The Barwick in Elmet and Scholes Community Fund is pleased to confirm that it has been allocated 250 resident tickets for this year's Festival.

Applications are strictly for residents within the parish and are available at a cost of £45 per weekend ticket.

Since there was no ballot for tickets in 2020 this year a new process will begin.

- Should applications exceed 250 a brand new ballot will be undertaken.
- In a change to previous years, cheques will not be required at the application stage.
- Successful applicants will be notified of the ballot result and be given a deadline to make an online payment.
- Once the payment is received with the unique reference number allocated to them tickets will only then be secured.

Due to the continued presence of Coronavirus, ahead of applying residents must also ensure that they are compliant with any terms and conditions of entry set out by the promoters Festival Republic (<u>www.leedsfestival.com</u>).

Please visit <u>www.bandscf.org.uk</u> for more details and to apply online.

Applications will open early April and will close on May 31st (10pm).

Any queries please email tickets@bandscf.org.uk

POLICE AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER – PACT – new initiative for local PCs

Police and Communities Together (PACT) brings the police and residents together in a formal and structured way enabling the local police force to meet with Ward and Parish Councillors to discuss how the Local Neighbourhood is policed.

PACT provides our Parish Council with the opportunity to speak regularly with our Neighbourhood Policing Team; it also gives us a chance to get feedback on how our neighbourhood is policed, and allows us to monitor police performance.

Resulting from an initiative of the Harewood Ward Councillors, the first Harewood Ward PACT meeting was held on Thursday 18th February 2021. This was attended by Police Constable Andy Katkowski, councillors from the Parish Councils of Harewood, East Keswick, Aberford and District, Thorner, Bardsey Cum Rigton, Shadwell, Collingham and Linton, Scarcroft and Barwick In Elmet and Scholes.

Ward Councillors Matthew Robinson, Sam Firth and Ryan Stephenson also attended.

Future 2021 meetings are now scheduled into the Parish Councils' diaries – see below.

- Thursday 1st April.

- Thursday 13th May.
- Thursday 24th June.
- Thursday 5th August
- Thursday 16th September.
- Thursday 28th October, and
- Thursday 9th December.

At the February meeting PC Katkowski informed:

- There had been 8 burglaries in the 80 days prior to the meeting.
- Two Land Rover Discovery vehicles had recently been stolen.
- These vehicles had the keyless entry feature, and they were opened and removed from their owners' homes within 60 seconds.
- PC Katkowski had contacted Range Rover regarding the ease of each of the thefts, and the manufacturer advised that owners of keyless entry vehicles should put their keys in jamming containers – such as the microwave oven, or tin box. Andy stressed that the keyless entry facility can be switched off.

Forward Planning: Police are attempting to get around every village in the Ward. PC Katkowski will respond to requests from Parish Councils to visit the villages and to carry out speed checks.

Neighbourhood Policing: PC Katkowski said that the speed gun will be used to take car speed readings in our villages.

Police Surgeries: PC Katkowski believes that police surgeries are a good idea, well worth holding in each Parish and is looking forward to holding these in the villages in the Ward.

Neighbourhood Watch and Community Messenger: PC Katkowski advised the meeting that each Neighbourhood Watch and/or Parish Council should be linked up to the Community Messenger website.

West Yorkshire Community Alert

This will enable members of the public to keep in touch with local police updates.

Public registration is free and people can choose to receive news and appeals, local crime information and/or prevention advice direct via email, text or voice message.

The public can sign up for local updates from their NPT or Neighbourhood Watch contacts, or join a number of specialised community interest groups such as business watch, dog walkers, motorists or crime prevention etc.

To sign up, please visit: <u>www.wypcommunityalert.co.uk</u>

Councillor Robinson informed the meeting that some of the Councillors' Wellbeing Fund had been spent on funding speed checks on A roads in some villages in the Ward.

DISCOVERY OF A DRUG PRODUCTION FACTORY IN BARWICK

On Wednesday 3rd March Barwick in Elmet disappointingly became infamous around the region as press and social media, such as Facebook, reported the raid by West Yorkshire Police, North East Neighbourhood Patrol Team at Capitol Garage. These headlines are sad to read, even though it's a relief that the raids occurred.

The Yorkshire Evening Post used the headline "Huge drugs factory found by police in Barwick in Elmet - Police have discovered a large drugs factory in a quiet village near Leeds." (https://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/crime/huge-drugs-factory-found-by-police-in-barwick-in-elmet-<u>3156204</u>). The brief article that followed ... 'Officers were pictured today leaving a property in Barwick in Elmet with huge bags filled with cannabis plants. Police from the Leeds North East neighbourhood patrol team (NPT) were involved in the operation. The team covers Alwoodley, Chapel Allerton, Harewood, Moortown, Roundhay, Wetherby and surrounding areas. The West Yorkshire Police posted to social media: "Officers from Leeds North East NPT have been working hard to empty a large drugs factory in the Barwick in Elmet area. "The investigation is live and ongoing at this time."

The YEP published verbatim the content of the brief Facebook statement post by WYP – found at:

https://www.facebook.com/WYPLeedsNorthEast/posts/3833102343412533? cft [0]=AZUFIIzPyLHugOIX0vdSkMV gJNKT_r7qNVt1bc0iZnf0IxO62ucb88VGZWxI1T_RJaQoVTrPbSqjhT-JXCMoDHZyQbBysJyz990D1zks8f6wdGazwbP4RhYy5GkWtJP91DzTL-jT5nN9xPEYCygd7_3O&_tn_=%2CO%2CP-R

Whilst it's not the purpose of this newsletter to comment on police activities, nor on the activities of such criminals within the Parish, it is assuring to know from the communications media that our police forces are working hard to protect our families, and especially our children. The above mentioned staggeringly large drugs find was at this tenanted property in Barwick. We must hope that landlords are vigilant and are more discerning when it comes to letting properties.

MOTORISTS – SPEEDING IN THE PARISH

Although we may count ourselves fortunate to live in a peaceful, attractive parish, with relatively low levels and a low frequency of anti-social behaviour, there is another scourge which permits no grounds for complacency: traffic speeding.

This problem has become worse over the last few years. It has become a daily occurrence to witness speeding, which invariably endangers other motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and animals.

All too often, our lockdown-period daily exercise is punctuated by the sound and sight of speeding traffic. In Barwick this is a frequent occurrence on the access roads to Leeds Road, Potterton Lane, Aberford Road/Cattle Lane and Long Lane. Speeding occurs on Richmondfield Avenue and Flats Lane, which is often used as a rat-run onto Leeds Road. Residents of Scholes have to suffer from speeding through the narrow Main Street and Station Road. Residents have to put up with reckless, inconsiderate driving along Leeds Road. Moreover, the situation is likely to become worse as traffic increases with the

eventual opening of the East Leeds Orbital Route (ELOR), which will run close to the western and southern boundaries of Scholes.

According to the law drivers may not drive faster than is reasonably safe for road conditions, regardless of the posted speed limit. Thus, it is not always lawful to drive as fast as the posted speed limit. Holders of valid driving licences know that speed limits are not a guideline, they are the maximum speeds that are allowed.

Rather than doing nothing and waiting for an accident to happen (especially, heaven forbid, to a child), your Parish Council has been considering a number of measures to discourage speeding. These include installing in Barwick a number of Speed Indication Devices (SIDs), similar to those already operating in Scholes, so that drivers are warned if travelling above the speed limit. A type of SID, which indicates if speeds are within the limit by a smiley face or above by an angry face are also being considered. The PC is waiting for Leeds City Council to decide on the imposition of a 20-mile an hour speed limit in the parish, similar to the ones which operate in Garforth, Bramham, Clifford and some other villages.

Of course, only the threat of severe penalties will deter the "dangerous driver" minority who should have no place on our roads. For the rest, the proposed SIDs and reduced speed limits may serve as a reminder of the need to slow down.

No decisions have yet been taken and so any response, other ideas, comments or suggestions are be welcomed by the Parish Council.

HOW WILL YOU DRIVE WHEN THIS CURRENT LOCKDOWN IS LIFTED? Notes on driver behaviour on our emptier roads.

The horrific smash on Leeds Road just outside Barwick on the afternoon of Friday 26th February was a timely reminder of the danger posed on our roads when one driver fails to comply with the Highway Code. In doing so the lives of innocent others were at risk.

This kind of thoughtlessness behaviour makes it difficult and uncomfortable for villagers to travel safely by foot, bicycle and motorised vehicle.

Whilst the incident on Leeds Road was out of the ordinary and hopefully a one-off, the reduced volume of traffic on our roads because of the lockdown has revealed data, from the Department for Transport, that show a reduction in UK traffic collisions in the 12 months up to June 2020 – these dropped by 16%, while road deaths fell by 14% compared to the equivalent period in the preceding year. There were 1,580 road deaths, compared with 1,827 for the previous year.

https://www.worldhighways.com/wh12/news/uk-sees-road-safety-gain-2020

The drop in UK road deaths and casualties is widely credited to the reduction in traffic as a result of national lockdown restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic. In April 2020, for example, during the first lockdown which commenced on 23rd March, casualties fell by 67% as road traffic reduced by 49%. There were 131,220 casualties of all severities, compared with 156,034 in the same period for the previous year.

Conversely though, incidents of speeding increased during the first lockdown.

IAM RoadSmart (UK Road Safety charity) said that speeding had increased substantially during the first lockdown. There were enormous increases in the number of drivers caught speeding across England and Wales during the lockdown. Statistics show that speeding on 30mph roads increased by 7%.

https://www.driving.co.uk/news/coronavirus-speeding-increased-7-first-lockdown/

While speeding drivers is not a new problem on the roads, the sheer number of people currently flouting the rules is a danger that we all need to be aware of. As outlined in Professor Young's article above, it's a blight on our parish. Reckless drivers still hit 60 mph or more along Potterton Lane to and from Morgan's Cross. Many "Couldn't-Care-Less" drivers exceed the 30mph limit along Cattle Lane into and out of Barwick. Even many drivers of buses, operating as a public service, exceed the speed limits.

In our parish 30mph speed limit should be adhered to until the national speed limit signs are reached. The national speed limit signs signify to drivers that they have left our villages.

Whilst the national speed limit applies just outside Barwick, Potterton Lane is an integral part of the parish itself. Parishioners live along this lane and it is rich in wildlife as well as being bordered by fields of livestock. Drivers, please remember not to break the speed limit and do not drive faster than is reasonably safe for road conditions, regardless of the posted speed limit.

Gearing ourselves up to drive again as we move out of this lockdown. Lack of Driving Practice

As lockdown restrictions eased in the summer of 2020, drivers headed back out on the roads finding that there were new dangers to road users such as:

- Drivers being out of practice behind the wheel;
- Some drivers had not carried out basic vehicle checks;
- More people were walking and cycling.

These dangers will once again become apparent as restrictions begin to be lifted. Who knows whether their own driving standards will have deteriorated?

Let's not assume that it's other people's driving that is of greatest concern. Let's concentrate even more on our own driving. Even if you have continued to travel to work and back, as well as perhaps caring for an elderly parent in a nearby village, when the volume of traffic gets back to the 2019 levels drivers should anticipate that the driving experience will be different to what it's been for most of the last 12 months. Being patient, careful and alert on the roads will be prerequisites of each day. Some drivers may have done so little driving in the last few months that they will find it hard to get back behind the wheel.

As a result, there is a greater need to be conscious of making sure we don't make basic errors. Let's be concerned about the dangers that emanate from stalling the car, the bad

manners shown and the inconvenience caused when you forget to indicate right or left at roundabouts. Don't forget to check your mirrors when pulling away, and be wary of inadvertently damaging your own car by your scraping your wheels on the kerb.

More Cyclists on the Road

With limits on the number of people allowed to board public transport, the UK Government has encouraged more of us to cycle instead.

Many of the people taking that advice may be relatively inexperienced, and that is going to cause concerns for car drivers in particular. Remember, cyclists have the same rights to the road as car drivers so please show each other maximum respect.

https://www.rospa.com/road-safety/advice/drivers/speeding

More pedestrians on our footpaths – show them more respect

It's evident that walking along our footways has increased in popularity over the past year – just look at the increased number of pedestrians taking a walk for their daily exercise. Our footways, where they exist, are close to the edges of our roads. Yet a lot of drivers continue to show little respect to walkers. Please be mindful of walkers and respect their space.

CRIME REDUCTION WORKING PARTY

This working party has not met for almost 2 years. With the commencement of the PACT meetings, now might be the right time for the working party to start meeting once again.

The original purpose of the working party was to work within the community in the field of crime reduction. The working party aims to assist the police in the pursuit of their duties to reduce and prevent crime, to apprehend those who have committed crimes, including expressed antisocial behaviour, acts of vandalism and fraud. The working party also wishes to cooperate with all community organisations involved in crime reduction activities.

Perhaps this working party can provide a feed-in channel for the PACT meetings scheduled for this calendar year. Please look out for more information on the PC's website.

HEDGES AND VERGES

Last year the Parish Council received a number of complaints about the narrow footway from the Coronation Tree to Taylor Lane and beyond to Barwick. The PC worked with Leeds Highways to get the footway chopped back (technically called grubbing work). There have been several complaints in the last few weeks of grass verges being damaged by vehicles, particularly with the very wet weather making the verges extremely soft.

Can we all please take care when parking not to allow our cars and vans to damage the verges.

The 'In Bloom' groups in both villages work extremely hard to keep our surroundings looking at their best so please be considerate when parking.

Leeds City Council has informed the PC that it is an offence to damage the verges. Officers from the Council will take action if it is proved who has caused the damage. Please, everyone, have a good look at your hedges and if anything is encroaching onto the pathway be a responsible villager and get it trimmed back before the birds start nesting. Doing the work as the hedges start to grow means it will quickly recover from its haircut and again be looking good for the summer. Cllr Graham Slater

NEW LEADERS WANTED TO SAVE BARWICK CUB GROUP

First Barwick in Elmet Scout Group has been operating for 40 years in various guises. The impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic has had a huge effect on scouting throughout the UK. Many groups have not been able to carry out face-to-face scouting since the end of March 2020. The Scout Association has recently published guidance on how scouting can continue and groups are currently drawing up plans for later this year.

Sadly, in Barwick in Elmet the group has struggled to recruit new leaders making the future of the Cub Section uncertain. If the group does not get any new leaders coming forward there is the real possibility the Cubs section may have to stop meeting completely until new leaders can be found.

Cubs is for Young People of all genders aged 8 to 10 and a half years old. They meet for around $1^{1}/_{2}$ hours a week in Barwick Village Hall during school term time and have around 15 members at present. Ideally the group needs 2 or 3 new leaders to ensure it can continue. Full training is given and you will be supported by the Group Scout Leader and other members of the Executive Committee and the Wetherby District Scouts. If you have children of that age, or even if you don't and feel you could commit to help run the group come along, have fun, make friends and contribute to the community.

Please contact either Group Scout Leader (Cathryn Atkinson <u>cathryn 5@hotmail.com</u>) or Group Chairman (Neil Beaumont – <u>nbeaumontpc@gmail.com</u>) by email for more details and an informal chat.

ORGANISED FOOTBALL AT SCHOLES SPORTS FIELD.

Junior football is now available at Scholes Sports field. After a lengthy gap without the opportunity to play organised football in the village your Parish Council has been pro-active in ensuring the sports field is being used again for junior football.

It is also hoped that this summer the issues with poor drainage of the field can be addressed so that wet weather does not turn the area into a mud bath.

On Saturday mornings from 10:00 am 5-Star Sports runs its football skills classes for youngsters from 4 to 12 years old.

For many years 5-Star ran these sessions at the school playing field but moved to the sports field last summer so that toilet facilities are now available. See their website for details of times and restrictions under Covid regulations. https://www.five-star-sports.co.uk/saturday-football

The pavilion has been used for football (sports) themed children's parties using the sports field. Contact: <u>grahamslater@mpcsl.com</u> for booking details or check out the website.

On Sundays the PC is pleased with the arrival of Shadwell United FC juniors onto the sports field. Shadwell plays in the Garforth Junior Football league and runs several junior teams for boys and girls at locations throughout north east Leeds. The organisers are keen to attract more youngsters from our villages into their squads.

Matches in Scholes usually kick off around lunch time. Contact Phil Hardaker at <u>phil@hitsplc.com</u> for further information.

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

The Parish Council will continue to stream meetings using Zoom. Everyone is invited to attend via Zoom.

Parish Council Surgery: Surgeries are cancelled until further notice.

The Planning Committee: Meetings continue to be held via Zoom. Planning applications can be found on the website and village notice boards.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee: Meetings continue to be held via Zoom.

Parish Council Accounts: Community Grants information and full Parish Council accounts are available to view online. Copies are also available upon request to the Clerk of the Parish Council.

Parish Councillors, working for you.

Barwick Ward		Scholes Ward	
Glyn Davies	glynatpc@gmail.com	Paul Remmer	paulremmerbspc@gmail.com
Mike Brunt	mike.brunt.bspc@mail.com	Karen Dales	karen.dalesparishcouncil@talktalk.net
Howard Bedford	howard@howardbedford.com	Graham Slater	grahamslater@mpcsl.com
Jacqueline Ward	Jwardpc3@gmail.com	Stella Walsh	stellawalshparishcouncil@gmail.com
Vacant		Vacant	
Claire Hassell	eclairehassell@live.co.uk	Chair: Phil Maude	philm.bspc@gmail.com

Parish Council contact information

Keith Langley is Clerk to the Parish Council and can be contacted:

- email: clerk@barwickandscholespc.org
- telephone: 0113 393 5861

Contacting Parish Councillors

You'll also find a list of individual Parish Councillors and their contact details on our new website - see <u>Elected Representatives</u> page.

Parish Councillors are all unpaid volunteers. They may have full-time jobs or other commitments and may not be able to respond to your query straight away.

Note: All information provided in this newsletter was accurate on 24^{th} March 2021

Don't forget to check out the new Parish Council website: www.barwickandscholespc.org