

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### Manorial Government

Only a few records have survived from the manor court, and none before the 17th century.

A court leet was held here in the late 1630s. In October 1636, there were presentments for failing to maintain drains, removing a bridge, breaking a hedge, ‘drowning the common Inges’, trespassing with livestock on the Ings, pulling up the Inges gap, leading hay through ‘bonding Common’, leaving the Ings yard open, and twelve householders for failing ‘to doe ther service’.<sup>1</sup> The jury laid down pains in October 1638 for maintaining bridges, stiles and fences, keeping swine rung, keeping weights and scales at the mill, scouring a water sewer, keeping on foot on the highways in Huntingley and Wykrofte, not obstructing dikes, not breaking hedges or green wood, and not digging up a highway.<sup>2</sup> The presentments at this time were much the same as they had been two years earlier, with the addition of two men fined encroaching on the Lord’s ground.<sup>3</sup>

The manorial lords of Barlow appear to have owed service to the Grammary Fee at Snaith, which included nine other nearby townships. It was included amongst the vills in the Soke of Snaith in 1279, valued at 11s per year.<sup>4</sup> Much later, in the 1670s, the steward or bailiff at Barlow, John Hall, paid this same amount to Lord Downes as ‘a yearly rent called a Granary fee’.<sup>5</sup> Then, in the 18th century, the Twisletons paid 11s ‘for the manor’ at ‘Barley’ until at least 1785, and the Grammary Fee rental book specifies that John Twisleton, esq., ‘held a Court there’ in 1735.<sup>6</sup>

### Parochial Government

Ecclesiastically, Barlow was a chapelry within the parish of Brayton, and continues as such in 2010. In 1667, therefore, the churchwardens of Brayton presented Mary Hunsleine of Barlow to Selby Peculiar Court for bearing a bastard child.<sup>7</sup>

Civilly, however, it appears to have operated as semi-autonomous township. Of course from the 14th century onwards, taxes were always collected at the level of the ‘vill’.<sup>8</sup> The presence of a ‘Ducking Stool Close’ to the north of Barlow Hall may indicate that justice was meted out locally in the early modern period.<sup>9</sup> By the late 17th century, if not earlier, it was a constabulary with its own constables, Bartholomew Watson in 1672 and Jebediah Wakes in 1682.<sup>10</sup> The only parochial records that survive before the 19th century are those of Brayton township, with the accounts of its churchwardens, constables, overseers, surveyors of the highways.<sup>11</sup> Barlow’s officers presumably kept separate accounts.

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<sup>1</sup> YMA, Hailstone BB13.

<sup>2</sup> HHC, U DDLO/1/15.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> *Yorks. Inq.*, I, p. 206.

<sup>5</sup> TNA, E 134/2Jas2/Mich36; TNA, E 134/3Jas2/Mich21.

<sup>6</sup> ERYALSS, DDLO/104.

<sup>7</sup> BIA, Pec. Other, Sel/3.

<sup>8</sup> Glasscock (ed.), *Lay Subsidy of 1334*, p. 389.

<sup>9</sup> BIA, TA335.S.

<sup>10</sup> Hey (ed.), *Hearth Tax*, p. 321; WYAS-W, QS1/21/4/8/6.

<sup>11</sup> BIA, PR/BRAY/25.

The township's poor rate annually raised an average of £53.19.0 in 1775-76, £26.4.9 in 1783-85, and £130.0.5 in 1802-03.<sup>12</sup> All of this was spent on 'out relief', rather than a workhouse. Five adults (one of whom was aged or disabled) and five children received regular relief payments in 1802-03, but apparently no one received occasional relief at this time.<sup>13</sup>

Barlow became a separate civil parish in 1866.<sup>14</sup> In 2009-10, the parish council employed a part-time lengthsman and contributed to the maintenance of street lighting, playing fields and verges.<sup>15</sup>

## Higher Government

Barlow was in the lower division of the Barkstone Ash wapentake.<sup>16</sup> It fell within the purview of the Commission of Sewers for the West Riding, and this court ordered the heightening of banks and the repair of drains here in 1666 and 1729.<sup>17</sup>

It also formed part of the Selby Poor Law Union (1837-1930), the Selby Rural Sanitary District, and the Selby Rural District.<sup>18</sup> The ratepayers of Brayton parish, including 34 from Barlow, petitioned against the creation of a district-level Highways Board in 1864.<sup>19</sup> From 1974, it was part of the Selby District within the county of North Yorkshire.

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<sup>12</sup> *Abstract of Maintenance of the Poor*, p. 632.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 633.

<sup>14</sup> Youngs, *Units*, II, p. 510.

<sup>15</sup> Barlow Parish Council, 'Annual Report' (2009); *ibid.* (2010) on <[www.barlowparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.barlowparishcouncil.co.uk)> (accessed 08/09/2010).

<sup>16</sup> Youngs, *Units*, II, p. 510.

<sup>17</sup> HHC, U DDCA/6/109; HHC, U DDEV/64/29.

<sup>18</sup> Youngs, *Units*, II, p. 510.

<sup>19</sup> NYCRO, QS 12/4.