

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 22nd January, 2026, starting at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr. A. Platt, Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. D. Ward, Mr. C. Fincham, Mr. N. Gibson, Ms. H. Parker, Mr. D. Platts.

The County Councillor, Ms. N. Oliver, was also present but the District Councillor, Ms. R. Yarsley, had a London meeting. There were no members of the public.

1387 **Apologies** - Cllr. Stamp was at a business meeting and Cllr. Brady was unwell. The new assistant clerk, Ms. Sophy Warren, would have been present had she not been called away on a family matter. Cllr. D. Platts had explained that his absence from the last meeting had been due to sudden transport cancellation. These apologies were accepted and approved.

Cllr. Brady has reported that her health issue would need long term treatment. She has, therefore, sent a formal letter of resignation from the council.

This has been received by the chairman and the clerk will notify East Lindsey of the need to seek a new member for the council.

1388 **The Minutes** of the meeting of 20th November, 2025, had been circulated. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

1389 **Matters arising** - There were no matters arising.

1390 **Correspondence.**

The fortnightly newsletter from LALC is now coming directly from their office. Other newsletters and information items have been circulated as they arrived.

One item from LALC relates to their template for an 'official' IT Policy including working conditions for council equipment and the question of councillor's e-mails working through a council-owned system, not private addresses. It is a 15 page document which the clerk will be studying over the next few weeks to adapt it to the needs here in order to satisfy the requirements of the Annual Audit Governance section.

Signed by the Chairman

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Specific items to note:-

Electoral Register There has been one up-date showing three deletions.

Lincolnshire Wolds has sent a copy of their Annual Review for 2024-25. Cllrs. C. Wilson and D. Platts requested copies which the clerk will forward.

They also sent their 'Higher Ground' newsletter which was forwarded in early December.

Lincolnshire County Council has finally made available the Care Services Directory and it has been downloaded it onto the system. Cllr. Parker requested a copy which will be forwarded. It was also agreed that she would arrange publicity for it on local social media.

They have also sent notification of a Traffic Regulation Order affecting Willingham Road on 25th February. This is for overhead tree-trimming along the electrical network.

1391 **Planning** -

a) Applications - There were no new applications.

b) Decisions -

03366/25/FUL - The Paddocks, Torrington Lane, East Barkwith.
Extension to existing dwelling to provide additional living accommodation.

This application has been granted.

APP/D2510/W/25/3363157 - This was the Appeal to the Secretary of State against the decision by East Lindsey District Council to refuse the application for a Solar Farm on land adjacent to Sotby Woods, Hatton.

The appeal has been allowed and Planning Permission has been granted.

1392 **Reports** -

a) Village Hall - The Annual General Meeting was held on November 25th, with no new additions to the committee membership. It was followed by a Committee Meeting at which it was confirmed that Chris Wilson would serve a further term as chairman and Barbara Theairs would continue to combine the roles of Secretary and Treasurer. Of the remaining **four** members, Colin Fincham serves as representative for Panton, Kate Wright for the Gardeners, and Melanie Norton for the WI. Jean Bray also supports the committee as Liaison for Vulnerable Users. For a full committee, there should be **three** other representatives and up to **five** more elected members but all these posts are still vacant. It is this persistent shortage of support which makes the change in management necessary.

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The Annual Accounts have been audited and pronounced satisfactory. They have since been registered with the Charities Commission. The casual bookings have been increasing slowly and it is hoped to hold a Village Fete in July of this year.

An approach was made to the new contact for a local firm of solicitors to deal with the management transfer difficulties. However, there have been no definite discussions as yet. It has been suggested that, should there be no further help, the Committee and Council should consider independent action as the continued delays are affecting the proposed refurbishment and development work on the hall.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - Cllr. Ward reported that conversations with the local Police representative had confirmed that the main concern at present is Fraud, in all its forms. The recommendation is not to report it but simply to ignore it. Destroy the letters, hang up the telephone without comment, delete the e-mail without answering and definitely do not click on any links or attachments. Cllr. Parker said that there is an offer for a police officer to attend a meeting to give a short advisory talk on this and it was suggested that a good arrangement might be a time just before a village event at the Crossroads. Cllr. Parker agreed to look into this.

c) Play Area - Cllr. Wilson reported that last night's committee meeting had set the date of Saturday, 21st March for the annual Spring Cleaning and this might require the purchase of suitable paint supplies or top-ups for sand and bark. This was approved.

Two new members have joined the committee and are willing to assist with the regular safety inspections. It was noted that, should there be insufficient members to maintain a manageable rota, it could become necessary to employ an individual, or company, to carry out these regular checks which are required for insurance purposes. The chairman reported that it might be possible to arrange this through the company which is in the process of taking over PlayDays, the local firm which has provided the council with some of the ground supplies.

d) Countryside Committee - Cllr. Wilson wished to thank David Garrad for keeping his verge uncut until the seeds had been harvested. These, with similar supplies, along with the first cut made, have been allocated to the re-wilding areas currently in the care of the countryside committee.

The Parish Field is in good order, with the ponds full. There is still the need for gates at the entrance. Those offered by the school have proved too expensive and alternatives are being sought. Maintenance over the coming period will include the replacement of dead or seriously damaged trees.

Cllr. Wilson has been in touch with Ned Chamberlin to arrange the servicing of the mowers and the costs of the necessary parts and fluids are to be checked. It was agreed that these formed part of the grass-cutting expenditure and should be approved.

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e) Dog Watch - There is still an occasional incident of fouling in the churchyard but the vast majority of dog-walkers are picking up after their animals - to the extent that a resident overheard a council worker muttering that the dog-bin was too full!

f) History Group - Meetings are expected to resume in February and there will be an exhibition in the church for the Churches' Open Weekend in May.

With the refurbishment work complete, the main architect for that work has indicated that he is willing to assist with the necessary paperwork to arrange the intallation of the viewing system for the underground chambers.

The group is still doing its best to answer queries, coming from both visitors to the churchyard and via the web-site, on various aspects of village history.

1393 Amenities -

War Memorial - The winter pansies are managing to hold on in the recent cold and damp weather but, unfortunately, the weeds appear to be doing better!

Cllr. Wilson wished to thank James Braithwaite for the donation of paint for the corner posts and chains. It will be applied once the weather conditions permit.

1394 Highways - Cllr. Wilson reported that a resident on Louth Road had been regularly picking up assorted litter and fly-tipped rubbish from the verges. He had asked whether anything could be done to discourage the culprit who had been dropping bags of sawdust, possibly pet bedding. He may have some evidence. Cllr. Wilson will supply him with some of the regulation green sacks which can be used to collect any rubbish and can be left on the verge for removal by the District Waste Team. The clerk will ask for a further supply.

Thanks are due to Tom Bollan for the Annual Speed Report which was circulated at the meeting, and for the making of more brackets for the speed camera so that all roads into the village can be covered in turn. The clerk will forward the report to the police contact and the camera will be erected in its next location on Willingham Road.

The discussion turned to the proposed 'entrance gates' for Lincoln Road. It had already been agreed to go ahead with the project but there appeared to have been no action. Cllr. Wilson said that he had done all the groundwork but had already pointed out that he could not complete the practical work alone. If no-one was able to help, it would be necessary to find a contractor. This possibility was noted and the County Councillor agreed to ask the Highways department for their information on approved designs and permissions needed. Cllr. Wilson agreed to send her the designs and other details he had prepared. It was also agreed that part of the costs would be met from an allocation already made in the budget. The District Councillor had offered a sum from her Grant allocation and this would be accepted to add to the funding.

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Cllr Wilson had up-dated the photographs of the on-going drainage problems along Torrington Lane and elsewhere in the village. These had been forwarded to Carl at Highways and to the County Councillor, Natalie Oliver, and copies were circulated at the meeting. Ms. Oliver will also be forwarding them to Leila at Highways with an additional note relating to issues on Lincoln Road, the A157 to West Barkwith.

It was noted that the Highways Department does not clean the signs on class B and C roads and that those within the village boundaries are in need of attention. Cllr. Wilson offered to make a start on the task and it was agreed that the council might take responsibility for organising later work.

1395 Finance -

a) Receipts -

Clothing Bank - Collections - November £21, December £14 Total £35.00

b) Bills - The following items had been approved for payment at the due date or on receipt of invoice, using the CARD where necessary.

| Payee - For | Cheque no. | Net | VAT | Total |
|--|------------|-----------|------|-----------|
| Lloyds Bank - November Charges | Direct | £5.25 | - | £5.25 |
| December Charges | Direct | £5.75 | - | £5.75 |
| Royal British Legion - Collection | . 001077 | £40.00 | - | £40.00 |
| HMRC Payment - | | | | |
| *plus card charge 33 pence | online | £547.00 | 33p. | £547.33 |
| Clerk's Net Salary Payment - 3rd quarter | 001079 | £1,201.50 | | £1,201.50 |

Also Approved -

| | | | | |
|---|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| East Lindsey - Green Bin Subscription | CARD | £55.00 | - | £55.00 |
| LALC - Membership Subscription | 001080 | £178.30 | - | £178.30 |
| LALC - Training Scheme (paid with above) | | £130.00 | £26.00 | £156.00 |
| Miss S. Warren - Assistant Clerk's Salary for January | | | | |
| | 001081 | £195.00 | - | £195.00 |
| Barkwith Village Hall - use in 2025 | 001082 | £192.00 | - | £192.00 |

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Also Expected -

| | | |
|--|--------------------------|---------|
| Lloyds Bank - January Service Charges | Direct | £4.55 |
| February Service Charges | Direct | TBA. |
| Miss S. Warren - Assistant Clerk's Salary for February | | £195.00 |
| LALC - Course expenses for Assistant Clerk | | £13.00 |
| Viking - Ink and stationery | Estimated at (excl. VAT) | £150.00 |
| Possibly - Steve Campion for West Barkwith Verge-cutting - last year was | | £125.00 |
| Mower Servicing costs | TBA | |
| Play Area top-ups, Bark and Sand | TBA | |

It was agreed that all these payments, along with the on-going expenses for grass-cutting and office stationery, were approved and should be made as they arise.

c) **Precept Preparation** - The account summaries and budget proposals for 2026/27 were circulated prior to the meeting and paper copies were available for the discussion. After some debate, it was clear that the general reserve was still on the low side and there were a number of uncertainties over potential increases to the insurance, the village hall requirements and some of the other regular expenses. There was also the possibility of needing to employ an individual or a firm to carry out the regular Play Area inspections. In view of these it was agreed that the suggested figure should be higher to allow for the potential extra expenses and the Precept should be set at **£15,000** for 2026/27.

The clerk was instructed to convey the decision to the District Council on the prescribed form.

1396 **Any Other Business** -

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed by the Chairman