

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 20th March, 2025, starting at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. D. Ward, Mrs. T. Brady, Mr. C. Fincham, Mr. N. Gibson, Ms. H. Parker and Mr. D. Platts

The District Councillor, Ms. R. Yarsley was present but there were no members of the public.

1332 **Apologies** - Cllr. Platt was unwell and Cllr. Stamp was working.
The County Councillor, Mrs. P. Bradwell, had been called to another meeting.
These apologies were accepted and approved.

In the absence of both Cllr. Platt and Cllr. Stamp, the chair was taken by Cllr. Fincham.

1333 **The Minutes** of the meeting of 23rd January had been circulated. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

1334 **Matters arising** There were no comments or questions on these.

1335 **Correspondence.**

Newsletters, general information and dates - These have been forwarded on arrival, as have any Play Equipment or other catalogues, and there were no comments from these.

Other items:-

Electoral Register There have been two up-dates since the last meeting with a total of two additions and two deletions.

East Lindsey have issued a Media Release giving details of this year's Lincolnshire Wolds Outdoor Festival with the dates as Saturday 17th May to Sunday 1st June.

They had earlier sent information regarding the change of site for the Ground Disposal Facility for Nuclear Waste from a brownfield site at Theddlethorpe to an inland site on prime agricultural land. This was forwarded for comments and Cllr. Wilson had prepared an individual response.
(See also the section on Planning, item 1336, below.)

A further letter gives information on reporting fly-tipping for investigation, by e-mail to flytipping@e-lindsey.gov.uk, and on requesting its removal, again by e-mail to customerservices@e-lindsey.gov.uk.

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Signed by the Chairman

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Elections will be taking place on Thursday, 1st May, for Lincolnshire County Council and for a Mayor for the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority. The initial notices have been received and posted on the boards.

Lincolnshire County Council have prepared a draft Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan and are inviting comments. The draft and the survey are accessed via a link in the e-mail, or go to www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/draftrowip. There is a deadline of Monday, 9th June for completion.

LALC are conducting a survey on Pay, Recruitment and Retention of council staff. It relates mainly to the employment of clerks and other administrative staff and there is one section for clerks to complete and another for councillors, each with about a dozen questions requiring simple yes / no answers. Access is via the links on the e-mail, which will be forwarded, with a deadline of Tuesday, 22nd April.

The LALC newsletter of 7th February offered information on the Planning Reform Working Paper on Streamlining Infrastructure Planning. This has been downloaded and can be forwarded.

Lithium-Ion Batteries There has been no further news since Ron Bailey's last e-mail which was forwarded in February. He asked, then, that the local MP should be contacted and asked to support the Bill when it reaches its second reading in the Commons.

It was agreed that the clerk should forward any e-mails which had been requested and should send a letter relating to the Lithium-ion Batteries to the Horncastle MP., Victoria Atkins.

1336 **Planning** -

a) Applications -

S/086/00283/25 - Infrastructure relating to an off-shore wind farm near Theddlethorpe. This application had been sent, by East Lindsey, to all town and parish councils in the district due to the nature of the project and its possible effects on the surrounding area.

The application was circulated between meetings but it was agreed that this parish is beyond the area which might be affected and that no council response was needed. Cllr. Wilson said he would be sending his own comments as an individual.

b) Decisions -

There were no decisions outstanding but it was reported that the issue of the Solar Farm at Hatton is now the subject of an Appeal to the Secretary of State.

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c) Parish Emergency Plan -

Cllr. Wilson had completed the draft of the Parish Emergency Plan and provided two copies for viewing. Individual copies would be provided by e-mail if required and a full set of printed copies could be made available once the final version is confirmed.

In the meantime, Councillors' help is requested in contacting all residents who might be willing to be called upon to assist in the event that the plan is activated for any reason. Depending on the nature of the incident, the tasks could range from making cups of tea in the village hall to providing and operating tractors or other machinery. The Parish Plan is now in line with the County Plan so, if activated, any volunteers would be protected under the County insurance provisions.

Cllr. Wilson has suggested sections of the village for each councillor to cover and the clerk will prepare a contact list for each section. These lists will be confidential and for this task only.

1337 Reports -

a) Village Hall - As recommended by the solicitors, a letter was sent to the Charity Commission, outlining the situation regarding the management structure. An e-mail reply was received yesterday, giving a number of links to different areas of guidance notes and these will take some time to study and assess for direct relevance before referring them to the solicitors.

For the re-development project, Cllr. Wilson is awaiting the prices from the new contractor and will then be able to assemble the documentation for the grant finding company.

There will be a Village Summer Fete this year, with the date expected to be in July.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - There have been no notable incidents of crime in the village and the area group remains quiet. There has, however, been a serious fire at a property on Panton Road. The residents were unharmed but have had to move into temporary accommodation for the immediate future.

As always, residents are asked to remain aware of the risks of telephone and on-line scams.

c) Play Area - Cllr. Wilson reported that there will be a committee meeting shortly to invite new volunteers and to set the date for the Annual Spring Clean. It is likely to require further supplies of bark and sand, which totalled some £500 in July of last year. This was approved in principle.

d) Countryside Committee - Cllr. Wilson wished to thank Danny and Ian Robinson for the use of a digger, Nick Pope for his trailer, and David Ward for his help in removing a damaged tree from the Parish Field. The ponds there have been cleared with some new trees planted and wild-flower seeds sown on the banks. The next task will be to strip out the overgrowth of blackthorn.

Arising shortly will be the expenses associated with the annual servicing of the mowers and this was accepted.

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e) Dog Watch - The warning posters have been replaced where necessary but there have been no serious issues recently. Cllr. Platts is awaiting news from East Lindsey regarding the additional dog waste bins and, once these have been installed, a letter will be sent to all residents to inform them of the locations of the bins and the rules to be observed whenever they, or any visitors, are walking their pets.

f) History Group - It is intended to resume meetings in late March or early April with the preparations for an exhibition in St. Mary's for the Open Churches Weekend in mid-May. The new printer head has arrived and there are video instructions to help with its installation.

1338 Amenities -

War Memorial - The memorial area has been cleaned and the winter pansies are looking well for the spring. The summer plants are being grown locally from seed harvested last year. Cllr. Ward offered some compost at cost for this process.

The clerk has been looking into prices for replacement and new flags to be flown at the appropriate times. It was agreed to purchase two Lincoln flags to a maximum of £16 for the two and, depending on the final quote, one or two flags with the East Barkwith design prepared some while ago by Tom Bollan. The maximum approved was £40 for one or £60 for two.

1339 Highways - The original suppliers of the speed camera had finally provided a quote for another bracket and fixings but, at £376 plus VAT, it was more than six times the original price so Cllr. Wilson is looking into getting it made locally. Cllrs. Platts and Fincham also offered to consult local contacts.

The grass at the edge of the Village Green is being churned up by vehicles riding over it or parking on it, which will make mowing more difficult. Cllr. Wilson has installed some chevron posts at the boundary to deter the practice.

The litter pickers have been very busy, with 12 bags of rubbish now at the edge of the car park awaiting collection tomorrow. New volunteers for the picking are Martyn Chambers, Derek Howsham and his partner, Linda. Their names will be added to the List of Volunteers.

Cllr. Wilson is preparing to use the last Speed Report as the basis for a request to the Road Safety Partnership to adjust the ranges of the speed limits on the Lincoln Road.

1340 Finance -

a) Receipts -

The Recycling company has made payments in the last two months for collections from the Clothing Bank and the combined amount for the Village Hall Reserve was £40.00.

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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
Viking - Ink and Paper	CARD	£138.59	£27.72	£166.31
Viking - Accounts File and inks for History Group work	CARD	£90.28	£18.06	£108.34
Mole Country Store - Strimmer Line		£14.99	£3.00	£17.99
Tesco - Churchyard mower fuel		£23.02	£4.61	£27.63
Amazon - Printer Head for poster machine		£44.56	£8.91	£53.47

These three bills were paid by Cllr. Wilson and repaid to him on Cheque no 001054

Also due now -

Lloyds Bank - Charges to 09.02.25, including one cheque fee of 50p.				£4.75
HMRC - Clerk's PAYE	001055	£522.00		£522.00
Mrs. B. Theairs - Clerk's Salary		£1,226.50		£1,226.50
Mrs. B. Theairs - Clerk's Expenses		£100.20		£100.20

Salary and Expenses were paid on one cheque no 001057, totalling £1326.70.

Approved for payment at point of purchase or on receipt of invoice

Lincoln Flag - 2 standard weight to a maximum of £16 excluding VAT

Village Flag - 1 at the standard weight to a maximum of £40 or 2 to a maximum of £60

Due end of April -

GoDaddy - Web-site Renewal - Est. £140 plus VAT. This is on a direct debit.

Grass-cutting - Mark Woodcock has confirmed a rate of £12 per hour for the coming season and Steve Campion has confirm £25 per cut for the expected 5 cuts in West Barkwith.

It was agreed that all these payments were approved and should be made as they arise.

c) Other matters - The bank statement again shows the comment that the account is not eligible for FSCS protection. The clerk has telephoned and now written to have the comment removed as the account is well within the limits of the scheme.

- The payments made in March will complete the accounts for the financial year. The clerk will complete the documents for the Audit and prepare for the Annual Return submission and publication as soon as those papers arrive.

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1341 **Any Other Business -**

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

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Signed by the Chairman