

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 19th September, 2024, starting at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr. A. Platt, Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. C Fincham, and Mr. D. Platts.

The District Councillor, Mrs. R. Yarsley, was present as was one member of the public.

1300 **Apologies** - Cllr. Gibson was away, Cllr. Ward had a business meeting, Cllr. Stamp was working and Cllr. Parker was at another meeting.

These apologies were accepted and approved.

1301 **The Minutes** of the meeting of 18th July had been circulated. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

1302 **Matters arising** There were no items relating to the earlier minutes.

1303 **Correspondence.**

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

Other items:-

Electoral Register There has been one up-date since the last meeting, showing three additions and three deletions.

Grass verge, Willingham Road As reported at the last meeting, the approved letter was sent to the housing company. They have now reported that they are referring it to their legal team and will be in touch in due course. In the meantime a rough cut was made to resolve the immediate problem and, with thanks to Mike Yates and the assistance of residents, the verge will be kept passable until the matter is resolved.

Lincolnshire County Council sent links to the consultation on up-dating the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. This was forwarded at the end of July and there were no comments on the matter.

Signed by the Chairman

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They have also sent notice of traffic restrictions on Willingham Road from 7th to 10th October for repairs to the water main.

A further e-mail concerned winter preparations. As requested, damaged and empty bins have been reported through 'Fix My Street' and, thanks to Jonathan, a salt sack has been ordered via the link provided.

The **Devolution** process is continuing. The establishment of the combined County Authority will be confirmed shortly, with the Mayoral Election due in May.

Ron Bailey's campaign for a Bill relating to the safety and disposal of **Lithium Ion Batteries** is now awaiting further developments. It will be progressing through the Lords but there is no news regarding its adoption for a Private Members Bill in the Commons.

Ru Yarsley sent information on the possibility of a Bio-gas plant near Wragby which may bring business opportunities for local farmers. The leaflet 'Growing Opportunities' can be printed or e-mailed if required. Councillors commented on the possibility of noxious smells from the storage of the by products of the digester and Ms. Yarsley said she would check with the company on this. Cllr Wilson requested a copy of the leaflet and this will be forwarded. There is also an invitation to Hatton Fest on Saturday.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Office has sent a sample of the 'Fraud Prevention Pack'. More sets can be obtained if required but there were no requests for these at this meeting.

East Lindsey had provided a printed version of the Planning Training session held recently. It can be e-mailed or a printout can be viewed on request. Cllrs. Wilson, Platts and Fincham requested e-mail copies and these will be sent.

1304 **Planning** -

a) Applications - There were no applications to report or to view.

b) Decisions -

S/202/00869/24 - The Poplars, Louth Road, West Barkwith
Single storey extension to existing dwelling to provide additional living accommodation.
This has been Granted.

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c) Forthcoming Proposal -

Cllr. Wilson circulated a copy of the proposals for the up-grading and extensions to the Village Hall. This would include work on the kitchens and toilets, a rear extension up to the boundary to replace the existing store room and improve facilities for the stage, and for a heritage store in the roof space. There will also be a side extension to provide a heritage display room and a storage section, with separate entry, for the council's countryside equipment and emergency supplies.

The members agreed to support the proposals and to contribute to the expenses of planning and other applications, using the funds from the sale of the end of the car park, which had been reserved for such a purpose.

d) Village Plan -

Village and Neighbourhood Plans are now carrying more weight with the district and other planning authorities, provided they effectively presented. Cllr. Platts has agreed to assist Cllr. Wilson in reviewing and up-dating the original East & West Barkwith Plan from 2010.

1305 Reports -

a) Village Hall - Cllr. Wilson's report was confined to an up-date on the proposals for the improvements to the Hall and this is given under the Planning section above. A further report will be made after the Village Hall AGM and Committee meetings which will be due in late October.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - Thieves have attempted to use the Parish Field to approach homes on Louth Road but were deterred by residents' dogs. The incident has been reported to the police.

Cllr. Platts offered to review the state of the Neighbourhood Watch signs and the current means of communicating information to residents and this was accepted.

The Chairman reported that there had been no contact with the area group for some months. The clerk will refer to the earlier e-mails and request an up-date.

The clerk displayed the contents from a sample of the Fraud Prevention Pack sent by the Police and Crime Commissioner's office. Further packs can be requested if required.

The District Councillor wished to remind members of the existence of the 'Safer Together Team' which aims to foster co-operation between the police and the communities they serve. The clerk has contact details from an earlier e-mail and will forward it again for reference.

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c) Play Area - Cllr. Wilson wished to thank Tom Bollan and Richard Brumpton for their assistance with the installation of the kick-boards along the bottom of the fencing. The levels of sand and bark were topped up in time for the summer holiday use.

The bench and seat, along with a number of others in the village, will need a new coat of preservative in time for the winter. There were offers of some products but, if these were not suitable or insufficient, expenditure was authorised for a further purchase.

The Annual Inspection was carried out with a few minor items requiring attention which has been given. The inspecting company had requested an additional fee of £50 to set an appointed time so that Cllr. Wilson could be present for the inspection but he felt this was excessive and did not pursue the option. However, the company has finally accepted the council's reasons for the placing of the waste bin and for other matters, which had given rise to repeated comments in past years, and they made no mention of them this time.

d) Countryside Committee - Cllr. Wilson wished to send his thanks to Ned Chamberlin for servicing the big mower, and to Mike Yates, for his continuing efforts in keeping the verges tidy. Thanks are also due to Cllr. Stamp, for help with the removal of some trees, and to David and Merle Garrad, for keeping their grass verge long for an extended period to allow the various wild plants to mature and set seeds for use in the re-wilding areas.

Cllr Wilson also reported that he had been approached by the younger residents at The Old School with the request that they be allowed to help with some of the Countryside Committee tasks as part of their voluntary work for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

This was approved and Cllr. Wilson will notify the clerk of their names, to be entered on the Register of Volunteers for the insurance records.

e) Dog Watch - There have been no reports of noise or complaints of fouling, although a check in West Barkwith has shown some mess by the field paths. Unfortunately, it is not possible to catch any culprits in that situation but Cllr. Platts will obtain more signs for the area and request the installation of a waste bin near the point where the path meets the road, opposite West Barkwith's Quiet Space.

f) History Group - Due to possible conflicts in the grant arrangements, the full work on the glass floor installation at St. Mary's Church has been postponed until after the rest of the project is complete. The builders will need to undertake some preliminary work to facilitate electrical connections and will then make safe the access to the chambers and install a temporary covering. A separate grant application can then be made to fund the glass floor for viewing.

In the meantime, contributions to the group's archives have continued, although it has been decided that there should be no more Metal Detection Days until the current backlog has been cleaned and catalogued. There is also the need for more ink to complete the photographic record of the D-Day event and expenditure for this was approved.

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g) Special Events - Next Year will mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. The clerk has information on the national programme, which includes details on how to co-ordinate local participation and suggestions for local events. There was general approval of the idea of some form of commemoration but Cllr. Wilson said that it was time for him to be looking for more practical help with the preparations, with a view to someone else working closely with him and being able to take over his role in organising the work for the future.

1306 Amenities -

War Memorial - Thanks are due to Margaret Tyson for supplying the water and Ned Chamberlin for doing the work on cleaning the War Memorial. Thanks, too, to the young people who helped with growing on the winter pansies and planting them out around the base.

This year's Remembrance Service will take place on Sunday, 10th November. The Scouts will be in attendance and Wragby Fire Brigade have asked if they might send a representative as they did last year. They have been told they are most welcome.

Expenditure for the community wreaths was approved but there is the question as to who might lay the main one this year as Ned Chamberlin has now retired from the RAF and it is appropriate for a serving member of one of the armed forces to perform the task if possible.

The customary refreshments will be available in the Village Hall after the service.

1307 Highways - The County Council had asked for reports on any empty or damaged roadside grit bins and their attention has been drawn to two in Torrington Lane, which need filling, and the one by the bus shelter in Panton, which is broken with the contents solid.

The drainage issues on Torrington Lane, by the Village Green and outside Barkwith House, were caused when some work by BT resulted in a damaged water pipe. This has now been repaired and the situation is being monitored. The repair team said the road drain on Willingham Road is also on their list for attention shortly.

The speed camera has been relocated again and Cllr. Wilson is awaiting the data report from Tom Bolland on the position just vacated. There was a suggestion that there should be more 'repeater signs' for the speed limits within the village. This may be investigated.

1308 Finance -

a) Receipts -

The July Clothing Bank payment for the Village Hall Reserve amounted to £14.00 and the late July for August payment was £8.00.

There was a direct payment from A. Riddell, for a collection of scrap metal, to be added to the Play Area funds. The sum was £162.70

The Crossroads also made a donation for the Play Area in the sum of £50.

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The second half of the Precept has been received in the amount of £6,250.

Cllr. Wilson brought a further Play Area donation of £50, for the loan of some outdoor games.

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
Amazon - Computer Screen	CARD	£112.50	£22.50	£135.00
Thompson & Morgan - Plants	CARD	£89.92	£17.98	£107.90
Huws Gray - Play Area Bark	CARD	£270.00	£54.00	£324.00
Clear Insurance - Mower Renewal	001029	£179.26	-	£179.26
Mike Yates - Mower Fuel (2 dates)	001030	£51.06	£10.21	£61.27
Chris Wilson - Mower Fuel (Church)	001031	£17.81	£3.56	£21.37
PlaySafety - Play Area Inspection	001032	£82.00	£16.40	£98.40
Mike Yates - Mower Fuel	001033	£25.21	£5.04	£30.05
Lenovo - Computer Cable	CARD	£20.04	£4.01	£24.05
Viking - Stationery	001034	£64.81	£12.96	£77.77
Mike Yates - Mower Fuel	001035	£25.23	£5.05	£30.28
Mike Yates - Mower Fuel	001036	£25.07	£5.02	£30.09
Viking - Inks for Photographs	001037	£118.86	£23.77	£142.63
Mark Woodcock - Grass-cutting	001038	£168.00	-	£168.00
HMRC - Clerk's PAYE	001039	£522.00	-	£522.00
Mrs B. Theairs - Clerk's Salary	001040	£1,226.50	-	£1,226.50
Mrs B. Theairs - Clerk's Expenses	001041	£134.51	£5.94	£140.45
Furniture Clinic - Danish Oil for Seats	CARD	£30.79	£6.16	£36.95

Also due -

The annual donation to the Royal British Legion for the Wreaths for Remembrance Sunday was approved in the amount of £50.

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

c) Audit and other matters -

The final days of the Period of Inspection, which closed just after the last council meeting, brought no requests to view the accounts. The external auditors have confirmed that they have received no enquiries and the audit for 2023/24 is now complete and closed.

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The transactions approved will complete the accounts for the first half of the year and it was agreed that the clerk will prepare the books for Sophy Warren to undertake the mid-year audit.

With Sophy Warren's help, the reporting issues with HMRC have finally been resolved and the penalties rescinded.

The clerk wished to remind councillors that any projects for next year need to be reported, with an estimate of costs, at the next meeting so that the figures can be incorporated into the Precept preparations.

1309 Any Other Business -

Councillors were reminded of the concerns from the last meeting about the footpath alongside the A 157 towards West Barkwith, which had been referred to the County Councillor, Mrs. P. Bradwell. It appears that there has been a report to the effect that it has been inspected and judged as not requiring attention. However, there are too many stretches where it is not passable on foot due to the greasy surface and the many broken and grassy patches. Users are being forced to walk in the road to avoid tripping. These comments will be passed on to Mrs Bradwell.

The Chairman referred to Cllr. Wilson's comments regarding someone to assist with, and ultimately take over, the co-ordination of major activities and events. He had also said that, after 30 years service to the council, he was beginning to think about retirement. The Chairman then mentioned his own earlier wish to retire from that office but, at that time, there had been no-one willing to take on the role. It was agreed that there was a need to recognise the fact that no councillor could go on for ever and that some form of succession planning was needed to ensure that there were others who could take up the responsibilities they relinquished. The topic will be tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed by the Chairman