

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Annual Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 15th May, 2025, starting at 7.30pm, after the Annual Parish Meeting

Present: Mr. A. Platt, Mr. J. Stamp, Mr. C Wilson, Mr. D. Ward, The District Councillor, Mrs. R. Yarsley, and the new County Councillor, Ms. N. Oliver, were also present.

In addition, there were six members of the public, including representatives from Hatton's Solar Farm group.

1342 **Election of Chairman** - Cllr. A. Platt was proposed and seconded. There being no other nominations, he was duly elected to serve a further term as Chairman. The relevant declaration was signed.

1343 **Election of Vice-Chairman** - Cllr. J. Stamp was proposed and seconded to serve a further term as Vice-Chairman. There being no other nominations, he was duly elected. The relevant declaration was signed.

1344 **Apologies** - Cllrs. Gibson, Fincham and Brady were away, Cllr. Parker had been called into work and Cllr. D. Platts had been called to a family emergency. Their apologies were accepted and approved.

1345 **The Minutes** of the meeting of 20th March had been circulated. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman. There were no matters arising at this point.

1346 **Representatives:-**

The current list of Committees and Representatives was circulated.

It was agreed by all that the Clerk should continue to hold the position of RFO and Cllr. Wilson should continue as Safety Officer and Tree Warden. All other positions would be retained for the coming year.

1347 **Committees**

The Terms of Reference notes for the council's committees were circulated so that councillors could assess the need for any amendments to be made. None were required so the document was formally approved.

The clerk will up-date the list accordingly, and make any changes to the Web-site entries.

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There is also a list of volunteers. This is kept by the clerk, for insurance purposes, and by Cllr. Wilson, as co-ordinator of their activities, as some of the volunteers have asked that their contact details should not be made public. A summary form was circulated and approved.

1348 Correspondence.

Newsletters, general information and dates - These have been forwarded on arrival, as have any Play Equipment catalogues.

The edition of the LALC newsletter for 4th April had indicated that parish councils MUST now have a .gov.uk website and associated 'official' e-mail addresses. The clerk had checked the Practitioner's Guide, on which LALC had based the statement, and it simply refers to the facility as something for which councils are eligible to apply and are strongly recommended to do so due to the enhanced security and other advantages. It was confirmed by a visiting clerk that the directive was advisory, not mandatory, and need not be implemented while the current system remained satisfactory.

Since there could be some impact on the current web-site plus additional time and costs involved in setting up and maintaining a new arrangement, it was agreed that no action would be taken at this stage.

There were no other comments from the newsletters.

Other items:-

Electoral Register There have been two up-dates with a total of three additions and one deletion.

East Lindsey sent the various notices for the Mayoral and County elections at the appropriate stages and these were posted on arrival.

The letter of thanks was sent by e-mail regarding the prompt removal of the litter-picking waste.

Lincolnshire County Council sent notification of the closure of Panton Road on 14th and 15th May for overhead electricity work.

LALC have sent information on the launch of the Lincolnshire Armed Forces Directory for the support of former and serving members and their families. There is a link to access the directory itself and the e-mail can be forwarded on request..

Cllr Ward had prepared a letter to the MP., Victoria Atkins, concerning the effect on residents of rural areas of the banks' withdrawal of the facility to pay in cheques through the Post Office. This was circulated for councillors' support but there were insufficient replies for a formal approval. Cllr. Ward reported that alternative action had since been taken.

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Ms. Sally Turner, a resident of West Barkwith has requested permission to set up a book swap in the bus shelter at the end of the Manor House drive. The County Council are aware of the proposal but have referred Ms. Turner to this council for a decision. It was agreed to grant the request.

1349 Planning -

a) Applications -

There were no applications for this meeting.

b) Decisions -

There were no decisions to report.

c) Appeal -

AP/01008/25/REF - The applicants for the Hatton Solar Farm have appealed against East Lindsey's decision to refuse the application, original reference S/079/01078/22.

The chairman opened the floor to allow representatives of the Hatton Action Group to present the current position. They will be maintaining their opposition to the project and will request 'Rule 6 status'. This will enable them to have access to all documentation and take a full part in all stages of the proceedings. They would appreciate this council's support for this action.

The meeting was resumed and it was formally agreed that the clerk should prepare a letter to East Lindsey confirming this support.

Parish Emergency Plan - Cllr. Wilson is currently awaiting advice from the County committee on the best way of approaching those residents who may be able to assist in the event of an emergency. Once these details are obtained, the Plan can be completed for its formal adoption and reporting to the District and County authorities.

1350 Reports -

a) Village Hall - The required quotes for the Village Hall development are now in. The work has been set in three stages so that, should the full funding not be available, priority can be given to the most pressing tasks. Grant support is to be sought as soon as the management situation can be resolved with the Charity Commission and the solicitors.

In the meantime, the bookings are continuing, including the annual visit from the organisers of and participants in the cycling tournament. There will also be a Village Fete this year, probably on 20th July.

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b) Neighbourhood Watch - Cllr. Ward reported that the situation in the villages has been quiet recently but residents should remain vigilant. They should also be aware of the dangers of cyber-crime.

c) Play Area - Thanks are due to Eric Brady and Peter Thornally for their help with the Spring Cleaning of the area. Additional sand and bark has arrived and been applied where needed and the re-painting of some items will be scheduled shortly. The annual Safety Inspection is due in August.

d) Countryside Committee - Thanks are due to Mike Yates and Eric Brady for their work in mowing the verges and, with Helen Parker, for work on the Parish Field. This has involved the clearance of weeds from the ponds and further seeding. The current dry weather has brought a little shrinkage to the ponds but they will recover as soon as the next rain comes.

e) Dog Watch - There was no report on this occasion.

f) History Group - The group will be mounting an exhibition in St. Mary's Church for the Open Churches Weekend. The church will be open from 10am to 4pm on both Saturday and Sunday.

1351 Amenities -

War Memorial - Cllr. Wilson reported that the War Memorial had been 'dressed' on 8th May for the 80th anniversary of VE-Day and had attracted many compliments from both residents and from several others, passing through the village, who parked their cars for a few moments to take a closer look and pay their respects. It is hoped to repeat this on 15th August for the 80th anniversary of VJ-Day.

The current long spell of dry weather has spoiled the winter pansies at the base of the memorial so these have been replaced by the summer marigolds. These will need regular watering until they are established and thanks are due to Margaret Tyson for assisting with that supply.

1352 **Highways** - Residents attending the earlier Annual Parish Meeting had expressed their frustration at the long delays in repairing the footpath on the A157. Work done before winter was limited to weed removal and skimming the top surface of the tarmac. There are now more weeds than before and the remaining surface has broken up in places. In addition, the loose tarmac from the earlier work remains on the verge and impedes the mowing. The result is that not only do residents have to cross the busy A157, with no protection, to reach the footpath, but they have to be extremely vigilant as to where they tread to avoid trips and falls, while the user of a mobility scooter cannot use the rough terrain at all but must risk driving on the road.

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The former County Councillor had been pressing the Highways department for action on this and had been told that there would be further action ‘in the spring’. Cllr. Wilson has also made enquiries as to when this action would be taken but is still waiting for a response. Regular weed-killing would reduce the growth but this needs to be carried out by a licenced operator.

County Councillor Natalie Oliver asked for further details so that she could look into the matter. The clerk will furnish these.

The question of the 30mph and 40mph speed limits on the A157 was raised as there are now ten dwellings on the outer stretch, some with children. Evidence of speeding had been gathered to support a request for the 30mph section to be extended outwards to cover all the houses but there has been no news on this. C. Cllr. Oliver offered to look further into this.

Following the very expensive price quoted by the original suppliers, an additional mounting plate for the speed camera has been made locally. This will make it easier to move the camera between the various sites from which vehicle speeds can be monitored. The camera is currently finishing a period on Louth Road, after which it will be re-charged for its next placement.

Cllr. Wilson reported that the issue raised by Cllr. Fincham, relating to a lane in Panton, has been listed for attention in the near future as there have been too many additional complaints for any longer delay.

1353 Finance -

a) Receipts -

The first half of the Precept was paid into the bank at the beginning of April, by direct transfer in the sum of £6,750. The second half will be paid in September.

The March Clothing Bank payment for the Village Hall Reserve amounted to £5 with a further £4 in April.

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
Eric Brady - Mower Fuel	001058	£23.97	£4.79	£28.76
Mark Woodcock - Grass-cutting	001059	£72.00	-	£72.00
Barkwith Post Office - Compost	CARD	£22.50	-	£22.50
Lloyds Bank - Service Charges - April	Direct	£4.75	-	£4.75
GoDaddy - Web-site Renewal	CARD	£136.88	£27.38	£164.26
Eric Brady - Mower Fuel	001060	£25.05	£5.01	£30.06

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Also approved -

Clear Insurance - Insurance	CARD	£784.36	-	£784.36
S. C. Warren - Internal Audit	001062	£100.00	-	£100.00
Lloyds Bank - Service Charges - May	Direct	£4.75	-	£4.75
Mrs. B. Theairs - Reimbursement	001061	£383.83	£76.77	£460.60

This was for the on-line purchases below, for which the council's card failed.

The Flagshop - Two Lincolnshire Flags	£11.58	£2.32	£13.90
The Flagshop - Two Village Flags	£58.25	£11.65	£69.90
Huws^Gray - Sand and Bark for Play Area	£314.00	£62.80	£376.80

And in June -

The clerk's Salary, for the first quarter of the year, will be due at the end of June. The total figure will be £1,748.50 with the PAYE tax element yet to be calculated.

Mark Woodcock had confirmed that his hourly rate for grass-cutting is £12.00 for this season and this will continue to be billed at intervals through the year. There will also be intermittent fuel bills and routine maintenance costs for the mowers, together with the insurance for the tractor-mower.

There will also be the usual administrative costs for stationery supplies.

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

c) Asset Lists -

These were circulated and it was confirmed that there had been no changes to the Land Register. This was approved to be posted on the web-site for another year.

Copies of the General Register were circulated and they were approved for the council's records.

d) Audit Matters -

i) Accounts The year-end accounts documents had been completed and referred to the Internal Auditor. Her report was received and presented at the meeting, reviewed and accepted. Also circulated were the Bank Reconciliation and Analysis of the Reserves. There were no questions arising from these and the documents were formally accepted. The Annual Return papers were then reviewed as follows:-

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ii) Certificate of Exemption The spreadsheets for the Income and Expenditure, to the end of the 2024-2025 financial year, were circulated. The Income sheet shows the Precept figure as £12,500 and all Other Income as £3,666, giving a rounded total of £16,166. The Expenditure figure totals £14,063. These figures had been entered on the Declaration of Exemption form, also circulated, for the Annual Return. Both are below the £25,000 limit and it was confirmed that the council meets the other conditions listed. It was agreed that the council is eligible for exemption and the form was approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman for submission to the External Auditor.

iii) Annual Governance Statement - Copies were circulated and the numbered sections reviewed. It was agreed that the council met all the conditions in each area of responsibility. The item on trust funds was not applicable as there are none. It was agreed that the form should be so completed and it was signed by the clerk and the chairman.

iv) Statement of Accounting - The entries had been completed and signed by the clerk and copies were circulated and reviewed. The figures on the Statement were confirmed as correct and the form was then signed by the chairman.

v) Period of Inspection - Residents who wish to inspect the accounts and associated documents, will be able to do so by arrangement with the clerk. The period suggested and agreed will run from 3rd June until 14th July. A notice will be placed on the board and another with the accounting documents on the web-site.

The clerk will submit the Certificate of Exemption and prepare the accounting documents for the Inspection.

1354 Any Other Business -

The new Village Flag had been on display during the meeting and Cllr. Wilson proposed thanks to Tom Bollan for preparing the design. This was agreed and the clerk will write accordingly.

The flag will be flown on the occasion of any Village events and it was suggested that there might be an inaugural Barkwith Day to mark its arrival. Councillors were asked to consider this for discussion at a later meeting.

There being no other business and the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Signed by the Chairman