

# East and West Barkwith Parish Council

## Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 23rd January, 2025, starting at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Mr. A. Platt, Mr. J. Stamp, Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. D. Ward, Mrs. T. Brady, Mr. C. Fincham, and Mr. N. Gibson

The County Councillor, Mrs. P. Bradwell, was present but there were no members of the public.

1321 **Apologies** - Cllr. Parker had been called into work.  
Her apology was accepted and approved.

1322 **The Minutes** of the meeting of 21st November had been circulated. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

1323 **Matters arising** There were no comments or questions on these.

1324 **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** This year's full list has been received, followed by an up-date with one addition.

**East Lindsey's** survey concerning the review of the support strategy was circulated at the last meeting and councillors opted to return comments to the clerk for preparation of a collective response. Only two sets of comments were received so these were sent in as individual documents.

It was agreed that future such surveys would either be discussed at a meeting or referred for councillors to make their own responses.

**Lincolnshire County Council** has sent notice of a newly commissioned survey on National Highways and Transport. This is an on-line survey with questions relating to the importance, current satisfaction with and suggestions for improvements to public transport, the conditions of roads and footpaths, and the county council's responses to comments and complaints from residents. The deadline for completion is the end of February, using the link on the e-mail. The clerk will forward this to all present.

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Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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LALC have sent information on two on-line training sessions introducing the new National Planning Policy Framework. Cllr. Wilson expects to sign up for the second of these, on 24th February, at a cost of £15. This cost can be waived if the council agrees to subscribe to the Annual Training Scheme for 2025/26.

Cllr. Wilson's attendance was approved and the question of the Training Scheme will be considered later in the meeting.

**Community Speed Watch** sent a Newsletter which was forwarded to all councillors. It included information on the recruiting of volunteers to undertake roadside checks using a hand-held 'speed gun'. They have asked whether we wish to take part in this but appears that we would not be able to find sufficient volunteers to warrant the additional expense and effort involved.

It was agreed that the options could be brought to the attention of the community but, in the meantime, the clerk would send an initial response, explaining the difficulty regarding volunteers to operate the speed gun.

**Lincs Wolds Countryside Service** have sent a draft copy of the new leaflet with the guide to the villages in the area. There are no changes needed for the coming year.

**Ron Bailey** has sent an up-date on the the Bill relating to the safety and disposal of Lithium Ion batteries. It will soon complete its passage through the House of Lords and be presented in the Commons. He will notify everyone when this happens and outline further steps which might be taken locally. Electrical Safety First held a webinar in December to summarise the campaign. However, the report has been compiled with a lot of dark background to the text making it difficult to produce multiple copies. It can be forwarded if requested.

### 1325 **Planning** -

#### a) Applications -

S/044/01824/24 - Ash Dene, Willingham Road, East Barkwith,  
Outline erection of a dwelling.

The application was circulated between meetings and it was agreed to support the proposals, Cllr. Wilson had declared their interests, as designer of the proposals and made no comments on the application.

#### b) Decisions -

S/044/01824/24 - Ash Dene, Willingham Road, East Barkwith,  
Outline erection of a dwelling. This has now been Granted.

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### c) Parish Emergency Plan -

Cllr. Wilson reported that the recent heavy rain had caused some concern to one new resident and thanked Cllr. Fincham for his assistance in resolving the issue.

As a result of recent information, Cllr. Wilson is up-dating the document to a new format which will tie in with any District and County provisions and with the newly published Terrorism Checklist. The case of the Southport stabbings, in which three young girls were killed and others injured, may also have an effect on the type of precautions to be considered both for the council and for the Village Hall. It is hoped to have the new draft ready for the next meeting.

### 1326 Reports -

a) Village Hall - Cllr. Wilson wished to thank all those who had supported the Hall in any way over the past year, and most recently, Cllrs. Stamp and Parker with Mr. Daniel Belding for assistance with the Christmas decorations..

It was unfortunate that the Summer Fete could not take place due to difficulties in finding enough volunteers at the later date following the D-Day Anniversary event. However, it is expected to return to the usual July timing this year to raise funds for the Hall.

The preliminary work for the redevelopment project has been delayed as one of the contractors has withdrawn his quote and another must be found for the grant process.

The clerk circulated a summary of the progress so far in the work to bring the management of the Hall under the sole jurisdiction of the Parish Council. An initial approach had been made to Else Solicitors and Ms. Kathryn Caple, a partner there, has agreed to work with Caroline Major, a colleague who heads the property department, to undertake the necessary work to enable the management of the hall to be transferred completely to the Parish Council, removing the burden of the individual Trusteeships and the complications of the Charitable status.

The costs have been quoted as £750 (capped) for a full review of all the papers and evidence submitted, plus £1,000 (also capped) for preparation of the final documents to the Charity Commission. An initial payment of £1,000 is requested for the work to start.

It was formally agreed that the council was resolved to accept the full responsibility for the management of Barkwith Village Hall, and to maintain a sub-committee for that purpose.

It was also agreed that, on receipt of the invoice, the council would make the initial payment of £1,000 from the village hall reserve fund, and the remaining costs, as stated above, on completion of the work.

In the meantime, the clerk would prepare any other information needed.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - There have still been no communications from the area group and no reports of incidents in the parish. Local measures seem to be effective so far but it is advisable for everyone to remain vigilant.

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c) Play Area - Cllr. Wilson wished to thank all those who have helped with the routine maintenance of the area and the regular checks. There will be a committee meeting shortly with an open invitation for more volunteers.

Cllr. Wilson has contacted the District Council regarding the trees which are in need of cutting back near the Village Hall. The Play Area boundary hedge also needs to be reduced in height to maintain visibility into the grounds. A working plan is to be prepared to deal with both tasks. A maintenance programme is also in place for the coming year.

A councillor queried the need to review the provision of a second exit in view of the concerns arising from the Southport stabbings (as noted in the section on the Parish Emergency Plan, above). It was agreed that the risk of such an incident in this area was much smaller and was outweighed by the risk of parents being less able to maintain the safety of small children if there should be more than one exit.

d) Countryside Committee - Cllr. Wilson reported that the Maintenance Schedule has been up-dated for the coming year. The new young volunteers are doing well. They have been helping in the churchyard and have offered to make some more Bat and Owl boxes.

The last allowance towards the work in the churchyard has now been exhausted. Cllr. Stamp suggested that the council set aside a further £300 from the coming year's countryside allowances specifically for work in the churchyard. This was agreed.

Phases 2 and 3 of the installation of Anglian Water's new service main may have implications for the Parish Field and in other parts of the parish towards West Barkwith. Cllr. Wilson is monitoring the situation for developments.

He will also be asking the County authorities to check the drain in the centre of the Village Green as the surroundings are still very wet and the water is bubbling up from the manhole cover at times of heavy rain in spite of earlier attentions. It has been noted that vehicles are sometimes using the Green to park or to turn and this is churning up the surface and will make grass-cutting difficult. He would like to make some small chevron signs to place at the edge of the green to discourage the practice and this was approved.

e) Dog Watch - East Lindsey's information and request form relating to additional dog waste bins have been referred to Cllr. D. Platts for attention, along with the necessary location diagrams. It was agreed that, once the extra bins have been installed, a letter would 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 - Meetings for 2025 will resume in March and an early task will be the preparations for an exhibition in St. Mary's for the Open Churches Weekend of 17th to 18th May. The main work in the church has been completed and it now falls to the History Group, with the support of the council, to organise the display facilities for the chambers beneath the building at the tower end. Cllr. Wilson will be looking into the questions of costings, grant availability and timings.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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East Lindsey has funded an individual known as ‘the Village Idiot’ in compiling two videos, one on West Barkwith, mentioning the History Group, and a slightly longer one on East Barkwith. They can be viewed on Facebook.

The WI has issued an invitation to members of the History Group, and anyone else interested, to attend their meeting on Thursday 13th February, to hear a talk by Carena Lewis on the archaeological work in Lincolnshire by the television ‘Time Team’. This is the event which had to be postponed from last year.

g) Special Events - There have been no offers of help to mount an event marking the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, in May, and the Crossroads is unable to make any commitment at this stage. It was agreed that there would be no ‘officially organised’ commemoration but residents might be able to borrow some decorative supplies such as flags and bunting for their own events with their neighbours

1327 **Responsibilities and Succession** - The discussion at the last meeting related to the various specific tasks undertaken by councillors. Following on from this, the clerk had prepared and circulated a short statement on the need to have arrangements in place for the smooth handover of the administrative duties in the not-too-distant future, possibly the summer of 2026.

Points discussed related to the recruitment process; the training requirements, both on courses and ‘on the job’ under the guidance of the current clerk; the induction period needed to cover the various aspects of the work including the major tasks at different stages of each year; and the possible costs involved.

The following conclusions were reached:-

It was agreed that some provision should be made in the precept for 2025/26 to allow for additional salary costs from the start of the induction period and that it would be prudent to join LALC’s Training Scheme in order to take advantage of the courses offered for new clerks.

The clerk would prepare an outline of the full process once the end of year accounting and audit tasks have been completed and this would be presented to the following scheduled meeting. A timeline could then be defined, based on the clerk’s actual retirement date but adjustable if the successful candidate were to have any relevant experience.

1328 **Amenities** -

War Memorial - The winter pansies are holding their own in spite of the recent heavy rain and the border is regularly weeded. The requirements for the summer planting are yet to be considered.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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1329 **Highways** - The County Councillor, Mrs. Bradwell, reported that 19 potholes had now been repaired on the local roads and she asked to be kept informed of any further issues.

Cllr. Stamp said that a manhole cover near the bench at the East Torrington junction had disappeared and that the hole was now ‘filled’ with an oil drum supporting a pole.

The A157 footpath towards West Barkwith has been weeded and cleaned but the surface of the path is still badly broken and holed, requiring early attention. It also appears that the debris from the clearing has been dumped in the drainage ditch.

The surface of the Louth Road footpath is loose and pitted where it runs across the vehicle entrance to the Crossroads car park, to the extent that pedestrians are preferring to walk in the road rather than risk tripping and falling on the gravel there.

Cllr. Wilson reported that, after a number of promised visits from the road sweeper which did not materialise, he had decided, for the safety of pedestrians, to clear as much as he could of the slippery leaves on the footpath in Torrington Lane. Thanks to the assistance of Richard Lee, Brian Cartledge and Alan Flint, refreshments from Doreen Rowson, and the loan of a mechanical sweeper from Chris Bourne, not only was the footpath cleared but the road too, leaving only the gullies to be cleared of the accumulated leaf debris which had washed in. The cleansing department of the District Council had been informed as soon as the work had been done but just two days later the sweeper finally arrived! An inspector had said that the gullies needed no attention at this stage but Cllr. Wilson has taken measurements of the clearances showing that only two have free run for the rain water. The remaining ten are partially, if not completely filled with debris and will spill over if there is more than light rain.

Cllr. Wilson’s notes and photographs on this were passed to Mrs. Bradwell who agreed to pursue the matter with the Highways department. She will also follow up the other issues which have been raised.

Tom Bollan has produced a report of the findings from the Speed Camera over the past year. It shows evidence of a clear need to extend the 30mph speed limit on the Lincoln Road out to the extent of the 40mph, and to push that out further, possibly as far as West Barkwith, thus providing better control and safety for the properties and residents at the outer end of the parish.

Cllr. Wilson pointed out that the council had originally purchased two brackets for mounting the camera but that a further one would help in maintaining a full circulation between the monitoring sites. It was agreed to purchase this as soon as the current price could be obtained.

The question of ‘entrance gates’ on the verges of the main roads was raised again. It was noted that the details of the designs made earlier had been passed to Cllr. D. Platts to look into costings and possible funding. It was agreed that this matter should be discussed fully at the next meeting and, in the meantime, an initial provision should be made in the precept towards the eventual costs.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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1330 **Finance -**

a) Receipts -

The Recycling company has made two payments in December for collections from the Clothing Bank and the combined amount for the Village Hall Reserve was £33.00.

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
HMRC - Clerk's PAYE	001049	£522.00	-	£522.00
Mrs. B. Theairs - Clerk's Salary	001050	£1,226.50	-	£1,226.50
Steve Campion - Verge-cutting	001051	£125.00	-	£125.00
East Lindsey - Green Bin Fee	CARD	£52.50	-	£52.50

Also received and approved -

LALC - Annual Subscription		£166.22	-	£166.22
plus Training Scheme		£120.00	£24.00	£144.00
<i>These two amounts were paid on single cheque</i>	<i>001052</i>	<i>for £310.22</i>		
Barkwith Village Hall - for 2024	001053	£192.00		
<i>Less Deduction of ground rent for 2023/34 and 24/25 of 10p</i>				<i>£191.90</i>

Due shortly:-

There is likely to be a Viking order for Paper and Ink while supplies are at a discount.  
 The clerk will obtain the current price for the speed camera bracket.  
 Cllr. Wilson is obtaining costs for the servicing of the big printer - to be notified.

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

c) Bank Charges - The clerk has obtained details of the new Bank charges as follows:-

- Monthly Maintenance - £4.25
- Cash deposits or withdrawals (at bank or post office) - 75p per £100
- Cheque payments or deposits (at bank or post office) - 50p each
- Electronic deposits by direct debit or bank transfer - Free of charge
- Electronic payments by direct debit, bank transfer or CARD - First 100 free then 10p each

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Had these charges applied to the whole of the past twelve months, the account would have

shown a total of £80 being	Maintenance fees -	£51
	For 52 cheques -	£26
	For £400 cash paid in -	£3

Four measures were agreed:-

- To add £50 to the Admin figure for the precept to cover charges for 2025/26.
- To authorise use of the CARD whenever possible, in preference to cheques.
- To monitor the charges over the year while researching alternatives to Lloyds bank.
- To review the situation at the end of the 2025/26 financial year.

d) Precept -

The clerk had circulated the accounting spreadsheets and notes with provisional figures prior to the meeting. Paper copies were available for reference during the discussion.

There were comments on the provisions for the introduction and training of a new clerk in due course, grass-cutting in the churchyard and an increase in the street furniture element in preparation for the gates. It was noted that the rebuilding of the Events allowance could be limited as there would be no major celebration for the VE-Day 80th Anniversary.

Final details were entered on the budget sheet and it was formally agreed that the Precept for 2025 / 2026 should be set at £13,500. The clerk will notify the District Council of the decision.

### 1331 Any Other Business -

Cllr. Ward reported concern from residents at the possible dangers from the number of deer which have been seen crossing the main road on some evenings. It was pointed out that any question of a cull would need the permission of the landowners whose land might be used.

Cllr. Stamp reported the arrival of the supply of grit for use on areas of the road not served by the existing bins. East Lindsey has ensured that these are currently full to capacity.

Cllr. Wilson asked whether there was any news on a supply of bags and sand for use in flood prevention. Cllr. Fincham said he would make enquiries through a council colleague.

The question was raised as to the effect that the forthcoming establishment of a Greater Lincolnshire Council might have on the role of Parish Councils and Mrs. Bradwell replied that no changes were expected for that level of local government.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .