

Parish Council of East & West Barkwith with Panton

Annual Parish Meeting 2019

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00pm. on May 16th, 2019, in the Village Hall.

Present:- Mr. A. Platt (in the chair)

Also present were Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. D. Ward, Mr. J. Stamp, Mrs T. Brady, Ms. K. Breckons, Mr. C. Fincham, Mr. S. Goodacre and three other members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** - These were received and accepted from The District Councillor, who had a District appointment, and Cllr. N. Battell, who was away.
2. **Minutes** - The minutes of the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting were read out by the clerk.
3. **Approval** - The minutes of the 2018 meeting were then approved and signed by the chairman.
4. **Matters arising** - The problem with the Panton Road footpath (item 8 - General Discussion) is now subject to an investigation into the source of the water. The Parish Council is pressing for an urgent result and repair.
5. **Chairman's Report** - Cllr. A.Platt, chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone. He expressed his thanks to all the councillors and the clerk for their work throughout the past year and to all the residents who had supported them. Particular thanks were due to those who led and those who helped with all the hard work on the new windows and insulation for the Village Hall. The village, itself, is looking well, thanks to the continued efforts of Cllr. Wilson, Mr E. Brady and Mr. C. Poxson in their work all around the parish.

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There have been many favourable comments from visitors and, after a gap of some years, an entry has been made into the Best Kept Village Competition.

The problem of speeding through the village continues and the Parish Council is again pressing for further formal assessment of the situation and appropriate action to enforce the limits.

The Parish finances remain sound and thanks are due to the clerk for keeping all the paperwork (and the members) in good order.

Thank you, too, to Cllr. Wilson and Cllr. Brady for keeping the information circulating through the flyers and the web-site.

6. **Village Hall** - Cllr. C. Wilson, in his capacity as Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, presented the following outline of the current situation.

The Hall is an important part of the village but, for some time, there has been insufficient support to maintain the funding needed for the essential expenses, without allowing for any repairs and renovations. Current running costs amount to about £1,700 per year and last year's income reached some £1,400, leaving the committee to dip into the limited reserves to make up the shortfall. It was the funds received from a successful grant application which covered the costs of the recent windows and insulation and work on the heating is still needed.

The Management Committee should include representatives from the regular users and village bodies and an equal number of members elected from the residents. However, there are fewer regular users and village groups to send representatives, even fewer elected members and some of these may be looking to retire, so the committee is struggling. Appeals, such as on the recent flyer, have may have brought two or three ideas for fund-raising activities which may be very useful, but there have been no more volunteers to help implement them.

The situation has been discussed with Samantha Smith, from Community Links, for whom it is not a new problem. To avoid closure and loss of the hall, other villages have overcome the difficulties by:-

- a) establishing a Working Party, alongside the main committee, of additional volunteers willing to take on the burden of the fund-raising activities while the main committee deals with the day-to-day work and the bookings for hire

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b) agreeing, at a full community meeting, that, if it is willing, the Parish Council should take over the responsibility for all aspects of the management of the hall.

The ensuing discussion established the conclusions that:-

- i) The closure and loss of the hall would be detrimental to the life of the village, threatening the continuation of the current user groups, and the work of the Parish Council for which it is currently the only suitable meeting place.
- ii) A final effort could be made to attract more volunteers with both ideas and the energy to implement them, to form a Fund-raising Group, although past experience suggests this is unlikely to succeed.
- iii) The Parish Council should be asked to take over the management of the hall.

It was the feeling of the meeting that option ‘ii’ could be attempted but that option ‘iii’ should be pursued as the Council had already indicated its willingness to accept the responsibility following an initial approach at the March Council Meeting. However, as there were relatively few members of the general public in attendance at this meeting, a Special Parish Meeting should be called before a final decision is reached.

These conclusions will be passed to the Parish Council.

7. **General Discussion** - A resident queried the reason for the delay concerning the repairs to the footpath along Panton Road. It was confirmed that the path had been scheduled for renewal this year but the work cannot begin until the drainage problem is resolved. The County Council is working with the water company on this.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Signed by the Chairman