

# East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at 8.00 pm. on 16th January, 2020, in the Village Hall.

**Present:** Mr. A. Platt, Mr. J. Stamp, Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. N. Battell, Mrs. T. Brady.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

1021. **Apologies for absence.**

Mr. D. Ward was working, Mr. C. Fincham was away, and Mr. S. Goodacre had a family commitment.

The County and District Councillors were at other meetings.

Their apologies were accepted and approved by those present.

1022. **Minutes.**

Minutes of the meeting of 21st November, 2019 had been circulated prior to the meeting. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

1023. **Matters arising.**

There were no items on this occasion.

1024. **Correspondence.**

General information and dates - as listed for circulation

Other items:-

East Lindsey have sent the annual full Electoral Register and an up-date showing 2 deletions.

Lincolnshire County Council has sent the new Grass-cutting Agreement. It was agreed that this should be held over, pending a solution to the mower problem described under 'Countryside' below. If this was resolved before the next meeting, the form could then be signed by the clerk.

Lincolnshire Wolds are preparing the new edition of the Local Facilities Guide. The draft supplied shows no need for amendment to our entry and the clerk will advise accordingly.

The Environment Agency has sent an e-mail with information on Water Abstraction permits. As this may be relevant to members of the farming community it was referred to Cllr. Stamp.

Signed by the Chairman .....

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LALC have sent information on the training scheme. As in previous years, it was agreed not to join at this time.

The consultations on Clustering of Councils have shown that there is insufficient support for regular events without additional, external funding, but LALC will still 'put interested parties in touch with each other' when the occasion arises.

A new edition has been prepared of the protocol for marking the death of a Senior National Figure. A copy may be accessed for reference in certain circumstances, but all details must be kept strictly confidential at this stage.

A last-minute arrival, by e-mail, has been the invitation to enter for the Lincolnshire Environmental Award, with a closing date of 31st March. There has not been time to study the attachment so the clerk will forward the e-mail to all councillors after the meeting.

Highways have sent notification of a temporary road closure for work by Anglian Water. This will affect a stretch of the main road at East Torrington between 40m. and 160m. northwest of Torrington Lane, from 10th to 12th February, 2020.

The Pension Regulator has sent a paper copy of the preliminary advice on the need to complete a re-enrolment process for the Workplace Pensions system. The deadline for the first stage is 1st May and the clerk will attend to it when the work from this meeting is complete.

## 1025. **Planning**

a) Applications - There were no applications at this meeting.

b) Decisions -

S/205/01875/19 - The Old Rectory, Louth Road, West Barkwith - Listed building consent and Planning Permission for extensions and alterations to provide a conservatory.

Councillors had viewed the plans individually and were content to support the application.

Both Granted.

## 1026. **Reports**

a) Village Hall. Cllr. Wilson wished to express his thanks for help with putting up the Christmas decorations, in particular to Tricia and Eric Brady and Shirley Booth for inside the hall and the tree, and Chris Wilson Jr. with the lighting outside.

He also wished to thank Eric Brady for his help with fitting the replacement gutters and fascias.

There will be a meeting with an electrician on January 28th to discuss the heating requirements. Cllr. Wilson is also looking into the costs of a replacement for the motor in the outside clock as it seems to have worn out.

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The clerk had prepared an account of the evidence concerning the custody of the village hall and the land on which it stands and this has been referred to Samantha Smith at Community Lincs, for her consideration, with reference to the legal team as appropriate, and subsequent advice on the next steps in making future management arrangements.

b) Neighbourhood Watch. There was no formal report but residents are warned to beware of a man impersonating a police officer and asking for bank details in order to deal with an issue of fraudulent transactions. He is the fraud!

c) Play Area. New volunteers have come forward to support the team. There will be a meeting shortly to arrange for the annual clean-up, the re-setting of part of the fencing, and the re-painting of the main swings. These will also need new seats and Cllr. Wilson is looking into the costings.

d) Countryside Committee. The mower used for the main road verges has needed frequent repair, while the smaller one for the Parish Field and other areas is adequate. It could be possible to trade in both mowers for one suitable for all the areas but this is likely to prove expensive. The suggestion was made to seek a volunteer with suitable equipment, who would be willing to deal with the main verges, if possible for just the cost of the fuel, while the current team deals with the Parish Fields etc. The Chairman agreed to approach one or two contacts. The signing of the Grass-cutting Agreement would be held over until the mower question is settled.

Cllr. Stamp is preparing to use his machine for trimming the roadside hedges shortly, and the full maintenance programme for the year is almost ready.

Cllr. Wilson wished to thank Eric Brady and David Stocking for their work on the Parish Field, and John and Pat Atkins for their generous donation of a sack of daffodil bulbs which have been planted along the footpath boundary of the Village Hall area.

The clerk presented details of possible replacements for the worn out Lincolnshire flag. It was noted that the heavier weight, although more durable, would not 'fly' so well and was more expensive than could be justified. It was agreed to purchase two of the 5ft. by 3ft. flags at about £5 each. The use of the debit card for an on-line purchase was approved.

e) Dog Watch Co-ordinator. Residents are fulfilling their responsibilities well when walking their dogs and the paths are remaining clean. There have been no further incidents of fouling in the Churchyard.

f) History Group. The secure display trays for the coin finds have been purchased at a total cost of £103, including VAT, but the purchase of the picture frames has been held over until it is known what is to happen at the Crossroads, as it appears there is to be a change of ownership. Thanks are due to Tricia and Eric Brady for delivering the flyers inviting suggestions for an event to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. There has been considerable support for the idea and this will be discussed at next week's History Meeting on Wednesday and then at a public meeting on Thursday to assess the practical support and the details of the events. It was agreed, in principle, to offer council support and insurance cover through the council's policy.

Signed by the Chairman .....

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## 1027. Amenities.

a) War Memorial. As often happens, the winter pansies seem to have been struggling in the wet but they should pick up as the weather improves. Cllr. Wilson wished to add his thanks to those of the last meeting, to Cllr. Stamp for his help and the use of his equipment in the cleaning of the Memorial. An inspection of the posts shows the need to re-paint them during the course of this year.

b) Web-site. This is working well. Cllr Wilson would like to see an advertisement for the Village Hall, with an indication of the facilities and contact information for booking enquiries. This will be discussed with the booking secretary for the details, then with Cllr. Battell to arrange the posting on the site.

## 1028. Highways.

There has been no new information about the expected work on the Bus Shelters, other than the fact that the contractor's documentation is still being checked. The clerk will keep pressing for further news and action.

The passive speedwatch notices have been placed in their initial positions. The suggestion was made to purchase a further four in order to arrange some back-to-back. This was agreed.

The question of a reactive sign was discussed and costs compared for models known to be available. It was agreed, in principle, to purchase the Unipart model, as approved by the Road Safety Partnership, with data recording capacity and a second bracket, the costs to be met partly from the District Councillors' Grant Fund and the rest, initially, from the council's reserves.

The clerk clarified the details needed for the grant form and was formally authorised by the meeting to complete and sign it on behalf of the council. The necessary notification will be sent to the Road Safety Partnership for the full inspection of the posts on which the sign will be mounted. This is in accordance with the Community Speedwatch requirements and was included in the subscription fee paid.

Cllr Wilson presented an up-dated version of the other proposals which have been shown to, and approved in general, by the residents at a Parish Meeting. There may be some new grant opportunities now available and he is seeking help to look into these.

The problem of the flooding threatening properties at the top of Willingham Road has been resolved. Mr. Burnett, the Western Power representative who oversaw the original electrical project, attended and inspected the roadside drain, and organised a new repair to the pipe. He pointed out that, if the problem recurs, there could be another issue further back along the pipe and this would be a matter for the water company. Fortunately, the latest heavy rain has cleared without difficulty and the affected residents are happy that all is now well.

It was agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to Paul Burnett for his prompt and efficient action.

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1029. **Finance.**

a) Receipts - There were no receipts to report at this meeting.

b) Bills - The following items had been approved for payment on receipt of invoice -

Payee - For	Cheque no.	Net	VAT	Total
Pineapple Direct Ltd - Coin Trays	CARD	£85.83	£17.17	£103.00
XUM Enterprise Ltd - computer memory -	CARD	£20.83	£4.17	£24.99
HMRC - PAYE payment	000848	£137.00	-	£137.00
Mrs B. Theairs - Net Salary	000849	£578.00	-	£578.00

Bills approved at this meeting -

Barkwith Village Hall - for meetings in 2019	000850	£160.00	-	£160.00
East Lindsey District Council - Green Bin	000851	£40.00	-	£40.00

The Village Hall Hiring Agreement for 2020 was approved and signed at this point.

Also approved, in principle, for payment on receipt of invoice -

Two Lincolnshire Flags	CARD	to a Maximum of £15.00 incl. postage
Four Passive speed signs		quoted at £10.00 each.

The details for the reactive speed sign to be confirmed at the next meeting.

c) Precept - Preliminary information had been circulated at the beginning of the month and up-dated versions were circulated for reference during the discussion. The necessary increase in the clerk's hours had resulted in a considerable increase over last year's precept figure and the discussion focused on where economies might be made in other areas, particularly administration costs. It was noted that all members should be aware of the need to get the best value for the public money which is being spent.

It was agreed that the Precept should be set below the original figure estimated, with any shortfall being taken from the reserves. The final figure agreed was £8,250 and the clerk will report this to East Lindsey when the office opens tomorrow morning.

1030. **Any Other Business.**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.05pm.

Signed by the Chairman .....