

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Final Report on the E-meeting held with the notional date of 14th January, 2021

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

It had been agreed at the July 2020 meeting that, due to the current Coronavirus situation, the council's business will continue to be conducted by e-mails, with a notional date for the confirmation of the details.

It had also been agreed that, due to East Lindsey requiring an early submission of the Precept figure, the business of this meeting would be confined to the finance and other urgent matters plus basic reports, with non-urgent items being deferred until the March meeting.

1081 Cllr. Breckons is currently on approved leave of absence but is being kept informed.

1082 The Report of the meeting of 19th November, 2020 was accepted for formal approval at the next physical meeting.

1083 There were no matters arising for immediate attention.

1084. **Correspondence.**

Newsletters and other general communications have been forwarded on arrival. There have been no comments on these.

There was no other correspondence on this occasion.

1085. **Planning.**

a) Applications:-

There were no new applications on this occasion.

b) Decisions:- S/202/01525/20 - The Orchard, Louth Road, West Barkwith
Extension and alterations to provide boot room, kitchen/diner/snug and open entrance porch.
This has been granted.

S/202/02158/20 - The Orchard, Louth Road, West Barkwith
Erection of workshop/domestic store, extension of existing workshop for office & wc.
This has been granted.

1086. **Reports**

a) Village Hall - Tier 3 and 4 Covid regulations, and now the full lockdown, require the hall to remain closed as we do not host any of the special groups which can continue their activities.

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In the meantime, arrangements are in hand for the replacement of the rear doors - being funded from the original grant.

A schedule of committee meetings, currently to be conducted by e-mail, is in preparation.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - The clerk has received warning of a new scam using text messages, appearing to come from NHS, to offer booking arrangements for Covid vaccine injections. Following the link brings a fake NHS website and a series of personal and financial questions which would NOT be asked for a genuine communication from NHS. The e-mail, with full details on this, is being circulated.

c) Play Area - It will soon be necessary to replace the slide and the committee is seeking grant support to cover the cost.

The relocation of the fence and the installation of the play pipes has been postponed until after the current lockdown. This will limit the potential for contact between users and volunteers.

A schedule of committee meetings, currently to be conducted by e-mail, is in preparation.

d) Countryside Committee -

The registration has been made for the grass-cutting and the formal agreement form is expected shortly. It is anticipated that the local arrangements will continue as for last year.

The planting of some daffodil bulbs has been hampered by frozen ground.

The supplies for the extra Owl and Bat boxes has been delivered, thus clearing the grant funds which were allocated.

The Maintenance schedule is currently in preparation.

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

f) History Group - There was no report on this occasion.

1087. Amenities.

a) War Memorial - There was no report on this occasion.

b) Web-site - The e-mail package will be due for renewal in November. In the meantime its use will be monitored to assess whether it is still needed or can be relinquished to save the cost.

1088. Highways.

The speed sign and its fixings have arrived and are awaiting installation. Cllr. Stamp has offered to assist with the installation and subsequent management.

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1089. Finance.

a) Receipts - Donations of scrap metal for the Play Area Capital Fund - £45

b) Bills - The following items had been approved for payment at the due date or on receipt of invoice:-

Payee - For	Cheque no.	Net	VAT	Total
HMRC - Clerk's PAYE	000878	£231.45	-	£231.45
Mrs. B. Theairs - Clerk's Salary	000879	£860.55	-	£860.55
Buildbase - Owl & Bat Box Supplies	CARD	£323.95	£64.79	£388.74

Also approved:-

East Lindsey - Green Bin subscription -	000880	£40.00	-	£40.00
Barkwith Village Hall - hiring for first part of 2020 (before lockdown) -	000881	£60.00	-	£60.00

Further payments - identified or expected:-

- Reflections - Village Hall doors - £1,320 plus £264 VAT, total £1,584
- Play Area maintenance tasks - up to £150
- Parish Field maintenance tasks - up to £150

It was agreed that these and the further on-going payments should continue to be made at the due date or on receipt of invoice, in all cases using the CARD if there was no alternative.

c) Precept - The clerk circulated details of the current financial position and the expected requirements for 2021 / 2022 and it was noted that, due to the costs of the speed camera, the general reserves had fallen a little lower than the advisory figure for a council of this size. Although this may not yet give cause for serious concern, it will need to be kept under review. There was some discussion as to the possibility of making some provision now but the majority of councillors felt that it would be inappropriate to add a further charge to the Precept in the current circumstances and that the figure should be set at the £8,500 required to cover the identified needs. It was agreed that the level of the general reserves should be monitored carefully, for further discussion at a later date, but that the Precept for 2021/2022 should be set at £8,500

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1090. Any Other Business.

The question of a skip, for community use, has been raised. The cost would be £144 for a medium size (4 cubic yards) or £210 for a large one (8 cubic yards), including VAT. However, some councillors feel that the misuse, over-filling and dumping of side-waste in previous years was unacceptable. It was unsightly and resulted in additional time and costs to clear the area. The opinion was that the monitoring needed to prevent this would be unmanageable and the additional sum should not be added to the budget, or the Precept, for this year. The topic could be considered again at a time when a full discussion is possible and this was agreed.

Cllr. Wilson raised the question of litter-picking in the Play Area and Village Hall Car Park and around the village as a whole. He asked if consideration could be given to the provision of simple equipment for those who are regularly clearing these areas, specifically gloves, grabbers and bin-liners with holding rings. This will be tabled for discussion at the next meeting and, in the meantime, the clerk will find out whether anything can be obtained from the District Council.

Assuming the current, or similar, restrictions are still in force, it was agreed that the March meeting will again be conducted electronically.

There was no further business.