

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 18th January, 2024, starting at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr. A. Platt, Mr. C Wilson, Mrs. T. Brady, Mr. C. Fincham, Ms. H. Parker, and Mr. D. Platts.

The District Councillor, Mrs. R. Yarsley, was away and the County Councillor, Mrs. P. Bradwell, was not present on this occasion. There were no members of the public.

1259 **Apologies** - Cllr. Ward had a business meeting and Cllr. Gibson was away. These apologies were accepted and approved by the meeting.

1260 **The Minutes** of the meeting of 23rd November had been circulated. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

1261 **Matters Arising :-** A question was raised at the last meeting (item 1257) as to the need for more Christmas Lights for the outside trees. Cllr. Wilson reported that this had been answered thanks to a donation of lights from Cllr. Brady and some re-wiring work by Ned Chamberlain. Cllr. Brady had also given some more baubles for the main indoor tree. Cllr. Wilson expressed the thanks of the council and of the Village Hall Committee for these.

1262 **Correspondence.**

Newsletters, general information and dates - These have been forwarded on arrival, as have any Play Equipment catalogues, and there were no comments resulting from them.

Other items:-

Electoral Register The up-dated full version was received in December, with a further addition of three new names for January.

LALC have sent notification of a 'Council Validation' process which will up-date their information on the councils in the Lincolnshire area. This will include the names, roles, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of the members of each council. The clerk circulated the details as they appeared on the web-site for councillors to up-date if necessary. It was then agreed that the survey should be completed in accordance with that information.

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East Lindsey and the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office sent details of a Parish Councils' Engagement Session. This took the form of an on-line forum during which those attending could receive a briefing on police activity over the last six months together with information on the new neighbourhood policing model. Cllrs. Parker and Platts registered for the session, to report in the Neighbourhood Watch section of these proceedings.

Royal British Legion wrote from the Market Rasen office with thanks for the donations made by this council for the Poppy Wreaths (£50) and from the Remembrance Sunday Collection (£54). That total had proved to be the largest single donation received this year. The final sum received at the Market Rasen Office was £7,390.67. Cllr Wilson asked for a copy of the e-mail to be forwarded to him to pass on to the Scouts and other representatives who had attended the Remembrance Sunday Service. The clerk would see that this was done.

Lincs Wolds sent a copy of last year's guide to the local villages and their facilities to request any up-dates. It was confirmed that no changes were necessary for 2024.

Lincolnshire County Council sent information on the consultation about the Devolution Proposals. These were circulated for individual study. For further information, there will be a series of 'Drop In' sessions throughout the county. The dates, venues and times for the nearest sessions were circulated last Monday.

1263 **Planning** -

a) Applications - These had been circulated between meetings:-

S/044/02210/23 - Fairacre, Willingham Road, East Barkwith

Application to build a detached bungalow behind the present one, which is currently being refurbished, together with vehicular access. It had been agreed to support this project.

N/164/02337/23 - Land off Donington Road, South Willingham

This is an application to vary certain of the conditions imposed on the grant of the earlier application to develop a cycle park with trails and associated buildings, the work now to be divided into two main stages. There were no comments on the variations and it had been agreed to support the application.

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b) Decisions:-

S/202/01872/23 - 1, Westholme House, Louth Road, West Barkwith

Application for extensions to the existing dwelling to provide additional living accommodation, and the erection of a garden store. This application has been granted.

S/044/01565/23 - Barkwith House, Torrington Lane, East Barkwith

Extension and alterations to existing dwelling and associated annexe building including demolition of existing single storey ancillary buildings and single side and rear extensions to the property. This is the application for the main building. A number of conditions have been imposed concerning possible archaeology, the nature of the construction materials, the landscaping proposals and the use of the annexe.

Subject to the observance of these, the application has been granted.

1264 Reports -

a) Village Hall - An e-mail is to be sent to the committee members regarding the referral of the issue of charity status and the trustee arrangements to a solicitor. Cllr. Gibson will be obtaining up-dated information on the possible costs. There will then be a meeting to discuss this and the funding application.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - Cllrs. Parker and Platts commented on the on-line 'Engagement Session' with the Police and Crime Commissioner which was held on 5th December. The presentation summary had been sent to all councils and this had been circulated to council members. It seemed that there was no specific news other than the reminder that, although every effort was being made to fulfil public expectations, police presence and action were limited due to funding and staffing restrictions.

Locally, there was a further warning for residents to be wary of suspicious e-mails. There was no report from the wider Wolds Watch Group.

c) Play Area - Cllr. Wilson, as chairman of the Play Area Committee, will shortly be writing to RoSPA to clarify certain points on the August inspection notes. A committee meeting will be held shortly to arrange attention to the silver birch tree which has grown too big for its position and to plan the dates for the adjustments to the fencing and the Annual Spring Clean.

d) Countryside Committee - Prices for the proposed leaf-blower have been checked with an alternative supplier but the Stihl model remains the best choice at £203.33 (plus VAT) and was approved by the meeting. Cllr. Wilson will ensure the clerk has the details to place the order.

Following its winter storage, servicing parts will be needed to prepare the tractor-mower for the new season. It was agreed that these should be ordered from Star Garage, as the original supplier of the machine lies at a greater distance and may be closing down shortly.

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In the Parish Field, the roadside gates will need to be re-set for safety reasons. Some nest boxes are in need of repair and there are some additional ones to be installed. It is also time for a general clean-up and pruning ready for the Spring. Cllr. Parker and Eric Brady have offered to help with the work.

Attention will shortly be given to the trimming of the hedge at the boundary of the Village Hall car park.

e) Dog Watch - Cllr. Platts reported that there were no new issues at this time.

f) History Group - The Crossroads Inn now has new managers and they expect to be re-opening in early March. They will welcome the return of the History Group for its regular meetings and have requested the loan of some of the pictures showing the village and various activities in past years. There may be a metal-detecting session in February, depending on the ground conditions on possible sites.

g) Special Events - D-Day 80 - 6th June - There will be a meeting next week to gauge the level of support for an event and what might be staged. Some preliminary bookings have been made for a 40's style performer and a singer to ensure their availability. However, if there is insufficient interest at the meeting, their attendance will be deferred to an alternative event or to the celebrations for the 80th anniversary of VE Day, next year.

It was agreed that, if next week's meeting supported the event, the initial orders for materials and equipment should be made as soon as the needs are known.

The overall cost is estimated at about £2,000, likely to be partially offset by sponsorship and donations as with past events.

1265 Amenities -

War Memorial - The winter pansies are holding their own but the repainting of the posts must wait until the weather is a little warmer and drier. There were no other matters to report.

1266 Highways -

Drainage - The road-sweeper visited yesterday but much of the degrading leaf matter could not be removed as it was still frozen to the road surface. Unfortunately, much of the movable debris again went across the gratings and into the drainage system!

Cllr. Wilson said that, in the future, the new leaf-blowing machine would be used to direct fallen leaves into the hedge bottom, or into piles for collection, before they become a problem.

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- Road Conditions - There is considerable surface breakdown on Torrington Lane, between East Barkwith and East Torrington and this has been reported for attention. Also reported was the collapsing edge of the road along Willingham Road.

Cllr. Fincham confirmed that the pothole, near his property in Panton, grows ever larger. There was no news on the condition of Langton Road, Panton since the emergency measures which had been taken following the damage caused when the mobile crane was removed from the ditch last November.

- Speed limit - Since the last council meeting, Mrs Bradwell, the County Councillor, had arranged to bring the Highways Officer to a meeting with two or three representatives of this council on Monday, 15th January to view the situation on the A157 and discuss any other issues. Unfortunately, an e-mail problem meant the information had not been received by the councillors and the meeting was missed. The clerk will contact Mrs. Bradwell to apologise and make further arrangements as necessary.

In the meantime, the speed camera is due for recharging and relocation. There will be a report on the latest data once it has been processed.

1267 Finance -

a) Receipts -

The November payment from the Clothing Bank has brought £12.00 for the Village Hall Reserve and the December one another £12.00.

There has also been a donation of £20.00 for the Play Area.

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 - for the clerk's PAYE	000998	£461.00	-	£461.00
Mrs. B. Theairs - Clerk's salary	000999	£1,287.50	-	£1,287.50
Barkwith Village Hall - for 2023	001000	£192.00	-	£192.00
Viking Direct - Inks, paper & pouches	001001	£105.79	£21.16	£126.95

Also due shortly and approved for payment on receipt of invoice -

East Lindsey - Green Bin Collection		£50.00
LALC - Annual Subscription	est.	£165.00
Charles H. Hill - for the leaf blower	quote.	£203.33

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Also approved for payment on receipt of invoice showing the precise charge -

Timber for Play Area kickboards	est.	£180.00
Parts for servicing tractor mower	est.	£50.00

The Agreement form for the use of the Village Hall for 2024 was approved and signed by the chairman and by the clerk as key-holder.

c) Precept -

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

There were no questions on the detailed balances which make up the council's general and specific reserves and it was accepted that, although some budget allowances could be held at the same figure as last year, or slightly reduced where possible, others, particularly the general and mower insurances, needed to be increased to cover the higher charges which are now prevalent.

It was expected that, following the custom of similar events in earlier years, participation in the D-Day commemoration would be free for residents, with a charge for guests and visitors to cover the extra costs. Some of the costs could be met from reserved funds and there is likely to be other support. The balance must be allowed for in the budget.

Final details were entered on the budget sheet and it was agreed that the Precept for the year 2024 / 2025 should be set at £12,500. The clerk will notify the District Council of the decision.

1268 **Any Other Business** -

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed by the Chairman