

# East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Final Report on the E-meeting held with the notional date of 23rd July, 2020

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

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

1051 It was agreed that the Report of the meeting of 1st June, 2020 should be acknowledged for approval at the next physical meeting.

1052 There were no matters arising for immediate attention.

1053 The details and consultation on the Code of Conduct were circulated by e-mail on 2nd July. Responses sent to the clerk by 07.08.20 will be collated and submitted by the due date in the following week.

## 1054. **Correspondence.**

Newsletters and other general correspondence have been forwarded on arrival.

Also:-

Information on the re-opening of playgrounds has been forwarded to Cllr. Wilson, along with advice on re-opening the Village Hall.

A document on the requirements for web-site accessibility has been forwarded to Cllr. Battell and Mr. T. Bolland. (details under 'Web-site', item 1057b below)

The insurers have sent guidance on the re-opening of council offices but this is not relevant in our situation as we have no office as such.

The Keep Britain Tidy group has set the period of 11th to 27th September for the Great British Spring Clean.

Seafarers UK have sent a paper copy of their News Leaflet, a copy of which can be forwarded on request.

The Parish Clerk for Wragby has reported the winding down of the Prescription Delivery service they have been running and asks if anyone can help, or knows of anyone else who could help, the residents in this area. They have been delivering to 3 households in Torrington Lane, 2 on Willingham Road and 1 at West Torrington. Cllr. Gibson volunteered and agreed that his contact details could be passed to the Wragby Clerk. Use of the 'Buddy Buddy' system or one of the Prescription Services which are available online such as Pharmacy 2 U were also suggested.

Signed by the Chairman .....

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## 1055. **Planning.**

### a) Applications:-

Ref. - S/202/00865/20 - Glebe Farm, Louth Road, West Barkwith, LN8 5LN

For - Erection of building for 4 stables and a tack room and construction of a menage.

Councillors were given the information to enable them to view the application either on the District Council's website, or on paper by arrangement with the clerk. Cllr. Wilson had declared an interest in this as designer of the project and took no part in the deliberations or decision.

It was agreed by all the remaining councillors that the application should be supported.

### b) Decisions - There were no items to report on this occasion.

## 1056. **Reports**

a) Village Hall - The new front doors have been fitted and additional keys obtained, the costs coming from the grant held by the council for that purpose. Some replacement exit and emergency signs will also be needed and the purchase was approved.

The hall remains closed to all users while the guidance on re-opening is studied and the appropriate measures put in place, the members of the committee communicating by telephone and e-mail as necessary. As chairman of the Management Committee, Cllr. Wilson wished to record his thanks to Mrs. Theairs, in her capacity as Village Hall Secretary, for all the work done to obtain both the re-opening details and, earlier, the government's Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Grant of £10,000. This will be used to cover losses of income while closed and the extra costs incurred as a result of the Coronavirus requirements for re-opening and on-going restrictions.

The broken window facing the car park will be replaced as soon as possible now that the suppliers are working again.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - There are continued reports of attempted telephone and internet scams, including some offering to assist with problems related to the Coronavirus. It is wise to beware of any such unsolicited contact.

Lincolnshire County Council has become aware of a company, claiming to be from the Highways team, offering to carry out resurfacing or pothole repairs. Highways contractors always use prominently marked vehicles to complete designated work and the personnel would never make any other offers. Trading Standards are carrying out an investigation and would welcome any further information if such a company is seen in the area.

The PCSO has visited the shop with a reminder that, as from Friday, 24th July, a £100 fine could be imposed on anyone who refuses to wear a face-covering while in this or any other shop.

c) Play Area - This has been closed except for maintenance and grass-cutting but outdoor play areas are now permitted to re-open, subject to certain conditions which are currently under scrutiny by the committee for the necessary measures to be taken. It will also be necessary to replace the seats on the main swings at an estimated cost of £100 plus VAT. This was approved.

The annual RoSPA inspection is due in August, with a fee of approximately £90.

This, too, was approved.

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d) Countryside Committee - The Parish Field has been very well used by local people and has been looking well with a range of flowers. Thanks are due to Eric Brady and David Cotgrave for maintaining the site.

More Owl and Bat boxes will be made as soon as the materials can be obtained, using the remaining grant funds which amount to £328. This was approved.

The diseased oak tree on the village green has been inspected by the tree officer from East Lindsey. He has confirmed that it is dead and must be removed on safety grounds. Quotes received so far for its removal, range from £750 to £1,000, with one more to come. There have also been two or three offers of free removal but these must be subject to appropriate insurance cover.

e) Dog Watch - There is little to report as, apart from a couple of small 'mishaps', the village is being kept very clean.

f) History Group - Contact between members has been maintained through telephone calls, letters and e-mails while the meetings are suspended and members have been working on their own projects.

The web-site section has received a few up-dates and has, in its turn, brought some enquiries from relatives for information on former residents, any answers being given from information already held.

## 1057. Amenities.

a) War Memorial - With the summer planting established, it is now time to prepare the order for the winter plug plants so that there is enough time to grow them on before planting out. The cost is expected to be similar to last year's - approximately £90. This was approved.

The insurance company raised a query regarding the cover for the War Memorial. A check on the documents confirmed that it was sufficient for the present but it would be prudent to review the replacement costs in time for next year's renewal.

b) Web-site - One of the LALC newsletters drew attention to recent requirements that all council web-sites should prepare to be more easily accessible to those with disabilities. The relevant information has been passed to Cllr. Battell and Mr. T. Bollan who have the technical expertise to judge what is needed and how to proceed.

c) Quantum Fibre - Information on this was circulated earlier in the month. Most councillors have shown some interest but would appreciate further, more detailed, information. This would require the company to carry out a survey, a task which would need them to be satisfied that there was sufficient interest from members of the community. The easiest way of assessing local support would be through accepting the offer of a presentation at a public meeting but, until this is possible, other possible alternatives were considered:-

Flyer - It was felt that, in the current climate, it would be difficult to ensure delivery, unless it could be delivered with the Parish Magazine.

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Web-site Entry - A 'Notice' in a prominent position with further details following and links to the Quantum web-site for more information. The Notice would include a request to e-mail clerk to register any interest.

Notices - in the shop and garage, as well as on the notice boards, in order to publicise the information on the web-site and invite residents to register an interest.

With no clear agreement at this point, the clerk will re-visit all the information and comments for circulation between now and the next meeting.

d) Crossroads - Information on registering this as a community asset was circulated earlier in the month. It appears that the pub will now re-open for a short while but its future after that is still uncertain. Registration as a Community Asset will require the owners to notify East Lindsey of any intention to sell and we will then be informed and given time to consider what options, if any, might be available to allow the village to keep it, and in what form. It was agreed that the premises should be registered and the clerk should complete the necessary form.

## 1058. Highways.

Contact has been made with Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership to remind them of the posts we intend to use for the reactive speed signs, and they are preparing to carry out the final visual inspection. There is no news as yet as to when that might be done but councillors agreed that the order for the equipment should be placed as soon as possible as it is the type already approved by the Partnership.

## 1059. Finance.

a) Receipts - The VAT Refund has been received in the sum of £440.77

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

Payee - For	Cheque no.	Net	VAT	Total
Reflections - Village Hall Doors	000860	£1,286	£257.20	£1,543.20
HMRC - PAYE for clerk	000861	£231.45	-	£231.45
Mrs. B. Theairs - Clerk's salary	000862	£860.55	-	£860.55
George Lodge - Tractor Belts	CARD	£19.64	£3.93	£23.57
Mark Woodcock - Grass-cutting	000863	£143.00	-	£143.00
Rasen Hardware - V. Hall keys (3)	CARD	£10.00	£2.00	£12.00
Timpson - V. Hall Keys (2)	CARD	£8.75	£1.75	£10.50

As approved by the meeting -

C. Wilson - Replacement Signs	000864	£40.98	£8.20	£49.18
Hags-Smp - Swing Seats	000865	£109.58	£21.91	£131.49

Signed by the Chairman .....

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Further payments - identified or expected:-

On-going grass-cutting costs

Owl and Bat box materials - from grant - up to £328

Plants for War Memorial - up to £100

RoSPA Inspection - up to £90

LALC - Subscription for Quarterly Newsletter - was £6 last year, suggest allow up to £8.

Reactive Speed Sign and brackets - £2,200

The specific payments were approved and it was agreed that 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) Annual Return - All the documents have been completed and the relevant copies posted on the web-site. The Certificate of Exemption has been sent and acknowledged, so there should be no further contact from the external auditors unless there is a query arising from the period for public inspection which ends on 07.08.20.

## 1060. Any Other Business.

The current advice from LALC is NOT to resume face to face meetings just yet and the National Association has now advised that virtual meetings can continue until the end of April next year. The next meeting is due on the third Thursday in September, the 24th, so it would be prudent to agree to continue with E-meetings for the next four months and review the situation towards the end of the year. It was agreed by all that the meetings for both September and November should be conducted electronically. The clerk will amend the Public Statement to that effect and the arrangements for January and March will be reviewed as part of the November discussions.

Cllr. Breckons currently has additional demands on her time due to necessary professional studies and examination. She has requested leave of absence until the end of this civic year, (ie. end of March, 2021), in order to relieve the pressure until she can properly fulfil her duties to the council. This is allowable and has been permitted here in the past. It was agreed by all that the leave should be granted, to be reviewed at the end of the specified period, and good wishes were sent for a successful outcome to the course of study.

Cllr. Wilson is proposing to revise and up-date the Parish Emergency Plan to include possible provisions in the case of a further lockdown due to the current - or any later - health emergency. The question was raised as to whether the Plan, or an outline of it, would be available on the web-site. This possibility may be considered when the Plan is ready.

Cllr. Brady requested that the council should, again, look at the increasingly pressing need for a replacement for the tractor-mower. The overall opinion was in favour of looking at the options. One suggestion was to approach local dealers who might be able to offer a good second-hand machine when customers start trading in to buy newer machines. In the meantime, Cllr. Wilson is looking into the funding situation.