

# East and West Barkwith Parish Council

## Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 22nd July, 2021

**Present:** Mr. J. Stamp, Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. N. Battell, Mrs. T. Brady,  
Mr. C. Fincham and Ms. S. Scott.

This meeting marked the return to more formal, face-to-face gatherings following the 14 month period of E-meetings due to the Coronavirus situation. It started early, at 7.20pm, following the Annual Parish Meeting.

In the absence of Cllr. Platt, the meeting was chaired by Cllr. Stamp.

1113. The chairman extended a welcome to everyone attending the first physical meeting for some time, and, in particular, to Ms. Scott, a new councillor, who was taking her seat for the first time following the resignation of Ms. K. Breckons.

The clerk confirmed that the Declaration of Acceptance had been signed and the Declaration of Pecuniary Interests had been completed.

### 1114. **Apologies for Absence.**

Cllr. Ward had a business engagement, Cllr. Platt had an urgent family issue and Cllr. Gibson was away. The apologies were accepted and approved by the meeting.

### 1115. **Minutes.**

The Minutes of the meeting of March, 2020 and the Final Reports of the subsequent E-meetings had been circulated by e-mail as each was completed. There had been no issues raised at those times and it was agreed that they should now be confirmed as true records and signed by the chairman. In view of the number of pages, it was also agreed that this could be done at the first opportunity after the meeting.

### 1116. **Matters Arising.**

The Condolence sheets relating to HRH Prince Philip (items 1109a and 1112 in May, 2021) have been available as arranged, with the last opportunity earlier this evening. The book will now be completed for keeping as part of the Village Archive.

The Crossroads Inn is now fully open (item 1097c in March, 2021) and the new proprietor is Steph Elliott. Support from as many as possible in the village will be most welcome so that it can thrive.

It is expected that the salt bag (item 1098 in March 2021) will be delivered at some point in August and this will be confirmed a few days in advance.

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Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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1117. **Correspondence.**

General information and dates - already forwarded, or as listed for circulation

Other items:-

East Lindsey has sent up-dates to the Electoral Register, showing a total of  
1 deletion and 7 creations.

They are preparing a revision of the Public Space Protection Order with the opportunity for listing additional areas to be protected from dogs, etc. Doing so would require this council to take responsibility for enforcement when necessary. It was agreed that no further controls were needed in this area.

Kirsty Rayworth, from LIVES, has been in touch about the request for Defibrillator training. She needs to know whether participants would need a certificate from the session, or are simply looking for familiarisation with the machine. The latter would be easy to arrange if we can suggest some dates.

It was agreed that the session would be for familiarisation and there are already seven people wishing to participate. The clerk will check as to whether there are any others interested before exploring possible dates.

Merchant Navy Day - The council has again been invited to register for Merchant Navy Day, on September 3rd. and this was agreed. The clerk still has the collecting tin which came from the pub before it was sold to the new owners. Cllr. Brady offered to ask whether the new landlady will allow its reinstatement.

1118. **Planning.**

a) Applications - There were no new applications on this occasion.

b) Decisions - S/004/00897/21 - The Willows, Panton Road, East Barkwith, Extension to provide ground floor kitchen and family room with 2 first floor bedrooms, each with en-suite and dressing area.

The full details had been circulated just after the May E-meeting and it had been agreed to approve the application which has since been Granted.

S/044/02043/20 - Warren House, Benniworth Road, Panton  
Change of use, conversion, extension and alterations to existing barn to provide 2 holiday lets.

The full details had been circulated just after the May E-meeting and it had been agreed to approve the application which has since been Granted.

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The Parish Emergency Plan is now being referred to the Village Hall Management Committee for their comments relating to the use of the Village Hall. It will then return to the Council for final approval.

### 1119. Reports.

a) Village Hall - The hall is now fully open for bookings but, as indicated earlier, the regular users are unlikely to return until after their normal summer break. In the meantime, there are preliminary plans for improvements to the kitchen, to be funded from part of the government support grants. The details have yet to be confirmed by the management committee. Cllr. Gibson, who is also a member of that committee, is looking into the costs and funding to resurface the car park.

The outside advertising board, proposed before the Covid crisis, will now be installed as soon as it is ready as the hall must attract more users if it is to remain viable.

The outside clock is in the final stages of repair and should be reinstalled shortly, thanks to the efforts of Cllr. Stamp and Eric Brady.

The bottle banks have been removed from the car park at the Crossroads. East Lindsey was not prepared to consider any form of support for maintaining the site in a clean and safe condition so they will not be re-located to the car park at the Village Hall. There is now a facility at Hainton but the consensus is that East Lindsey should follow the example of most other councils and arrange kerb-side collection of glass alongside other recyclables. It was suggested that the clerk should write to this effect.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - There was no report on this occasion, other than a warning to continue vigilance against cyber crime.

A letter, bringing a general report from the Assistant Chief Constable, had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that no response was needed.

c) Play Area - The Play Area re-opened, subject to conditions, shortly after the first lockdown period and has been well used ever since.

There has been some information on costings for the replacement cradle swing seats but the chairman is also trying to contact the original supplier. New rubber safety mats have been ordered and should be installed either this weekend or next, weather permitting. There will also be new painted lines around the goal areas for the ball games.

Problems with the gate have been resolved, thanks to Ned Chamberlain and Eric Brady, and the boundary fence will be dealt with after the school summer holiday period.

The annual RoSPA inspection is due around the third week of August, with a fee expected to be about £90.

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d) Countryside Committee - The Grass-cutting agreement required confirmation of insurance and this has been sent. The claim forms are expected towards the end of the season.

More litter-pickers have joined the team so more equipment has been needed. East Lindsey have supplied, free of charge, more litter-grabbers, waste bags and hoops and the additional Hi-vis vests and gloves have been obtained from Viking. Cllr. Wilson thanked the clerk for organising these. The register of volunteers is being up-dated accordingly.

Due to the weather conditions, Mark Woodcock has been finding difficulty in keeping up with the fast growth. Thanks are due to Ned Chamberlain for stepping in and taking some extra cuts from the areas around the War Memorial. He has made no charge but it was agreed that petrol costs should be offered.

As agreed between meetings, the small ride-on mower has been dismantled for the serviceable parts to be used for 'spares' while the rest was sold as scrap metal. The mower has been written off from the property list and the scrap metal has raised £75, to be reserved for future replacement costs. Again, thanks are due to Ned Chamberlain for his technical help.

As always, Eric Brady has been busy with the grass-cutting in the Parish Field and along the footpath area in Panton Road. Steve Freer has been assembling more of the Owl boxes and has installed them at various locations with Eric's help.

e) Dog Watch - Cllr. Brady reported that she has lost Molly so is now walking without the extra eyes and nose of a dog. However, there are no issues to report at present.

f) History Group - The group is still active with individual projects and in dealing with enquiries through the web-site, although it has not yet resumed regular meetings. An invitation has been issued to return to the Crossroads when the group is ready.

The Crossroads is eager to show photographs of past events on the premises and these are being sought out. An earlier proposal for the purchase of frames, to a cost of approximately £100, will be reviewed in order to mount them for display.

### 1120. Amenities.

a) War Memorial - As stated in the May meeting, the War Memorial is currently valued at £36,000 for Insurance replacement purposes. Mr. S. Andrews has said that, in his opinion, this figure should probably be doubled to ensure full coverage of the cost of replacing it if the need should ever arise. He has agreed to provide a written statement to this effect so that the insurance company can be informed.

b) Web-site - There has been a 'test run' on up-loading pictures with added names and one of the annotated school photographs is now on view. Newsletters are posted as they arrive and council information is regularly up-dated.

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c) Broadband - Lincolnshire County Council is continuing its campaign for improved Broadband connectivity across the county, working with Broadband Delivery UK. Most, but by no means all, communities now have access to faster broadband through fibre connections to the exchange box, but still have the old BT copper cables to the premises. The Government's aim is to promote superfast broadband through fibre connections all the way to the premises. This will enable both households and businesses to run multiple devices and connections without the risk of connection failure that currently exists. This is the type of service which was offered by Quantum, last year, but it was not possible, at that time, to arrange the public meeting necessary for residents to be shown the possibilities and to discuss the options.

It was agreed to make the proposals known to the community and to assess whether the level of interest would justify a public meeting now that these are permitted. LCC's Broadband team could then be invited to present the facts and the options, together with details of the Gigabit Voucher Scheme which can support the installation costs. The clerk will work on this with Cllrs. Battell and Brady.

### 1121. Highways.

Cllr. Wilson wished to express his thanks to those who have helped with the periodic moving of the speed camera, and to Cllr. Battell for establishing the system for analysing the data which has been downloaded from it.

The first results are from a trial run combining data from two positions, but now that the system is operating fully, the three positions will be treated separately. The analysis so far shows that the average speeds each day are within or at the 30mph limit but the peak hours are showing more vehicles above that limit, some significantly so. Once the full data is available from each position, the results can be used to inform the police as to when enforcement action is most needed.

The clerk has looked further into the question of arranging the removal of the 40mph speed sign currently near the old garage site to a position a little further outside the village to cover the length from the new building on that property up to the last house just beyond it.

PCSO Wass had said he saw no pressing need for the change, so there has been no formal request from the Police to the County authorities. However, other residents have raised the same question, and, if these requests are put in writing, the Council can make an application for a Traffic Restraining Order to amend the current coverage of the speed limits.

As he knows many of the residents in the vicinity, Cllr. Stamp offered to ask them to contact the clerk and make a formal request for this action.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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**1122. Finance.**

a) Receipts - The Precept payment of £8,500 was recorded in the Bank Statement at the end of May. The VAT refund of £1,249.79 has also arrived. The scrap metal from the dismantled mower was sold for £75, this sum to be reserved for future replacement costs.

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
Viking - More litter-picking & Stationery	000893	£142.74	£28.54	£171.28
George Lodge - Mower Belts (tractor)	CARD	£19.22	£3.84	£23.06
HMRC - PAYE for Clerk	000894	£237.80	-	£237.80
Mrs. B. Theairs - Net Salary	000895	£854.20	-	£854.20
Mark Woodcock - Grass-cutting	000896	£165.00	-	£165.00
Equip - Play Area Matting	CARD	£234.00	£46.80	£280.80

There had also been the urgent necessity to replace the battery in the Village Computer operated by Cllr. Brady. The total cost was £16.99, which was paid on-line by Mr. T. Bollan and reimbursed by the clerk. It will appear in the Clerk's expenses at the next meeting, by which time it may have been possible to get the VAT breakdown.

There were no other bills for immediate payment but the following will be arriving before the next meeting:-

RoSPA inspection of the Play Area - approximately £90.00

Winter plants for the War Memorial - approximately £90.00

It was agreed that these could be paid on arrival of the invoice, or ordered with the CARD if that proves necessary.

Costs for the Cradle Swing Seats have varied widely, from £96 to £312 (including VAT). It was agreed that the purchase is necessary but, as Cllr. Willson is still trying to reach the suppliers of the original seats, final approval will be postponed until he has been able to do so and a more accurate price can be obtained.

c) Audit Matters - All audit documents have been completed and posted on the web-site as required, with the Inspection Period ending on 7th August. As yet, there have been no requests to view the documents. The Certificate of Exemption was submitted to the external auditors and has been acknowledged and accepted so there will be no further communications from them until next year, unless they receive any questions from residents following a viewing.

**1123. Any Other Business**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .