

# East and West Barkwith Parish Council

## Annual Parish Council Meeting

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

**Present:** Mr. A. Platt, Mr. J. Stamp and Ms. H. Parker. The clerk confirmed that this was sufficient for the meeting to be quorate.

The District Councillor, Mrs. R. Yarsley, and the County Councillor, Mrs. P. Bradwell, were present as was one member of the public.

1291 **Apologies** - Cllr. Gibson was on duty, Cllr. Ward had a business meeting, Cllr. Platts was away and Cllr. Wilson was working. These apologies were accepted and approved.

1292 **The Minutes** of the meeting of 16th May had been circulated. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

The following items were reviewed:-

Copies of the list of Representatives and Committee Appointments, as up-dated and approved by the last meeting, was circulated for the information of the members. It was noted that, even where they have no direct role, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the council are automatically ex-officio members of all committees.

The Terms Of Reference notes for the council's committees had been circulated and there had been no questions or requests for any amendments. The documents were approved and signed by the Chairman.

The clerk had prepared a summary form of the list of volunteers, to be made available to councillors on request. The full list will kept by the clerk, for insurance purposes, and by Cllr. Wilson, as co-ordinator of their activities, as some of the volunteers have asked that their contact details should not be made public.

Also circulated were copies of the clerk's list of members contact details. The clerk asked that each councillor should up-date their entry as appropriate, noting which items were to be kept for internal use only.

1293 **Correspondence.**

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

Other items:-

**Electoral Register** There have been two up-dates since the last meeting, showing five additions and one deletion.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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**East Lindsey** has sent a notice announcing that this year's Wragby Show will take place on Sunday, 1st September.

**East Lindsey's Home Energy Advice & Retrofit Team** brought the Advice Van to the Village Hall Car Park earlier this afternoon. The clerk visited and was issued with some items to be distributed, either at the meeting or afterwards.

**East Lindsey** had sent information on the up-dating of the Public Space Protection Orders which limit the access of dogs to certain designated areas provided the council is able to monitor the areas and take any action to enforce the rules. The details had been forwarded but there were no suggestions that any areas in the Parish need to be specifically covered.

**Lincolnshire County Council** had sent links to the Rights of Way Survey which is looking at the current provision and the needs of the different groups of users, prior to carrying out a revision next year. This was forwarded for individual consideration. Cllr. Stamp asked that it be forwarded to him again but there were no other comments to be recorded.

**Lincolnshire Police** have just sent information on their 'Strong Voices' project which provides young people from 11 to 21 years of age, with the opportunity to meet regularly and raise issues and concerns about the areas where they live. There is a notice which will be posted shortly and the clerk will forward the original e-mail to all councillors.

**Ron Bailey** is a parliamentary researcher charged with a House of Lords promotion of a Bill relating to the safety and disposal of Lithium Ion batteries as used in e-bikes and scooters. The e-mail, with its attached details of the Bill, was forwarded to councillors earlier this week for their review. It was agreed that the clerk should reply to the e-mail with the request that the council's name be added to the list of supporters of the Bill.

### 1294 **Planning** -

#### a) Applications -

S/202/00869/24 - The Poplars, Louth Road, West Barkwith

Single storey extension to existing dwelling to provide additional living accommodation. The full details of the proposals were circulated between meetings and it had been agreed to support the application.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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### b) Decisions -

S/044/00692/24 - Fairacre, Willingham Road, East Barkwith.  
Erection of a bungalow and alterations to existing vehicular access.

This has been Granted.

### 1295 Reports -

a) Village Hall - Cllr. Wilson had sent word that the detailed plans for the improvements are now in the final stages of preparation and will be presented to the Village Hall Management Committee at their next meeting. They will then be brought to the Council for approval and to make any planning applications needed.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - Cllr. Parker reported on the Parish Council Engagement session which she had attended. There was a statement that, over the whole county, burglaries and similar offences had reduced but incidents of speeding were increasing. The question had been raised as to whether some figures were down due to the impression that reporting is pointless as nothing will be done. The response had been that it is the reports of the offences which are used to build the statistics required to prove the need for attention and lead to appropriate action. Without the reports, there is no evidence of any problem. Kimberly Pickett, leader of the Safer Together Team at the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, is willing to attend local groups to raise awareness of crime reporting and statistics.

It was agreed that residents should be encouraged to report all incidents of concern and that the statistics from the village speed cameras should continue to be sent to the Road Safety Partnership.

c) Play Area - Supplies are currently being ordered for the fencing work and for the sand and bark to prepare the area for the summer visitors and the annual inspection. The work is expected to begin next week. The inspection is due to take place in August. RoSPA have quoted an additional £50 to arrange a fixed appointment so that Cllr. Wilson could attend and avoid some of the issues that arose last year. He felt that this was excessive and has declined the offer for this year.

d) Countryside Committee - Cllr. Wilson wished to send his thanks to Mike Yates for his ceaseless efforts in keeping the verges tidy.

There has been a recurrence of the issue regarding the verge in front of the bungalows along Willingham Road and a letter was prepared for sending to the housing group now managing the rented properties. This was circulated for approval and posted on 16th July.

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

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Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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

g) D-Day Commemoration - There have been a large number of favourable comments on the enjoyment of both the day and the evening events. Cllr. Wilson has expressed his thanks to all those who assisted with and supported the events in any way, and has sent out letters of appreciation.

The clerk circulated a financial summary, showing the various transactions for the day. Cash receipts in donations and in ticket sales for visitors totalled £360, of which £200 was paid in cash to the DJ, Tim Handley, and the remaining £160 was banked. The grant of £400 from the District Councillor's Fund paid for some additional display equipment and the supplies for printing the photographic records of the event, with the remainder going towards the costs of flags and bunting which would be retrieved and stored for the next event. At the end of the accounting process, the net cost to the council stood at £1,110.20.

1296 **Amenities** -

War Memorial - There was no report on this occasion.

1297 **Highways** - County Councillor, Mrs. Bradwell reported that the drainage issues on Torrington Lane, by the Village Green and outside Barkwith House, should be resolved by now but she should be told promptly if this recurs, or if there is any other problem.

District Councillor, Ms. Yarsley, had sent in information regarding excess water along Lincoln Road, opposite the Poplars. This was due to the dykes not being cleared, a job which had been done in the past by the owner or tenant of the adjoining field. However, on the last occasion, he was approached by a county official and told that he was not permitted to do the work and could be prosecuted if he continued. Since that time, the dykes have not been touched at all.

Ms. Yarsley had also forwarded a plea, with photographs attached, for help to get work done on the fragmented and overgrown footpath alongside the A 157 from East Barkwith towards West Barkwith.

Mrs. Bradwell said that the highways department was always constrained by shortage of funding as this was based on the population figures rather than the mileage of roads and paths to be maintained. However, she would ensure that they were notified and pressed into action.

A further comment was made relating to the possibility of a cycle path between East and West Barkwith and on to Wragby, as this could be better cared for than a simple footpath. The project had been discussed in the past but, as yet, nothing had come of it. There is the possibility of funding through the Community Safety Partnership if this can be investigated.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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1298 **Finance -**

a) Receipts -

The May Clothing Bank payment for the Village Hall Reserve amounted to £14.10 and the June payment was £15.00.

The District Councillor's Grant towards the D-Day event was £400.00.

HMRC have repaid last year's VAT costs in the sum of £304.55.

The D-Day event had brought in a certain amount of cash from ticket sales and donations, part of which had been used for a cash payment to the DJ. The cash balance of £160 was paid into the council's account. A Summary of the event accounts was circulated earlier and was approved by the meeting.

b) Bills - The following items had been approved for payment at the due date or on receipt of invoice, using the CARD where necessary. This list includes the final bills from the D-Day event and the on-going costs of cutting the fast-growing grass.

Payee - For	Cheque no.	Net	VAT	Total
Mike Yates - Mower Fuel	001015	£54.15	£10.83	£64.98
Garden & Hire Spares - Mower Blades	CARD	£13.22	£2.66	£15.98
Mike Yates - Mower Fuel	001016	£53.35	£10.67	£64.02
Mark Woodcock - Grass-cutting	001017	£132.00	-	£132.00
Chris Wilson - Mower Fuel (Church)	001018	£18.61	£3.72	£22.33
B & Q - Outside Tap	CARD	£23.60	£4.72	£28.32
Mike Yates - Mower Fuel	001019	£51.55	£10.31	£61.86
Star Garage - Toro Servicing Parts	CARD	£63.09	£12.62	£75.71
Wisby Butchers - D-Day Meats	CARD	£161.69	-	£161.69
Janet Parkinson - D-Day Foods	001020	£231.85	£4.65	£236.50
Amazon - Display Equipment	CARD	£150.43	£30.09	£180.52
Viking - Inks & Paper for Photos	CARD	£151.44	£30.29	£181.73
Garden & Hire Spares - Toro Blades	CARD	£95.65	£19.03	£114.78
Barkwith Village Hall - D-Day Use	001021	£100.00	-	£100.00
Mrs B. Theairs - Repayment for Cash	001022	£550.00	-	£550.00
HMRC - Clerk's PAYE	001023	£522.00	-	£522.00
Mrs B. Theairs - Clerk's Salary	001024	£1,226.50	-	£1,226.50
Mark Woodcock - Grass-cutting	001025	£120.00	-	£120.00
Mike Yates - Mower Fuel	001026	£25.84	£5.17	£31.01
Chris Wilson - Mower Fuel	001027	£36.40	£7.28	£43.68
Mike Yates - Mower Fuel	001028	£26.10	£5.22	£31.32
Charles Hill - Strimmer Head	CARD	£68.58	£13.71	£82.29
Huws Gray - Play Area Supplies	CARD	£217.05	£43.41	£260.46

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Also due -

Clear Councils - Renewal of the Mower Insurance has been offered at £179.16. It was agreed that this should be accepted and the policy renewed.

The council's lap-top failed suddenly last week and Tom has confirmed that it needs a new screen. Work continues using by the back-up device on the clerk's personal machine. As restoration of the council machine is a matter of some urgency, the Chairman had given his approval to proceed with the purchase of a replacement screen. This is likely to cost about £130 if the Amazon one is suitable or £230 if it has to be ordered directly from Lenovo. Tom is currently checking the specifications for the correct version.

It was agreed that all these payments, along with that for the Play Area bark which is yet to be ordered, were approved and should be made as they arise.

### c) Audit Matters -

The Certificate of Exemption has been received by the external auditors and fully approved. There will now be no further communication until next year.

The Period of Inspection closes tomorrow. There have been no requests to view the records so, barring any last minute contact, it was proposed and agreed to close the accounts for 2023/2024 at the end of the working day.

For the record:-

The renewal of the main council insurance has been confirmed and the Certificates of Public Liability and Employer's Cover have been received.

Lincolnshire County Council have notified an increase of some £900 to the grass-cutting payment for this season. This will bring the total expected to £2,275.22

The Bank sent a letter indicating that the council's deposits do NOT qualify for protection under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. After studying the explanatory document provided, the clerk embarked on a series of lengthy telephone calls with the result that the Bank has apologised for having misinterpreted the qualifying conditions and has issued a letter confirming that the council's funds ARE covered by the scheme.

### 1299 Any Other Business -

Cllr. Parker suggested that the Clothing Bank might be given more publicity, to include the statement that the funds raised support the Village Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .