

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Final Report on the E-meeting held with the notional date of 18th March, 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.

1091 Cllr. Breckons is currently on approved leave of absence, to be reviewed at the next meeting, but is being kept informed.

1092 The Report of the meeting of 14th January, 2021 was accepted for formal approval at the next physical meeting.

1093 There were no matters arising for immediate attention.

1094. Correspondence.

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

East Lindsey has sent the Electoral Register for 2021 with two subsequent up-dates totalling one amendment and one deletion.

LALC has sent the invitation to join the Annual Training scheme. We do not usually subscribe to this but pay for any training sessions as they are needed.

A separate request is being made for the Annual Membership Subscription. It was agreed that the Annual Membership should be renewed, without the Training Scheme.

Citizen's Advice Bureau has sent its usual request for financial support. As the council's established policy is to support only those projects and organisations operating within the community, the clerk has responded in accordance with this and this was approved.

Lincolnshire Wolds has sent the draft copy of the annual facilities guide. There are no changes required for this area and the clerk has confirmed this by e-mail.

The Environment Agency has sent a factsheet outlining their routine maintenance. A copy has been sent to Cllr. Wilson, for the Countryside Committee and the clerk will forward the details to anyone else on request.

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1095. Planning.

a) Applications:-

S/044/00046/21 - Hollingworth House, Willingham Road, East Barkwith.

Erection of 4 houses with associated garages, walling and fencing and construction of vehicular access.

The details arrived during the first part of February and were circulated for councillors to comment. The opinion was divided but the majority wished to oppose the application due to the density of the proposed buildings, issues of drainage of surface water, and the ease of visibility and access as shown on the plan.

The clerk drafted a letter expressing those concerns and this was approved for sending to East Lindsey by their due date of 18th February.

S/044/00405/21 - Land off Louth Road, East Barkwith.

Section 73 Application in relation to information required by the designated conditions on previously approved application ref. S/044/01192/18.

The details had been circulated by the clerk for councillors to comment and it was agreed to support the application.

b) Decisions:-

S/044/01843/20 - Land off Lincoln Road, East Barkwith (old garage site)

Erection of 2 detached houses and detached garage block with annexe over and vehicular access. This had been granted.

c) Parish Emergency Plan:-

Cllr. Wilson had already circulated this on paper for individual study before it is finalised. He has been looking for volunteers to assist and Cllrs. Gibson, Brady, Fincham and Stamp have offered their help.

The Safety Officer will remain in overall control but may need the authority to deputise others should an event give rise to more than one area requiring attention or to cover in the case of absence. Additional volunteers may be called upon to help, where needed, with snow clearance and gritting along the footways.

It was agreed that the Safety Officer should have the authority to deputise others should the circumstances require it and to call on additional volunteers as necessary.

1096. 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. There has been some government financial support which is covering the loss of income and those bills which continue to be charged.

In the meantime, arrangements have been made for the replacement of the rear doors, for which a fitting date is expected soon. New door signs will need to be purchased and fitted after installation. These will be funded from the original grant as already approved.

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The treasurer has recently received notification that it may now be possible to open a new bank account with Lloyds, which should be easier to operate than the existing one with Santander. Arrangements are in hand to begin the process as soon as the system allows.

The Village Clock has been taken down for repair. It needs a new motor which will fit the existing hands. A new photo-sensitive switch has been fitted to the light above it. Thanks are due to Cllr. Stamp for his assistance.

East Lindsey has been up-dating its records and has re-issued the Premises Licence which covers music and dancing in the hall. The relevant portion has been posted in the entrance lobby.

Prices are being sought for the re-surfacing of the car park.

A committee meeting, to be conducted by e-mail, is under way.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - A recent e-mail has included the Wolds Police Quarterly Newsletter on Neighbourhood police matters and this has been circulated.

Two instances of opportunist thefts have occurred in the village. A trailer has been taken, in spite of being fitted with a security lock, from the site of the old garage on Lincoln Road. This was at night while the owners slept in the caravan on the site. Residents on Panton Road have suffered a number of thefts from their sheds.

c) Play Area - The relocation of the fence and the installation of the play pipes is still on hold due to the Covid 19 regulations.

Local people have kindly been donating scrap metal to raise funds towards the replacement slide. The sum of £200 has been received so far with more offers on the way.

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

d) Countryside Committee -

The initial registration was made for the grass-cutting and the formal agreement form has arrived. The payment to be expected from the County Council towards the end of the year is £941.71. It was agreed that the clerk should sign the formal agreement.

The present arrangements are expected to continue with Steve Campion working on West Barkwith verges, Mark Woodcock on the small areas, Eric Brady (& co.) on the Parish Field and Panton Road verge etc.

Eric has reported the loss of the magnetic warning beacon from the back of the tractor-mower. For safety reasons, this will need to be replaced and an additional one purchased for the smaller ride-on machine. Costs have been investigated and it is now clear that suitable beacons should be obtainable for no more than £20 each, probably less. It was agreed that this purchase should be made without further delay.

Clr. Wilson wished to convey his thanks to Eric Brady for all his hard work in the Parish Field, clearing the area between the trees and the ponds and cutting out a new access path through the Blackthorn thicket, providing an opportunity for visitors to see what secrets lie within.

The site is still seeing many visitors who are on the village geo-cache trail.

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To prevent young children running onto the main road, new gate posts are to be installed at the entrance. The cost is expected to be about £55.00 each plus ironwork at £16 each, bringing a total of £142. The existing gate will be re-used and an additional one has been donated to complete the closure of the opening.

It was agreed that this expenditure should be approved.

More nest boxes have been manufactured and are waiting for installation around the Parish.

A local landowner is currently sorting out an area of land in the Parish, to be set aside for a suitable conservation project where the plan is to retain and enhance its unique habitat. There is a request for a selection of wildflower seeds, harvested locally, to be planted in the area to help maintain the existing variety of species there, and for the installation of some nest boxes.

A further request has been made to the County Council's Countryside Officer for the urgent repair of the surface along Church Path. This was adopted by the county as a Public Footpath in May 2010 and we have asked for attention on several occasions since then. Once again, the request has been refused on the grounds that inspection has shown that its current state is 'commensurate with its use and status', with the added comment that a Public Footpath does not warrant the same level of scrutiny as a Public Footway such as those alongside the roads.

The officer has asked for the path to be considered for inclusion in any future programme of community improvements, subject to the merits of any other schemes on the list, but this is similar to the replies to earlier requests and Church Path never reaches the top!

It was agreed that the council should continue to pursue the matter and to ask Mrs. Bradwell, the County Councillor, to intervene, possibly with the suggestion that, if county would supply the materials, volunteers could be found to do the work. Cllr. Brady asked if anything could be done about the collapsing boundary fence, but this may be a matter for the owners of the neighbouring property.

Cllr. Wilson had raised the question of litter-picking in the Play Area and Village Hall Car Park and around the village as a whole. He has asked if consideration could be given to the purchase of simple equipment for those who are regularly clearing these areas, specifically gloves, grabbers, bin-liners and holding rings. The clerk is trying to find out whether anything can be obtained from the District Council but has no answer at present. Past requests indicate they may be unlikely to do more than lend equipment for a short specified period.

Costs have been estimated at £135 for picking equipment and bags plus £63 for protective items, giving a rounded total of some £200.

Volunteers would be registered so that they are covered by the council's insurance.

The waste would be put in the village hall bins and the District Council informed to reassure them that the pickers are not fly-tipping. It was agreed that this should be approved and such equipment as could not be provided by the District Council should be purchased.

e) Dog Watch - At the last check, all areas appeared to be in good order.

f) History Group - The group is still in contact through e-mails and group notes. They are also still getting information from people who are forwarding suitable material and this is proving helpful to a range of current projects.

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1097. Amenities.

- a) War Memorial - The winter pansies are doing well and the summer plants are currently being started, to be set out at the appropriate time. Thanks were expressed to Cllr. Wilson for his hard work in maintaining the area.
- b) Web-site - The main web-site fee will be automatically renewed on 1st May at a cost of £100.66 (plus the VAT which can be reclaimed).

c) Crossroads - The pub has now been sold and is being refurbished for re-opening around 12th May, subject to prevailing Covid restrictions. However, the new owner wishes to rearrange the layout of the outside facilities and has asked East Lindsey to remove the Bottle Banks. East Lindsey has e-mailed to ask whether they can move them to the car park at the Village Hall as there is no other obviously suitable site in the village. This would be subject to agreement with the Management Committee as well as the Parish Council.

Most Councillors were in favour of the proposed move but the Management Committee has yet to give its opinion. To alleviate the probable concerns, Cllr. Wilson suggested the following conditions:-

1, The arrangement should be a large enough, and with sufficiently frequent emptying, to cope with the level of projected use. Many people from outside the village already use the existing site and a layout at the village hall would be more visible and could attract even more.

2, Provision should be made to cover the cost of the extra time for the Hall caretaker to maintain the area in good and safe order, regularly clearing the inevitable rubbish. This ought to be paid for by the District or County Council as even the current site serves an area much wider than just this parish due to the closure of similar facilities elsewhere.

3, Cameras could be installed to ensure that if problems should arise, they can be dealt with and the perpetrators can be penalised.

4, It should be understood that in the case of the facility becoming unworkable, the containers will be removed promptly.

In addition a request might be made to the Council (District and County) for them to support a funding request for the re-surfacing of the car park, given that there will be a considerable increase in the amount of traffic using the area, much of it from outside the village.

The suggestion could be made that if they are unable to work with us on this, they should consider including glass collection with the household recycling.

The conditions were approved, in principle, by the majority and it was agreed that the clerk would prepare a suitable letter to the District Council, to be circulated for approval before posting..

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1098. Highways.

The speed sign has arrived and has been set in its first location. Cllr. Brady expressed thanks to all involved in the task. Cllr. Wilson is preparing a rota for its monitoring, periodic re-siting, and the analysis of the data it collects. He would welcome assistance with these tasks.

Cllrs. Stamp, Fincham and Gibson have offered to assist with the installation and subsequent management and Cllr. Battell has said that he could help with the analysis as it is a task which he could undertake even when working away from home.

Fiona Hudson has been in touch to report that a new contractor has been engaged for the outstanding work on the Bus Shelters, now that more of the polycarbonate sheeting is available. It is hoped that ours will be completed during late March or April.

The recent snow and ice brought heavy use of the contents of the Grit Bins. A call to have them refilled was successful, except for the small one near the outer end of Torrington Lane. The Highways Department were standing by their rule to fill only those bins which they have approved and installed, not the one bought by this council. They promised to use the summer months to supply a one-ton bag of grit which can be used as needed. A subsequent telephone call from Tim Hunter has confirmed that he has visited the location and can report that it just reaches the current required criteria to warrant an 'official' grit bin. If we can confirm the removal of our own bin as soon as possible, he will arrange for its replacement. (It is up to this council to decide whether our bin should be relocated elsewhere but it would remain our responsibility to keep it filled.)

Cllr. Wilson agreed to remove the small bin and to seek an alternative location for it.

1099. Finance.

a) Receipts - Donations of scrap metal for the Play Area Capital Fund - £200

Cllr. Brady wished to thank all those making such donations.

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
East Lindsey - Green Bin subscription	000880	£40.00	-	40.00
Barkwith Village Hall - hiring for 2020	000881	£60.00	-	£60.00

Also:-

Authorised by the Safety Officer as the Battery Pack and Pads had passed their expiry date:-

Lives - Replacements for Defibrillator	000882	£55.00	£11.00	£69.00
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Authorised by this meeting:-

LALC - Annual Subscription	000883	£149.32	-	£149.32
Reflections - Village Hall doors -	000884	£1,320.00	£264.00	£1,584.00
HMRC - Clerk's PAYE	000885	£231.45	-	£231.45
Mrs. B. Theairs - Clerk's Salary	000886	£860.55	-	£860.55
Mrs. B. Theairs - Clerk's Expenses	000887	£95.00	-	£95.00
Amazon - Tractor Beacons (for 2)	CARD	£17.44	£3.48	£20.92
Screwfix - Signs for V. Hall doors	000888	£24.97	£4.97	£29.94

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Signed by the Chairman

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Also due shortly:-

GoDaddy - Website & Marketing (Main website fees) -
Auto-renews 1st May - £100.66

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.

Litter-picking equipment - estimated at - £200

It was agreed that the bills for those items not available from East Lindsey should be paid on receipt of invoice, or with CARD if necessary.

c) Precept -

The precept document had been completed in the agreed sum of £8,500 and submitted by the due date. It has been acknowledged by telephone.

d) Year End - Payments issued in March will complete the accounting record for 2020/2021 and they will be prepared for internal audit and for the Annual Return documentation due in April. It was confirmed that Sophy Warren would be the auditor.

The Asset Lists are being up-dated as necessary and draft copies were circulated. There has been no change to the land holdings and this was approved for publication on the web-site.

The general list shows the addition of the Speed Camera, highlighted on the Page Three section. Any other up-dates will be added for the final list to be used by the auditor.

1100. Any Other Business.

Meetings - The current system of electronic meetings has been permitted by government up to 6th May 2021. NALC is campaigning for this to be extended but there is no decision as yet so their current advice is to be prepared for a return to face-to-face meetings from 7th May. They have also suggested trying to bring forward as much business as possible into April, before any change takes effect, with adaptations afterwards to limit the length of any meetings which have to take place in person. The Annual Parish Meeting is, by definition, a public meeting so may have to be on a separate date, as late as is permitted in order to maintain safety.

The Clerk is watching the developments closely and will keep everyone informed. A list of provisional dates has been circulated. These will be the actual dates once the council begins to meet in person, or the nominal dates around which the E-Meeting will run if that arrangement remains.

Cllr. Stamp has suggested that the council should not hold any meetings in person until all members have received their second immunisation. This may be difficult if the government does not renew the permission for remote meetings after 6th May. On the other hand, except for special circumstances, Village Halls will not be permitted to re-open before 17th May, at the earliest, and this will affect the meeting place for many councils.

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While everyone waits for further news on this, the clerk requested permission to bring forward as much of the likely May business as possible into the second half of April, while it can still be conducted electronically. (Items will be kept as straightforward as possible but there will be the advantage of keeping any 'compulsory' May meeting as short as possible).

It was agreed that it would be wise to avoid any unnecessary gathering before the second injections had been received and the clerk's suggestion was approved.

Events - Cllr. Wilson is looking to arrange a promotional event at The Village Hall once it is permitted to re-open in a relatively normal fashion. Councillors were generally in favour of this, provided that the event did not take place too early in the process of lifting the Covid restrictions.

The initial proposals from Cllr. Wilson were outlined:- -

I have been asked by many people what can we do to celebrate getting back to some level normality. The best place for a big community event is our Community Hall, making a big day of it. I feel the earliest date would probably be around mid to end of August (*subject to conditions*).

The setting would be the Play Area and Village Hall and its car park, holding events that would involve Children's (*mid age group*) activities in the play area, such as tug of war, beat the goalie etc, and other team building activities.

A soft play area could be set up in the Hall for young ones, with music and party games.

There could be quizzes for the adults to join in with.



Outside could give space for a Hog roast in the car park with tables set outside (lots flags and coloured bunting). Hopefully the Pub would be involved providing a bar. The stage could be set up with live music, with a range of performers. It would be free to all Parish residents (*East & West Barkwith and Panton*) and guests of residents could come along for a small contribution,

Sponsorship and Funding is currently being sought. (*I have already had a lot of offers of help*).

Two possible names have been suggested, so far:- 'Together Again' and 'Covid Day'. There is still time for other ideas and these would be welcomed.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee occurs next year and suggestions to mark it have included a Street Party, and a Community Barbecue, again focussing on something to bring the residents together. Further ideas would be welcome, to be discussed in more detail at a later date.

There was no further business.

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Signed by the Chairman