

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 16th March, 2023, starting at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr. J. Stamp, Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. D. Ward, Mr. C. Fincham Mr. N. Gibson and Ms. H. Parker.

There were no others present on this occasion.

1206 **Apologies** - Cllr. Platt was away, Cllr. Brady is still recovering from surgery and Cllr. Scott had a family health issue which required her attention.

These were accepted and approved by the meeting.

In the absence of Cllr. Platt, the chair was taken by Cllr. Stamp.

1207 **The Minutes** of the meeting of 19th January, 2023 had been circulated. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

1208 **Matters Arising** - The Cllr. Stamp wished to repeat the concerns he had expressed regarding the impact of administrative costs on the Precept. The meeting was reminded that these had been taken into account during that discussion and that the final figure had been agreed as a result of those deliberations.

1209 **Election Matters** - Parish Council Elections are to be held on Thursday, 4th May. The clerk reported that the Nomination Papers had been collected from the East Lindsey offices and distributed to most of the current councillors. The exception was Cllr. Scott, who has said that she will not be standing at the elections due to other pressures. There has also been initial interest from four other residents, of whom two have received Nomination Papers.

Councillors were reminded that the papers could be returned to the clerk - by Thursday of next week - for a preliminary check before being delivered en bloc to East Lindsey during the following week. Otherwise, an appointment must be made for them to be delivered by hand to the Horncastle offices by 4pm on Tuesday, 4th April.

It was confirmed that a form of photographic ID would be needed by all electors going to the Polling Station. Full details of the acceptable forms and how to get an alternative will be publicised shortly.

1210 **Correspondence.**

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

Other items:-

Electoral Register There has been one up-date to delete one resident.

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LALC has been reviewing its management structure and the draft of the new system has been circulated by e-mail. There were no comments to be noted or forwarded.

Lincolnshire County Council has issued two lists of short-term road restrictions due over the coming months for maintenance work. These have been circulated by e-mail but only a few affect the immediate area. There were no questions or comments on these.

1211 **Planning** - a) Applications - S/202/00006/23 - 1, Westholme House, Louth Road, West Barkwith, LN8 5LF

Change of use of agricultural land to form an extension to the existing domestic curtilage. This proposal was circulated between meetings and received full support from all councillors.

b) Decisions - S/044/02429/22 - Bellrose Homes Ltd. - for the constructions on land beside Hollingworth House, Willingham Road, East Barkwith, Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, LN8 5RP.

Proposal:- Section 73 application to vary certain conditions relating to the footprint of two buildings, the landscaping and surface water treatment and the window glazing on one building, as imposed on planning permission S/044/00046/21 which was for the erection of 4 houses with associated garages, walling and fencing to a maximum height of 1.95m and construction of a vehicular access. This has been Granted.

- S/044/02510/22 - St. Mary's Church, Torrington Lane, East Barkwith, LN8 5RY. Extension and alterations to the existing church which is a listed building, to provide a wc.

This was a re-application of the previous documents as the permission granted at that time had expired. This has been Granted.

Parish Emergency Plan - Cllr. Wilson is still waiting for the response from the County authorities in order to prepare the final version of the Plan. He will report again once this is ready for adoption.

1212 **Reports** -

a) Village Hall - Thanks to the efforts of Cllr. Gibson, a preliminary application has been made for grant assistance with both internal up-grading and the resurfacing of the car park. The main forms are expected in due course. Cllr. Gibson has also been undertaking an initial exploration with a firm of solicitors into the charity status and management arrangements. There will be a cost to the actual process but it may be the only way to resolve the current issues. The results of the enquiries will be put to the Committee and reported to the Council as soon as there is any definite news.

There is to be a Craft Fair shortly with other fund-raising events when the dates can be set.

Signed by the Chairman

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b) Neighbourhood Watch - The Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators held a meeting on Friday, 27th January, with two PCSO's in attendance. It was noted that police work was becoming more re-active rather than pro-active and that PCSO numbers are due to be reduced sharply throughout the county.

Nevertheless, police patrols have been increased, including night patrols. They are currently dealing with farm thefts, including fuel from stores, and there have been reports of car thefts in Wragby, Benniworth and Great Sturton. All residents and local businesses need to look to their security on these matters as well as being aware of a current wave of doorstep scams.

There had been a suggestion to set up a What's App group. The Co-ordinators did not take this up but Cllr. Ward agreed to make the arrangements for a village one.

c) Play Area - Cllr. Wilson reported that new members have come forward for the committee and to help with the inspection rota. The grass-cutting has started and there will be a Spring Cleaning session before Easter, to include action on a few small repairs.

d) Countryside Committee - Grass-cutting has started in the Parish Field. Although a few trees have been lost, the canopy is almost full so it may prove difficult to establish any new specimens. The Notice Board there has been up-dated.

Summer plants for the War Memorial area have been started in pots due to the weather conditions but are growing on for planting out in due time.

The County payment for this year's grass-cutting has been set at £1,063.08

e) Dog Watch - Cllr. Brady sent word that more warning posters were being provided by East Lindsey. They will also organise a patrol on Willingham Road following a complaint from a resident at the edge of the village. A dog-walker is repeatedly failing to pick up after the animal in spite of the residents comments and continued observations.

Cllr. Wilson reported that someone has sprayed wording onto a footpath, against allowing dogs to foul in the area.

f) History Group - A meeting was held at the end of February to set a date of Sunday, 19th March for a Metal-detecting event in fields at the end of Willingham Road. There were four new members at the meeting.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, 30th March to include arrangements for a possible exhibition for the Churches' Open Weekend on 20th and 21st May.

The preparations for the installation of better kitchen facilities and a toilet will require some attention to the old 'chambers' which lie under the floor nearby. The Church Committee is considering a proposal for placing a glass panel in the floor, with lighting just beneath, so that this unusual feature can be displayed. The History Group supported this proposal and the councillors agreed, in principle, to support any application for grant aid for the project.

Some documents had been discovered relating to earlier works on the church and these will be transcribed for easier reading.

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g) Special Events - Coronation - There will be a Village Party on Sunday, 7th May, based on the Village Hall. Flyers will be distributed shortly to invite residents and outline the arrangements. A hog is to be donated but residents will be asked to bring their own buns or bread and any accompaniments they require. The Crossroads will provide a bar.

Activities will include a soft play area in the hall and a sponsor has offered to cover the full cost of this. Most of the decorative items are already available from previous events so the only other costs foreseeable at this stage are for two Coronation Flags, three rolls of table covering and a supply of Commemorative mugs for the children, with a total figure of approximately £325 plus VAT. It was agreed that the council would cover these amounts.

1213 Amenities -

a) War Memorial - Thanks to Mr. Les. Robinson some well-rotted farmyard manure has been dug into the bed around the War Memorial to refresh the soil over the winter period. The summer plants have been sown in pots due to the weather conditions and are growing on for planting out when the days, and nights, are warm enough.

1214 **Highways** - The report at the last meeting concerned slippery dead leaves which were not removed last autumn and have since been blocking the storm drains. There are also many pot-hole repairs which have been disintegrating in as little as 24 hours. This information had been passed on to the county councillor for her assistance in pressing for action.

Cllr Bradwell was not able to attend this meeting but had sent word that she would appreciate photographs, with locations, of any particular issues. She might then be able to arrange a visit, accompanied by a member of the Highways Team, to assess the full extent of the work needed. A councillor would also be welcome to take part in this survey.

It was agreed to accept the offer of the survey and Cllrs. Ward and Wilson indicated that they would like to be involved in the visit.

1215 Finance -

a) Receipts - A cash donation for the Play Area in the sum of	£155.00
The refund from HAGS in respect of the swing chains	£54.12
Payments for Community Printing in 2022/2023	£27.20
From Clothing Bank for Village Hall January & February	£12.60

Also, a donor has paid the £25 deposit for the Soft Play Equipment for the Coronation Event and will provide cash for the balance of £120. These sums will be shown in the account summary for the event but they are not passing through the council's bank account.

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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 - Ink and paper	000962	£90.17	£18.03	£108.20
Mr. E. Brady - Gas Bottle	000963	£22.85	£1.14	£23.99

Bills also approved at the meeting, using the CARD where necessary:-

Party Delights - 3 Rolls Table Covers	CARD	£37.27	£7.45	£44.72
Running Imp - Coronation Mugs	CARD	£251.28	£50.26	£301.54
Royal British Legion - 2 Coronation Flags	CARD	£28.72	£5.74	£34.46
HMRC - PAYE for Clerk	000964	£258.80	-	£258.80
Mrs. B. Theairs - Net Salary	000965	£833.20	-	£833.20
Mrs. B. Theairs - Clerk's Expenses	000966	£140.00	-	£140.00

Mark Woodcock has confirmed that his rate for the local grass-cutting will be £12 per hour for this year. This was approved.

The clerk has been researching the options for a replacement council lap-top within the budget of £850 suggested at the last meeting and will consult with Tom Bollan before requesting payment approval for the final choice.

c) Audit - These payments should conclude the transactions for the 2022/23 year. The clerk will complete the accounting records at the end of the month and it was confirmed that the documents would go to Sophy Warren for the Annual Audit.

The forms for the Annual Return and Exemption from External Audit are due shortly and will be processed in time for the next meeting.

1216 Any Other Business -

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed by the Chairman