

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 21st March, 2024, starting at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr. C Wilson, Mrs. T. Brady, and Mr. N. Gibson.

The District Councillor, Mrs. R. Yarsley, was present but the County Councillor, Mrs. P. Bradwell, was at another meeting. There were no members of the public.

In the absence of both the chairman and vice-chairman, Cllr Gibson conducted the meeting.

1269 **Apologies** - Cllrs. A. Platt and C. Fincham were away, Cllrs. D. Ward, D. Platts and H. Parker had work commitments, and Cllr. J. Stamp was unwell. **It was confirmed that these absences still left the minimum of 3 members in attendance for a quorum and the meeting duly proceeded.** The apologies were accepted and approved by the meeting.

1270 **The Minutes** of the meeting of 18th January had been circulated. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

1271 **Matters Arising :-** Cllr. Wilson had received a letter from the Scouts, thanking him for forwarding the news from the Royal British Legion concerning the amount raised at the Remembrance Service (*November; item 1215*). The Wragby Fire Brigade had also been informed and had asked if they might come again. This was approved.

1272 **Correspondence.**

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

Other items:-

Electoral Register A revised full version was received in February, with a further up-date showing one addition and one deletion.

Lincolnshire Environmental Crime Partnership has sent information and guidance on the prevention and reporting of Waste Crime - such as fly-tipping.

Details were to be forwarded to Cllrs. Gibson and Wilson.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Office has sent details of the next Parish Councils' Engagement Session. This will, again, be held online on Thursday, 27th June Cllr. Platts will not be available for this one but Cllr. Parker or Cllr. Brady may attend.

Signed by the Chairman

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Lincolnshire County Council is asking town and parish councils if they can identify any sites suitable for installing public charging points for electric vehicles.

They would also like “thoughts on sustainable travel more widely, and any infrastructure needs . . . which would help residents travel more sustainably - such as cycle stands, more footpaths, improved bus stops” etc.

It was suggested that the Village Hall car park might be a suitable site for a limited number of charging points if the County Council would contribute to the installation of solar panels to provide the electricity and if the charging fees could be used to support the Village Hall. The full e-mail would be forwarded to Cllr. Wilson for investigation.

District Cllr. Ru Yarsley has sent the result of the court action from the Hatton, Great Sturtby and Sotby campaign group which is opposing the development of a large Solar Farm on prime agricultural land. The original Planning Permission has been quashed and consent given for a Judicial Review. The full document is available should anyone wish to see it.

It was pointed out that the possible loss of prime agricultural land should be a major concern for everyone and that any project which might pose such a risk should be scrutinised with extreme care.

The clerk was instructed to prepare a statement of objection to such proposals for circulation to councillors. Once approved, it would be forwarded to Cllr. Yarsley for wider circulation as appropriate.

It was noted that East Lindsey has a scheme whereby households may ask for advice and assistance in taking their own steps towards greater energy efficiency.

South and East Lincolnshire Climate Action Network (SELCAN) are hosting a series of Webinars for businesses and other organisations to share information on working in a climate-friendly way. Session details and the registration link can be forwarded if there is any interest but there were no requests at the meeting.

Alford Town Council invited attendance at a meeting on 6th March, concerning the National Grid proposal to erect miles of huge pylons across Lincolnshire - simply because it is cheaper than putting the cables underground.

It was agreed to ask Alford Town Council for further information on the results of the meeting as this council was strongly opposed to the use of pylons in this way, particularly as the electricity authority had taken such pains to remove the overhead cables around this village, installing an underground system instead.

Anglian Water is preparing a new water pipeline to run from Wragby to South Willingham. The route appears to follow the line of the old railway track but there will be a need to close part of Station Road in South Willingham during most of April and a section of Panton Road, East Barkwith for two to three weeks in June. Further details and the map were to be forwarded to Cllr. Wilson and to any other councillors on request.

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Lincolnshire County Council has sent the notification of the amount to be paid under the grass-cutting agreement. It will be £1,372.98 for the 2024 season.

They have also sent a copy of the revised Code of Practice for verge mowing. Printed copies will be made available to Cllr. Wilson, for the Countryside file and to Mr. Mike Yates who now operates the tractor-mower.

1273 **Planning** -

a) Applications - The first had been circulated between meetings:-

N/044/00120/24 - Homestead, Hatton Road, Panton,

Erection of a two-storey dwelling with garage, workshop and summer house, including alterations to existing vehicular access and the extension to existing pond and provision of a bund; existing bungalow, garaging and stables to be demolished.

It had been agreed to support this project.

S/044/00376/24 - Hollingworth House, Willingham Road, East Barkwith,

Section 73 application to vary a number of conditions as imposed on planning permission S/044/00046/21 which was for 4 houses with associated garages, walling and fencing etc.

It was noted that the original permission had been granted without reference to this council's comment that bungalows would be better suited than houses on this particular site. It was, therefore agreed to accept the proposals without further comment.

b) Decisions:-

S/202/01399/23 - Low Farm, Louth Road, West Barkwith

Erection of a building to house stables, storage area, tack room and feed store and construction of a menage arena.

This application has been granted.

S/044/01883/23 - Barkwith House, Torrington Lane, East Barkwith

Extension to existing dwelling to provide a detached garage with integrated first floor office.

This application has been granted, subject to the same conditions as the permission for the main building - reference S/044/01565/23

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N/164/02337/23 - Land off Donington Road, South Willingham.

Section 73 application to vary conditions, nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, and 17, which were previously imposed on planning permission reference N/164/00946/22 for the change of use of land for recreational use as a cycle park, construction of associated cycle tracks/trails, erection of a building to be used as a visitor centre, provision of car parking and construction of a vehicular access. This application has been granted.

S/044/02210/23 - Fairacre, Willingham Road, East Barkwith

Application to build a detached bungalow behind the present one, which is currently being refurbished, together with vehicular access. This application has been **withdrawn**.

1274 Reports -

a) Village Hall - The hedge bordering the western end of the village hall car park has now been trimmed, with thanks due to Cllr. Stamp and Mr. E. Brady for their assistance.

There have been suggestions that the inside paintwork could benefit from a fresh coat and volunteers have come forward to help with this. Cllr. Wilson will be seeking supplies.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - There was no report on this occasion.

c) Play Area - Cllr. Wilson, as chairman of the Play Area Committee, has written to RoSPA to about last year's Annual Inspection Report and is awaiting a reply.

It is hoped to attract some new committee members in time for the meeting to arrange the dates for the Annual Spring Clean and other work. The silver birch tree is now too big for its position and may need professional attention to remove it. Cllr. Wilson is researching the costs for the task.

d) Countryside Committee - The leaf-blower has been obtained and is in secure storage between uses, for which it is proving very effective. Cllr. Wilson will be liaising with Mr. Chamberlin to arrange servicing of the tractor-mower as soon as possible, although it has already been out to begin this season's work.

The Parish Field needs a general clean-up and pruning once the ground dries out a little. The ponds are full and a lot of the flag irises have begun to show. At an appropriate time, they will be thinned out for the surplus to be replanted in the re-wilding areas.

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

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f) History Group - The Crossroads Inn has now re-opened and has new managers. Cllr. Wilson is waiting to hear which dates will be available for holding the monthly History Group meetings.

Mention was made of the problem of storage of the group's collection of village records and display exhibits and the long-term hope of an extension to the village hall to provide a suitable space. District Cllr. Yarsley offered to send details of a contact who may be able to advise on funding for such a project.

g) Special Events - D-Day 80th Anniversary, 6th June - A public meeting was held shortly after the last council meeting to assess the support for an event and it was agreed that there should be a street party, based on Torrington Lane, with various activities along the lane and an exhibition in the church.

There may be an additional display in the paddock if this can be made available and the event could then be opened to other 40's groups, particularly as the Woodhall Spa 40's Weekend will not take place this year. The event will be free to residents, with a charge to visitors to cover costs. The day will be followed by a 40's Dance in the Village Hall and music in the Pub.

The initial invitations have been issued, to be followed later by the 'ration books' which will serve as 'entry tickets'.

Orders have been placed for some decorations and table coverings, to supplement those stored after previous events, and an entertainer has been booked. A sub-committee has been established to co-ordinate the food arrangements and a pig has been donated for a hog-roast.

There is a list of volunteers for supervising the games and monitoring other activities.

District Cllr. Yarsley had offered some financial support from the District Councillors' Grant fund. The deadline was too short for the 2023/24 application but she would ensure that the 2024/25 form was sent as soon as possible as the event should be eligible under the grant criteria of contributing to community cohesion.

1275 Amenities -

War Memorial - The winter pansies are looking well in spite of the changeable weather. Seeds will be sown shortly to prepare for the summer planting.

1276 Highways -

Drainage - There is still an issue on Torrington Lane where excess water has been covering the road between the village green and the properties on the opposite side, affecting the frequency, number and depth of the potholes there. Cllr. Gibson reported lifting the BT cover to find the space filled with water. It was suggested that an old bottle well under the Green might be overflowing and this needs to be investigated.

Similar attention is also needed on Lincoln Road between The Orchard and The Poplars.

Signed by the Chairman

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- Speed limits - Mr. Tom Bollan has sent the latest report on the statistics from the speed camera and this was presented to the meeting. The camera is currently being recharged for repositioning as detailed on the report. The councillors present wished to record their thanks to Mr. Bollan for his continued work in this area.

- Road Conditions - There was further concern about the problem of large lorries causing serious difficulties on the narrower roads and the verges. It was noted that the only legally enforceable measure would be to have weight limits sign-posted on those roads. This might not prevent such traffic entirely but drivers whose failure to observe the restriction caused an incident would then face sanctions. It was agreed that this possibility should be explored.

1277 Finance -

a) Receipts -

The January payment from the Clothing Bank has brought £9.00 for the Village Hall Reserve and the February one another £22.50.

The Village Hall's peppercorn ground rent has also been received in the sum of 5 pence for each of the periods from November 2022/23 and 2023/24, a total of 10 pence.

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
East Lindsey - Green Bin Collection	CARD	£50.00	-	£50.00
Charles H. Hill - for the leaf blower	CARD.	£203.33	£40.67	£244.00
LALC - Annual Subscription	001002	£163.20	-	£163.20
<i>(Cheque no.001003 had been misdrawn and was destroyed)</i>				
Viking Direct - Paper & Inks, partly for flyers	001004	£190.02	£38.00	£228.02
PartyRama - Union Jack Bunting	CARD	£34.48	£6.90	£41.38
Party Delights - Table Coverings	CARD	£37.47	£7.50	£44.97
Amazon - Union Jack Table Covers	CARD	£23.32	£4.57	£27.99
Amazon - Hand-held Flags	CARD	£19.98	£4.00	£23.98
Amazon - Large Flags	CARD	£19.78	£4.20	£23.99

Also approved for payment -

Payee - For	Cheque no.	Net	VAT	Total
HMRC - for the clerk's PAYE	001005	£461.00	-	£461.00
Mrs. B. Theairs - Clerk's salary	001006	£1,287.50	-	£1,287.50
Mrs. B. Theairs - Clerk's Expenses	001007	£217.17	-	£217.17
<i>(includes VAT of £17 on two invoices which have been prepared for reclaiming)</i>				

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Also already approved for payment on receipt of invoice showing the precise charge -

Timber for Play Area kickboards	est.	£180.00
Parts for servicing tractor mower	est.	£50.00

Fuel and other grass-cutting costs as they arise.

c) Audit - These payments will complete the transactions for the current year and the necessary documents will be prepared for the internal auditor and for the Annual Return.

1278 Any Other Business -

Cllr. Wilson reported on new provisions related to protection against terrorism. The Government regulations now require the completion of a Terrorist Protection Assessment for the Village Hall. A similar risk assessment has to be prepared each year for the Remembrance Service due to the military aspects of the event. Cllr. Wilson will deal with the longer document for the Hall and notify both the council and the Village Hall Committee when it is complete.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

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Signed by the Chairman