

# East and West Barkwith Parish Council

## Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 17th March, 2022

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

There was one one member of the public in attendance.

Due to the rise of the Omicron variant, it had been agreed that there should be no meeting in January. Any urgent matters would be dealt with electronically, to be reported and ratified at this meeting.

1144. **Apologies for Absence.**

Cllrs. Ward had a work meeting and Cllr. Battell was away. Their apologies were accepted and approved by the meeting.

1145. **Minutes.**

The Minutes of the meeting of 18th November, 2021 were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

1146. **Matters Arising.**

There were no matters to discuss at this point.

1147. **Correspondence.**

General information and dates - already forwarded, or as listed for circulation. There were no comments from these.

Other items:-

**SeaFarers Charity** - The latest Newsletter arrived and was passed to Cllr. Brady initially, then to Cllr Fincham.

**East Lindsey** has sent the Electoral Register for 2022 followed by two up-dates totalling three creations and one deletion.

The **Queen's Jubilee Organisers** have acknowledged our intention to participate in the Beacon Project. There is an e-mail concerning a press release, but it was agreed that we will be preparing our own posters.

**Citizen's Advice Bureau** had sent another request for a donation. As before this has been declined on the grounds that we support local organisations and this was approved.

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Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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**Lincs. Wolds** had sent a copy of last year's local information leaflet. They have been informed that no changes will be needed for this year and this was confirmed.

**Walton's Facilities** sent an enquiry, via the web-site, as to whether they could tender for this year's 'Grounds Maintenance and Gritting' contract. They have been informed that the needs of this parish are small and arrangements are already in hand for the coming season. This was approved.

**LALC.** The Newsletter of 1st March was forwarded as usual. It had included reference to the Legal Topic Notes on 'Policing Your Area', including the use of speed signs, and on 'Basic Charity Law', with relevance to the Village Hall. Copies of these have been downloaded and can be forwarded on request. Cllr. Wilson requested copies of both documents and Cllrs. Brady and Gibson asked for the one on Basic Charity Law.

### 1148. **Planning.**

a) Applications - S/044/00046/21 - Hollingworth House, Willingham Road, East Barkwith - Erection of 4 houses with associated garages, fencing and walling, and vehicular access.

This was a revision of the earlier plans from February, 2021, which this council had opposed on the grounds of the density of the proposed development and potential problems with surface water drainage.

The new proposals have addressed the drainage issue but have made no other changes. The council agreed to repeat its opposition to the density of the development.

- S/044/02477/21 - The Old Rectory, Torrington Lane, East Barkwith  
Single storey extension and alterations to existing dwelling to provide additional living accommodation. The councillors approved the sympathetic attention to detail in preparing the plans to renovate this old house and were in full agreement to support the application.

- S/044/02481/21 - 1, Wold View, Willingham Road, East Barkwith.  
Two storey extension and porch addition to existing dwelling to provide additional living accommodation, the existing attached garage to be demolished. This was supported.

- S/044/02477/21 - The Old Rectory, Torrington Lane, East Barkwith  
This was an addition to the earlier application to allow replacement of the fence and gates. This was supported.

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- EZY/0003/22/TPA - The Old Rectory, Torrington Lane, East Barkwith  
Permission to remove or reduce a number of listed trees which are seriously overgrown and overbearing, in order to facilitate proposed work on the building (see applications above) and to admit more light. This was supported

- S/044/01545/21 - Warren House, Benniworth Road, Panton  
Listed Building Consent for additional repair work required in order to complete the project approved last November. This was supported

b) Decisions - S/044/02212/21 - Woodland Stables, Lincoln Road, East Barkwith  
Extensions and Alterations to existing dwelling to provide additional living accommodation. Granted

- S/044/00046/21 - Hollingworth House, Willingham Road, East Barkwith - Erection of 4 houses with associated garages, fencing and walling, and vehicular access. Granted

- S/044/02481/21 - 1, Wold View, Willingham Road, East Barkwith.  
Two storey extension and porch addition to existing dwelling to provide additional living accommodation, the existing attached garage to be demolished. Granted

- S/044/01545/21 - Warren House, Benniworth Road, Panton  
Listed Building Consent for additional repair work required in order to complete the project approved last November. The Building Consent has been granted.

### 1149. **Reports.**

a) Village Hall - The Parish Council's Hiring Agreement for 2022 was approved and signed by the chairman.

The Annual General Meeting of the Management Committee had been held on 29th November, followed by the Annual Committee Meeting. Cllr. Wilson was re-elected as Chairman of the Committee.

There was some disruption to the bookings for December and January due to concerns about the Omicron variant but the meetings of the regular groups have now resumed.

There will be a Committee meeting shortly to discuss the cleaning arrangements as Pat and John Atkin will soon be leaving the village. Cllr. Wilson wished to thank them for all their efforts during a difficult period and to wish them well in their new home.

The Defibrillator session will have to be postponed from the original date as the trainer cannot attend. She has offered a number of alternative dates and it was agreed to re-set the event for Sunday, 15th May.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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b) Neighbourhood Watch - There was no report on this occasion, other than the comment that there had been an intruder at one residence but the perpetrator had not been found.

c) Play Area - Cllr. Wilson wished to thank everyone who helped with the work of the Play Area. There will be a Committee meeting shortly to make arrangements for the annual cleaning. It is likely that more bark will be needed soon, as well as paint. The costings for these will be brought to the next council meeting.

d) Countryside Committee - Cllr. Wilson wished to thank Eric Brady and Steve Freer for their work in the Parish Field and with the 're-wilding' of certain areas. Thanks are also due to the new owner of the Old Rectory who has allowed the removal of a large quantity of snowdrops 'in the green' for transplanting into the Field and around the village.

The County Grass-cutting Agreement for 2022/23 has arrived and it was formally agreed that the clerk should sign and return it on behalf of the council. The sum to be received towards the end of the season will be £976.78. Mark Woodcock has confirmed that his rate for cutting the smaller areas of the village will remain at £11 per hour and it was agreed to accept his services.

The replacement for the Tractor-mower has been identified and Gavin at 'Green Stripe' is expecting it in his next delivery, due shortly. The final cost will be confirmed then.

Cllr. Scott had been asked about the possibility of establishing a Community Garden, where residents could work together to grow produce. It would need a suitable plot of ground, with room for expansion if the project is well supported, and a group of enthusiastic gardeners. It was pointed out that most of the local residents already had large gardens and may not need such a facility. However, it would be a way of increasing community involvement and newer gardeners could benefit from the knowledge of the more experienced ones. It was agreed, in principle, that the Council could support the idea. There is grant funding available for these gardens, subject to an acceptable plan being submitted. Cllr. Scott will assess the potential interest in the idea, to report at the next meeting, and will co-ordinate the project if a suitable plot can be found.

e) Dog Watch - There has been an incident where a well-meaning individual arranged for a registered company to apply a mole-deterrent to the mounds in the grass areas around the War Memorial.

The Chairman closed the proceedings while a resident explained how this had concerned several dog-owners who had thought the work had been organised by the Parish Council and were worried that the chemical used could seriously affect their dogs. He believed that the product used may have been Phostoxin which could kill if ingested and wanted action taken to prevent any repetition of the event. He also suggested a name for the instigator of the work.

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The Chairman re-opened the meeting and Cllr. Wilson reported that the Council had not been aware of the arrangements for the work and had certainly not authorised it.

However, investigation had established that the operation had been carried out by a recognised company which would hold the necessary licences for the products used and would be obliged to follow the strict regulations regarding the choice of chemicals to be used in public spaces. The pelleted product itself is toxic to moles through gaseous emissions into the tunnels. A dog is highly likely to be repelled by the smell around the outside well before it begins to dig into the hill. That smell may cause a stomach upset in a particularly sensitive dog but the effects are unlikely to be long-lasting.

After some discussion, it was agreed that, while the good intentions of the person responsible are appreciated, it would have been wiser for them to have contacted the council before making the arrangements. It was suggested that the clerk should write to explain this but, as the council cannot verify independently the identity of the person, there would be legal implications should the name suggested prove to be wrong. Therefore the matter must now be closed.

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

g) Jubilee Event - The community support for this has been established and an organising committee has been formed with the next meeting in about a fortnight's time. The celebration will take the form of a party based in the car park of the Village Hall, with children's activities in the Hall and Play Area. There have been many offers of practical help and sponsorship of some £600 so far towards the estimated cost in the region of £2,000 to mark this unique occasion.

It was agreed that the council would support the event and cover the costs remaining after accounting for sponsorship and donations. Providing the committee, currently chaired by Cllr. Wilson, worked under the aegis of the council, the insurance could be covered by the council's policy. This was approved.

### 1150. Amenities.

a) War Memorial - The winter pansies are still looking well and the seeds have been planted for the summer flowers.

Mr Andrews, the stonemason, has had personal difficulties but will be preparing a formal valuation of the Memorial as soon as he is able to visit. In the meantime, it has been up-rated to £75,000 for insurance purposes and this has been entered on the new draft of the Asset List.

b) Web-site - There was nothing to report on this occasion and, as the site is working smoothly, it was agreed to remove the entry from the regular Agenda.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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c) Bottle Banks - Many members of the community have been disappointed by the loss of the Bottle Banks but, now that the Crossroads is fully up and running, the landlord is able to allocate space for them again. The District Council had left the option open to request their return should a suitable location be found and it was agreed that the clerk should contact East Lindsey to make that request.

### 1151. Highways.

It is now some time since a speeding lorry tipped part of its load and severely bent the guard railing opposite the Crossroads. The footpath there has been closed off since then with the result that pedestrians are forced to walk in the road close to a dangerous bend. As there has been no sign of any attempts to remedy the situation, it was agreed that the council would try to contact the highways department directly and would also report the matter to Cllr. Bradwell, the County Councillor for this area.

### 1152. Finance.

- a) Receipts - From Community printing contributions - £14.90  
 From Village Hall - Ground Rent for 2 years - £00.10

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 Direct - Paper & Filing pockets	000908	£28.59	£5.72	£34.31
HMRC - PAYE for Clerk	000909	£237.80	-	£237.80
Mrs. B. Theairs - Net Salary	000910	£854.20	-	£854.20
Mr. Steve Champion - Grass-cutting	000911	£100.00	-	£100.00
Viking Direct - Inks for main printer	000912	£66.87	£13.37	£80.24
LALC - Subscription	000913	£51.36	£10.27	£61.63
East Lindsey - Green Bin Subscripton	000914	£50.00	-	£50.00

Also approved for payment now:-

Payee - For	Cheque no.	Net	VAT	Total
Barkwith Village Hall - Use in 2021	000915	£80.00	-	£80.00
HMRC - PAYE for Clerk	000916	£237.80	-	£237.80
Mrs. B. Theairs - Net Salary	000917	£854.20	-	£854.20
Mrs. B. Theairs - Expenses	000918	£91.75	-	£91.75

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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The annual hosting payment for the web-site will be due in early May at approximately £100. As agreed at the November Meeting, this has now been set for automatic renewal.

Expenses for the Jubilee Celebration will be brought to the next meeting but if anything needs urgent attention, the details will be circulated and the results reported to that meeting.

c) Precept - The January Meeting had been cancelled due to the prevalence of the Omicron variant. Consequently, the Precept figure had been agreed as a result of a series of e-mails in the sum of £9,300. This was notified to East Lindsey and has been acknowledged.

d) Audit Matters - The March transactions will complete the accounts for this year and they will be prepared for Audit as soon as the final bank statement arrives. They will be sent to Sophy Warren as before.

The Annual Return documents can be expected in late March or early April.

e) Asset List - The Asset List had been up-dated and circulated for comments prior to the meeting. The results were incorporated into the final version which was presented to the meeting and formally approved. It will be included with the Audit papers then the Land section will be posted on the web-site as is required.

### **1153. Any Other Business**

A raffle is being run at the Crossroads to raise funds towards the support of those escaping from the situation in the Ukraine. Donations of prizes would be welcome and the draw will take place following the bingo session on Saturday (19th). It was pointed out that the Council, itself, was not permitted to make any donations which would be used outside the UK, although this legal constraint did not prevent individual councillors from acting in a personal capacity.

It was agreed that the Crossroads staff and other helpers were to be congratulated on their community spirit and enterprise.

The chairman then adjourned the meeting to allow a resident to raise issues regarding sections of the village. He was concerned about the condition of the surface along Church Path, the numerous pot-holes in the area, and the possible drainage issues resulting from the development on Willingham Road, especially where the gullies are frequently blocked.

The meeting was re-opened for the councillors to agree that there should be another request for the roadside drains to be cleaned out properly and regularly. It was suggested that the issue of the pot-holes could be reported on the 'Fix My Street' web-site, stressing the depth of the hole - 90cm or more, which can be accessed by anyone at any time. The state of Church Path has already been reported to the County but they cannot prioritise it at present.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .