

Parish Council of East & West Barkwith with Panton Annual Parish Meeting 2023

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00pm. on May 18th, 2023 in the Village Hall.

Present:- The Chairman, the clerk and seven councillors were in attendance, as was the new District Councillor, Mrs. Ruchira Yarsley, but no other members of the community had chosen to come to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence** - These were received and accepted from Cllr. P. Brady, who was away to recuperate.
2. **Minutes** - The minutes of the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting were read by the clerk.
3. **Approval** - They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.
4. **Matters arising** - There were no matters arising.
5. **Chairman's Report** - Cllr. A.Platt, chairman of the Parish Council, gave his report, commenting on the full resumption of all activities in the Parish.

The year has seen the celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, held on 4th June, and, in September, her passing at the great age of 96. The Jubilee was also marked by the installation of a new commemorative clock enhancing the appearance of the outside of the Village Hall.

These events were followed by the start of the preparations for the Coronation of King Charles III which was held at the beginning of this month. The chairman extended his thanks to Cllr. Wilson, for leading the arrangements for these special occasions and to all those who helped in any way.

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The Countryside Committee finally received the new tractor-mower and this has greatly improved their ability to keep up with the verge-cutting and other grounds maintenance around the village.

The village group of the Neighbourhood Watch organisation has formed a link with other nearby parishes in order to share information and bring greater pressure on the authorities when necessary. The local group will continue to operate as usual and representatives are expecting to meet with the area members twice a year.

Finally, the chairman wished to record his thanks to all those who volunteered their help and expertise with the other committees and activities of the council and the Parish and to the councillors and clerk for their efforts over the past year.

6. General Discussion - District Cllr. Yarsley raised the question of a footpath between East Barkwith and Wragby to improve safety for pedestrians. It was explained that there had been a proposal for a cycle path between East and West Barkwith but that progress had long been stalled due to changing issues with the detailed planning and finance. In addition, in spite of the council's efforts, it had still not been possible to get repairs made to the footpath on Panton Road, where people were choosing to walk on the road rather than risk tripping over the damaged, overgrown and uneven surface of the path.

In considering the possibility of footpaths on both sides of the A157 within the East Barkwith boundaries, the suggestion was made of lowering the speed limit and / or extending the range of the limit now that there are more dwellings towards the outer boundary on the Lincoln Road. This has been discussed at a previous council meeting, following a query from a resident and the council is currently waiting for an indication of further support from the other residents nearby.

It was stated that some villages have the use of a 'speed gun' to help in calming the traffic, often sharing it with a neighbouring community. It was thought that the Neighbourhood Watch group would be best placed to gauge the level of support there might be from volunteers willing to be trained in operating the gun, whether it would be possible to co-operate with Wragby, and what financial support may be available.

With no further comments, the meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Signed by the Chairman