

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Annual Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 16th May, 2024, starting at 7.30pm, after the Annual Parish Meeting

Present: Mr. A. Platt, Mr. J. Stamp, Mr. C Wilson, Mr. D. Ward, Mrs T. Brady, Mr. C. Fincham, Ms. H. Parker and Mr. D. Platts.

The District Councillor, Mrs. R. Yarsley, and the County Councillor, Mrs. P. Bradwell, were not available to attend on this occasion.

Also present were two representatives from Hatton's Solar Farm group, an observer from a neighbouring parish who is hoping to establish a Parish Meeting there, and a GCSE student, with his mother, who is studying the workings of Local Government.

1279 **Election of Chairman** - Cllr. A. Platt was proposed and seconded. There being no other nominations, he was duly elected to serve a further term as Chairman. The relevant declaration was signed.

1280 **Election of Vice-Chairman** - Cllr. J. Stamp was proposed and seconded to serve a further term as Vice-Chairman. There being no other nominations, he was duly elected. The relevant declaration was signed.

1281 **Apologies** - Cllr. Gibson was away and his apologies were accepted and approved.

1282 **The Minutes** of the meeting of 21st March had been circulated. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman. There were no matters arising at this point.

1283 **Representatives:-** The Terms Of Reference notes for the council's committees were circulated so that councillors could assess the need for any amendments to be made before a formal approval at the next meeting.

The current list of Committees and Representatives was circulated.

It was agreed by all that the Clerk should continue to hold the position of RFO and Cllr. Wilson should continue as Safety Officer and Tree Warden.

Cllr. Gibson had sent word that he would be willing to serve on the Neighbourhood Watch Committee and it was agreed that this would be helpful.

The clerk will up-date the list accordingly, and make any changes to the Web-site entries.

There is also a list of volunteers. This is kept by the clerk, for insurance purposes, and by Cllr. Wilson, as co-ordinator of their activities, as some of the volunteers have asked that their contact details should not be made public. A summary form will be made available at the next meeting so that councillors may check that there are no omissions.

Signed by the Chairman

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1284 Correspondence.

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

Other items:-

Electoral Register East Lindsey has sent two up-dates, totalling 1 deletion and 4 creations.

East Lindsey has sent notice of an increase, from Monday, 13th May, in the Fixed Penalty charges for Fly-tipping, Littering, Fly-posting and failure to observe the requirements of the Household Duty of Care when using private waste carriers. Further details are given in the e-mail and Cllr. Wilson requested a copy.

East Lindsey's Home Energy Advice & Retrofit Team has launched a mobile advice van which can travel the district to reach more residents. The organisers have offered to visit the Village Hall Car Park if they can be notified of a time when there is likely to be the highest footfall in the vicinity. It was agreed that an afternoon, between 2 and 4pm would probably be the best time, or, possibly, an early evening. and the clerk would notify the organisers accordingly.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Office had sent details of the next Parish Councils' Engagement Session, to be held online on Thursday, 27th June. It was confirmed that Cllr. Parker will be logging in for this one.

Lincolnshire County Council has been carrying out a survey about the county's roads, the original e-mail for which was been forwarded. The deadline has now been extended to tomorrow, 17th May. Cllr. Fincham requested a re-sending of the e-mail and this will be arranged immediately after the meeting.

The Highways Department has sent a Temporary Traffic Restriction notice for Torrington Lane on Saturday, 8th June - for the Street Party.

Following from the last meeting:-

The County Council e-mail, asking for details of any sites suitable for installing public charging points for electric vehicles, was referred to Cllr. Wilson to consider use of the Village Hall Car Park, depending on what financial arrangements might be possible. He reported that the question will be put to the Village Hall Committee with a view to possibly incorporating the installation into the redevelopment project.

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Alford Town Council had invited attendance at a meeting on 6th March, concerning the National Grid proposal to erect miles of pylons across Lincolnshire - because it is cheaper than putting the cables underground. Alford has not responded to the clerk's request for further information but a recent newsletter from the County Council reports that they have commissioned an independent report into the impacts of the proposal to install 420 pylons, around 50m high, throughout the Lincolnshire countryside.

Cllr. Wilson is looking into possible reasons why pylons might be seen as preferable to underground cables and it was agreed to await further information and developments.

Hatton Solar Farm - A draft letter, setting out the council's opposition to the Hatton Solar Farm, was circulated after the last meeting but the responses from councillors had been mixed and it had been agreed to review the matter at this meeting.

The chairman adjourned the council meeting to allow the representatives from Hatton to explain the situation fully and to express their hopes that other councillors would join them in opposing a scheme which would take valuable agricultural land out of production for at least 40 years at a time when food security is a matter of great importance. There would also be consequences for other employment in tourism and leisure in the area due to the disruption of the visual amenities.

There is some indication that Lincolnshire could be a prime target for such installations and if this one succeeds, many more could follow. Following the Judicial Review, East Lindsey must now make a new decision on the planning application and the Hatton group are asking for the support of other parish councils in the area to urge that this, and any further applications should be refused if they are proposing to use high quality agricultural land rather than brownfield sites and rooftops.

The chairman then re-opened the council meeting and thanked the representatives for their presentation. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the clerk should draft a new letter, to be circulated for approval and sent to East Lindsey in time for the June meeting of the District Council's Planning Committee.

1285 Planning -

a) Applications -

S/044/00692/24 - Fairacre, Willingham Road, East Barkwith.

Erection of a bungalow and alterations to existing vehicular access.

It was agreed to support this application and the clerk will notify East Lindsey accordingly.

Signed by the Chairman

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b) Decisions -

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. This has been Granted.

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. This has been Granted.

Parish Emergency Plan - Cllr. Wilson had attended a seminar on the latest developments in the subject of Emergency Planning. It is now clear that the Parish Plan, while covering all the necessary eventualities, needs to be re-formatted in order to align with arrangements at District and County levels. This will have the advantage that, should the Parish plan be activated for any reason, the decisions and actions of those involved can be covered by the County insurance in the event of any issues arising, even if the County team is not involved locally.

Cllr. Wilson will be working on the necessary review.

1286 Reports -

a) Village Hall - It has been difficult to obtain quotes for certain aspects of the proposed refurbishments but talks with contractors for the whole project have brought more information plus contact details for a company which can help in sourcing funding for it. Cllr. Wilson is re-setting the proposals to include all the work on the kitchen and toilets, an extension to provide additional storage for History Group and Parish Council archives, solar panels and the work on the car park surface and a height barrier. If successful, the electrical supply would then allow the installation of the EV charging facility.

The hall is becoming known to potential users outside the immediate community, having recently hosted a staging point for a cycling event with some 800 riders passing through the village.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - A resident near the Parish Field has reported a break-in.

Another resident has complained that the reactive speed sign, currently on Louth Road, is partially obscured by a tree. It was explained that the current position was intended to measure the actual speeds of vehicles leaving the village, but still within the limited zone, without their reaction to a sign. These statistics would provide proof of the continuing problem of vehicles accelerating too soon. The sign will remain in its present position for a further two weeks, then moved back to a position on Lincoln Road.

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c) Play Area - Thanks are due to Cllr. Stamp and to Mr. N. Chamberlin for their efforts in helping with an early clean-up of the surfaces in the Play Area.

A reply was received to the letter regarding last year's inspection and the issues have now been resolved. Cllr. Wilson would like to arrange this year's visit for a time when he can be there to answer any immediate questions, rather than wait for a stylised report. This can be done, although at an additional cost, and the members approved the course of action.

As part of the full summer preparation, there will need to be orders for more bark and sand, as well as the timber and bolts already approved for the fencing work. This was accepted.

d) Countryside Committee - The grass has been growing fast under the current warm and wet weather conditions. Thanks are due to Mike Yates for his work in mowing the verges and to Mark Woodcock for undertaking extra cuts on the village green.

The re-wilding project is progressing well with more saved seed being sown.

There will shortly be a working session in the Parish Field with helpers to prune the bushes, clean weeds from the ponds and tidy the area. In the meantime, preparations are in hand for the work on the gate.

e) Dog Watch - Cllr. Platts reported that there is no current issue in East Barkwith but there has been evidence of fouling towards West Barkwith. He will arrange for additional signs to warn dog-walkers of the penalties of failing to 'pick up'. Consideration may be given to the installation of a dog-waste bin in the vicinity.

f) History Group - Regular meetings have resumed at the Crossroads, although not in May due to the proximity of the D-Day commemorations.

The proposals for the preservation and display of the 'mystery' chambers beneath the floor of St. Mary's Church have been incorporated in the main project for that part of the building and the fund-raising is on-going.

The draft proposals for the improvements to the Village Hall are to include a Heritage Room, for rotating displays of the various artefacts found by or donated to the community, plus storage space for items not on show, and the village archives. Photographs and other items are still arriving and will need a central location.

g) D-Day Commemoration - Cllr. Wilson reported that the preparations were going well. He wished to express his thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Stevenson for the donation of the hog for roasting, and to Mr. C. Bourn for donating the complimentary drinks.

The decorations are ready and confirmation has been received for closing Torrington Lane for the day. The applications have been made for the TEN notices to permit a bar on Torrington Lane during the day, and another in the Village Hall for the evening.

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1287 **Amenities** -

War Memorial - Cllr. Wilson reported that the posts have now been re-painted, thanks to a donation of paint from Mr. James Braithwaite. Appreciation is also due to Mr. Ned Chamberlin for his attention to the grass between the regular mowing days.

1288 **Highways** - There are still drainage issues on Torrington Lane, by the Village Green and outside Barkwith House. Potholes are being given attention from time to time, provided each and every single hole is reported separately on 'Fix My Street'. However, Cllr. Brady reported the strange situation of a hole outside her property in Torrington Land having been cleaned out and the edges prepared for filling and then simply left.

The issues will be referred to the County Councillor, Mrs. Bradwell for her attention and onward transmission to the highways department.

1289 **Finance** -

a) Receipts -

The first half of the Precept was paid into the bank at the beginning of April, by direct transfer in the sum of £6,250. The second half will be paid in September.

The March Clothing Bank payment for the Village Hall Reserve amounted to £12 but there was no payment in April, possibly due to the timing of the Easter weekend.

A donation for the Play Area has been received in the amount of £30.00.

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
Mike Yates - Mower Fuel	001008	£24.16	£4.83	£28.99
Mark Woodcock - Grass-cutting	001009	£108.00	-	£108.00
GoDaddy - Web-site renewal	D. Debit	£119.88	£23.98	£143.86
Mike Yates - Mower Fuel	001010	£53.80	£10.76	£64.56
East Lindsey - TEN Notices	001011	£42.00	-	£42.00
Also due -				
LALC - Training Fee	001012	£72.50	£14.50	£87.00
Hayeswater Ltd - Internal Audit	001013	£100.00	-	£100.00
<i>(Hayeswater Ltd. is the new trading name for S. C. Warren)</i>				
Clear Insurance - Insurance	001014	£687.52	-	£687.52
Mike Yates - Mower Fuel	001015	£54.15	£10.83	£64.98
Garden & Hire Spares - Mower Blades	CARD	£13.32	£2.66	£15.98

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And in June -

Further payments for the D-Day Commemorations, including foods and catering supplies, the singer, the DJ for the hall in the evening, display materials for the exhibition, extra printing ink and paper for the posters and tickets.

The clerk's Salary, for the first quarter of the year, will be due at the end of June. The total figure will be £1,748.50 with the PAYE tax element yet to be calculated.

Mark Woodcock had confirmed that his hourly rate for grass-cutting is £12.00 for this season and this will continue to be billed at intervals through the year. There will also be intermittent fuel bills and routine maintenance costs for the mowers, together with the insurance for the tractor-mower.

The Play Area fencing and surfacing will receive attention shortly, with the following costs:- Timber £265, Nuts and Bolts £51, Sand £64, Bark (was £270 in 2022).

It was agreed that all these payments were approved and should be made as they arise.

c) Audit Matters -

i) Asset Lists It was confirmed that there had been no changes to the Land Register and this was approved to be posted on the web-site for another year.

Copies of the General Register were circulated and they were approved for the council's records.

ii) Accounts The year-end accounts documents had been completed and referred to the Internal Auditor. Her report was received and presented at the meeting. Also circulated were the Bank Reconciliation and Analysis of the Reserves, together with the remaining documents which accompany the Annual Return. There were no questions arising from these and the documents were formally accepted.

iii) Certificate of Exemption The spreadsheets for the Income and Expenditure, to the end of the 2023-2024 financial year, were circulated. The Income sheet shows the Precept figure as £11,600 and all Other Income as £3,793, giving a rounded total of £15,393. The Expenditure figure totals £11,246. These figures had been entered on the Declaration of Exemption form, also circulated, for the Annual Return. Both are below the £25,000 limit and it was confirmed that the council meets the other conditions listed. It was agreed that the council is eligible for exemption and the form was approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman for submission to the External Auditor.

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iv) Annual Governance Statement - Copies were circulated and the numbered sections reviewed. It was agreed that the council met all the conditions in each area of responsibility. The item on trust funds was not applicable as there are none. It was agreed that the form should be so completed and it was signed by the clerk and the chairman.

v) Statement of Accounting - The entries had been completed and signed by the clerk and copies were circulated and reviewed. The figures on the Statement were confirmed as correct and the form was then signed by the chairman.

vi) Period of Inspection - Residents who wish to inspect the accounts and associated documents, will be able to do so by arrangement with the clerk. The period suggested and agreed will run from 10th June until 19th July. A notice will be placed on the board and another with the accounting documents on the web-site.

The clerk will submit the Certificate of Exemption and prepare the accounting documents for the Inspection.

1290 **Any Other Business** -

As part of the seminar on Emergency Planning, Cllr. Wilson had been informed of the need for communities to include Terrorist Protection in their arrangements. He will be looking into the implications of this for the Village Hall.

There being no other business and the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Signed by the Chairman