

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Final Report on the E-meeting held with the notional date of 19th November, 2020

Contributing: Mr. A. Platt, Mr. J. Stamp, Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. D. Ward, Mr. N. Battell,
Mrs. T. Brady, Mr. C. Fincham and Mr. N. Gibson.

It had been agreed at the July meeting that, due to the current Coronavirus situation, the council's business will continue to be conducted by e-mails, with a notional date for the confirmation of the details.

1071 Cllr. Breckons is currently on approved leave of absence but is being kept informed.

1072 The Report of the meeting of 24th September, 2020 was accepted for formal approval at the next physical meeting.

1073 There were no matters arising for immediate attention.

1074. **Correspondence.**

Newsletters and other general communications have been forwarded on arrival. There have been no comments on these.

Also:-

Lincolnshire County Council has sent an enquiry concerning the trees on the village green. This was acknowledged and referred to Cllr. Wilson for an up-date on the current situation - see item 1076d) Countryside.

1075. **Planning.**

a) Applications:-

S/044/01843/20 - Land off Lincoln Road, East Barkwith (old garage site)

Erection of 2 detached houses and detached garage block with annexe over and vehicular access.

The full details were circulated and it was agreed to approve the application.

S/202/01525/20 - The Orchard, Louth Road, West Barkwith

Extension and alterations to provide boot room, kitchen/diner/snug and open entrance porch.

The full details were circulated and it was agreed to approve the application.

S/044/02043/20 - Warren House, Benniworth Road, Panton

Change of use, conversion of, extension and alterations to existing barn to provide 2 holiday lets.

The full details were circulated and it was agreed to approve the application.

S/202/02158/20 - The Orchard, Louth Road, West Barkwith

Erection of workshop/domestic store, extension of existing workshop for office & wc.

The full details were circulated and it was agreed to approve the application.

Signed by the Chairman

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b) Decisions:-

There were no new decisions to report.

1076. Reports

a) Village Hall - Technically, the hall is now open to accept bookings (subject to the prevailing conditions at the time), but the regular users have decided that the rules in place before the current lockdown do not allow them an effective meeting and are waiting for (hopefully) better conditions in the Spring.

East Lindsey has made an election booking for early May but the only other enquiry has been for Table Tennis sessions, which is under discussion.

In the meantime, the broken window has been repaired and the new heaters have been obtained and installed in the main room. Options for the small room and adjustments to the kitchen are being explored.

The Committee had agreed that the full AGM should be postponed this year but the essential business items for this, and the subsequent Annual Committee Meeting, have been conducted through e-mails. The Committee will remain unchanged for the 2020/2021 year.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - There has been a wide-ranging increase in cyber-crime and telephone scams. Residents are advised to be extremely wary of unexpected telephone calls purporting to be from banks, insurances companies, etc., and of e-mails from unrecognised addresses, even if the name is familiar. In all such cases any automatic connections and e-mail 'links' should be avoided and a separate contact made using details already known.

The Police have been making speed-checks in the village and are planning a day when a vehicle will be parked near the shop for residents to visit and discuss any concerns they might have.

c) Play Area - It was agreed, some years ago, that the funds remaining from the Youth Club, amounting to £351.95, should be absorbed into the Play Area capital reserve until such time as the Youth Club re-opened or an alternative but similar need arose. It has been suggested that this money could be used for the purchase of a table tennis table to be used in the Village Hall (if the proposal is for a Table Tennis Club, rather than a few individuals seeking simple 'practice time'), and also by the community when requested. Cllr. Wilson is making further enquiries into the possible arrangements and would welcome any offers of a table which is now surplus to requirements, but it was generally felt that the money could be used in this way if the arrangements are satisfactory.

This was agreed, subject to confirmation that there would be a properly constituted club.

Cllr. Wilson is looking into the possibility of moving the fence-line closer to the Village Hall to create more space to provide additional activities as requested by the children, including stepping 'stones' made from the logs of the Village Green oak tree when it is felled. Concerns were raised as to the impact of the fence on the outlook from the village hall, privacy for village hall users, and the desirability of keeping the play area separate. These will be discussed with the Village Hall Committee.

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Mr. D. and Mr. M. Stephenson have kindly donated some large concrete pipes which can be installed for the children to play on and walk and crawl through - another of their requests. A proposed layout has been drafted and was sent to RoSPA for their comments, resulting in a couple of recommendations which have been incorporated into the final plan. This can be forwarded to councillors on request. It is hoped to complete the work around the Christmas holidays. Some funds may be required but local contractors are being approached for sponsorship. Concerns were raised as to any safety issues with the pipes and the possibility that the log 'stepping stones' could become slippery when wet. These will be taken into consideration as final preparations are made.

d) Countryside Committee -

The diseased Oak Tree on the Village Green will be felled shortly. The letter from the County Council referred to the overhanging branches of the remaining Oak and Alder and the Tree Preservation Officer at East Lindsey has confirmed that these can be trimmed at the same time.

In the Parish Field, new marker posts have been obtained to replace the damaged ones and the location notice board will require a new base. A donation of a small number of yew trees has been offered for planting in the field and a further donation of some butterfly bushes is available.

Mr. and Mrs. Atkin have given a sack of daffodil bulbs to be planted around the village.

The tractor-mower continues to struggle and there may be an issue with one of the small mowers. An up-date is needed as to which mowers are used in which areas and what problems are encountered as this would help to focus a discussion on how to prepare for the next season's work. Cllr. Wilson is seeking funding for a replacement tractor-mower. He will also need to replace the mower used in the churchyard and is looking at the end-of-season sale prices at B & Q. The Church Committee had made a donation to the grass-cutting fund for the mowing in the churchyard and this still has a balance of some £200 which could be used for this purchase.

The suggestion has been made to use part of the Grass-cutting reserve towards the purchase of the tractor-mower and this met with cautious approval, subject to the final price. The figures for this will be checked and circulated for further consideration.

The additional Owl and Bat boxes (already approved) will be started when the lockdown situation eases and the wood can be obtained.

e) Dog Watch - There have been repeated complaints from a resident concerning dog-waste on footpaths. The areas have been checked and more notices obtained from East Lindsey and posted. Nothing further can be done without information to identify the irresponsible owner, who can then be reported to East Lindsey. The resident has been informed of this and East Lindsey has suggested that any more complaints should be referred to them. East Lindsey also said that their representative was impressed with the overall cleanliness of the areas visited to check the situation.

f) History Group - Members of the group are continuing to keep in touch by e-mails, while working on their own projects. A meeting by e-mail is in preparation.

Cllr. Wilson has received all the notes, letters and accounts of the Hainton Tennis Club, which ran from 1927 to 1956. Many members were from the Barkwith villages so, as there is no one in Hainton able to keep them safe, they will be lodged with the History Group for the time being.

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An enquiry through the web-site has brought contact with Mrs. Caroline Swash. She is preparing a biography of her father, a stained glass artist who created the 'Flight Into Egypt' window in St. Mary's Church and is seeking more information. Mrs. J. Perkins is liaising with her.

1077. Amenities.

a) War Memorial - The winter pansies have now taken the place of the marigolds in good time for the Remembrance Sunday Service, which was in a very limited form this year due to the Covid restrictions.

In order to maintain the social distancing required, formal attendance at this year's Service was limited to those needed for the reading of the Service with the names of the fallen, and the placing of the wreaths. Residents were informed that if they chose to come and witness the Service they must follow the rules on distancing and socialising. This was in accordance with guidelines from the government and from the Royal British Legion.

The Scouts and Guides could not be present but had made their contributions in the form of painted commemorative Poppy Stones which were placed around the plinth of the Memorial. Cllr. Wilson wished to express his thanks to Rev. P. Fuller for conducting the Service, Mr. and Mrs. T. Bollan for reading the names, Mr. R. Copeland for playing the Last Post, Mrs. B. Theairs for obtaining the wreaths, Sgt. K. Chamberlin (RAF) and Miss L. Bollan for laying them, the Scouts and Guides for painting the stones and Mrs. T. Dolling for placing them on behalf of all the members of the units.

It should be noted that although a number of residents did attend, all were meticulous in observing the Covid rules, as were the occupants of one passing car, who stopped their vehicle to stand outside it and observe the Service. Several other cars slowed right down as they passed in order to show their respect.

There have, again, been many compliments on the appearance of the War Memorial, with thanks to Cllr. Wilson for all his hard work in maintaining the area.

b) Web-site - GoDaddy has made its proposed adjustment to the e-mail system associated with the web-site. This does not affect this year's renewal price of £119.88 (plus recoverable VAT), which has now been paid and runs until mid-November of next year. Cllr. Battell has expressed some concern at the cost of the e-mail package in light of the extent to which it is actually used and this was discussed with Mr. T. Bollan. There will be further consideration as to the need to keep the package before its next renewal.

There has been a recent enquiry, through the History section of the site, regarding one of the stained glass windows in the church, and this was forwarded to the History Group for a response.

c) Quantum Fibre - The measures agreed in the last meeting will be taken as soon as time constraints permit.

d) Crossroads - It appears that the Pub may now have been sold to a father and daughter team who have experience in the trade and intend to run it as a pub. The current lockdown will allow them time to deal with necessary work inside before opening.

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Councillors wanted to express their welcome and good wishes for the future and it was agreed that the clerk should write a letter as soon as the new arrangements are definite.

1078. Highways.

The speed sign was ordered from Unipart Dorman and the package has now arrived and is waiting to be checked.

There may still be times when there is excess water on the footpath on Panton Road. The water encourages the growth of weeds in the broken surface of the footpath and is retained in the ground, making mowing more difficult. Cllr. Stamp offered to check this and, if necessary, the Highways Department will need to be reminded that it is still waiting for their attention.

Cllr. Gibson wished to draw attention to the condition of the Village Sign on Panton Road and asked whether this could be improved along with any of the others where necessary. It was agreed that the signs should be checked and the condition reported to Highways if their attention is needed.

1079. Finance.

a) Receipts - Mrs. & Miss. Clark - Donation for Play Area £25.00

b) Bills - The following items had been approved for payment on receipt of invoice:-

Payee - For	Cheque no.	Net	VAT	Total
LALC - Newsletter subscription	000875	£4.50	-	£4.50
George Lodge - Tractor Belts	CARD	£19.22	£3.84	£23.06
Steve Campion - W. Barkwith verges	000876	£200.00	-	£200.00
Mark Woodcock - Grass-cutting	000877	£44.00	-	£44.00

Approved by the meeting:-

There are no other bills currently awaiting approval

Further payments - identified or expected:-

December - Clerk's Salary & HMRC deduction - £860.55 and £231.45 respectively

As invoiced - Owl and Bat box materials - from grant - up to £328

Play Area maintenance tasks - up to £150

Parish Field maintenance tasks - up to £150

It was agreed that these and the further on-going payments should continue to be made at the due date or on receipt of invoice, in all cases using the CARD if there was no alternative.

c) Mid-year Audit - The account sheets and other documents for the first half of the year were completed and submitted to Sophy Warren for Audit. In the meantime, the accounting spreadsheets are being circulated along with the bank reconciliation and explanation of the reserves. These were accepted by the councillors.

The Audit papers have now been returned, with no queries or matters requiring attention.

Signed by the Chairman

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d) Precept - East Lindsey has notified a deadline of Monday, 18th January for receipt of the Precept request for 2021 / 2022. This is a little earlier than would be possible if the January Council 'Meeting' were to be held on its due date of Thursday 21st.

The choices for this council were:-

EITHER

a) Bring forward all the business of the January E-Meeting by one week to the 14th - a move which could put extra pressure on everyone to get all the e-mails back and forth in time.

OR

b) Hold an E-Meeting, set for January 14th, to deal first with the Precept then any urgent business, and postpone other matters to the March meeting, to be set for the first or second week, rather than the third. This would avoid the pressures without major disruption to the spacing of the meetings and, as usual, anything urgent could be referred to councillors as and when the need arises.

The majority agreed that the meeting should be brought forward to a nominal date of January 14th, but limited to the discussion of the precept and any other pressing business. Routine reports and other non-urgent matters would wait until the following meeting in early March.

The clerk requested that if any councillor became aware of a forthcoming expense to be considered for inclusion in the precept figure, she should be informed, with details, as soon as possible so that the topic can be incorporated into the discussion documents.

1080. Any Other Business.

Cllr. Gibson had asked whether the council would consider arranging another skip (as in previous years) as the on-going restrictions have led to a continued reduction in accessibility to the household recycling centres. Most councillors had reservations about this on the grounds that:-

The 'click and tip' arrangement for the household waste centres is now working more smoothly,

The skip would need supervision as it has been abused and over-filled in the past, to the extent that a second skip had to be arranged to complete the clearance, at additional cost to the council.

The cost is likely to be in excess of £150 for a standard size skip and this would have to be added to the precept on top of any other charges to be considered.

The clerk will check on the precise costs and report this as part of the Precept Preparation.

It was agreed that, due to the latest restrictions, the meetings for January and, probably March, would again be conducted through e-mails.

There was no further business.

Signed by the Chairman