

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 17th November, 2022, starting at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr. A. Platt, Mr. J. Stamp, Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. C. Fincham, and Ms. H. Parker.
There were no others present on this occasion.

1186 **Apologies** - Cllr. Gibson was away, Cllr. Ward was working, Cllr. Brady is suffering a mobility issue and awaiting surgery and Cllr. Scott had a personal emergency. These were accepted and approved by the meeting.

1187 **The Minutes** of the meeting of 29th September had been circulated. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

1188 **Matters Arising** - Cllr. Wilson referred to item 1183 from the last meeting, concerning the police presence following the council's submission of the report from the speed camera. He wished to add that of those escorted to the car park, some may have received warnings but three were formally booked. He has requested information as to the outcome of these.

He also referred to the comments made in response to the resident's questions about the new tractor-mower and pointed out that the council had held the grass-cutting contract from the county authorities since 2000. The county paid a specified sum, in line with that paid to their own contractors, to cover the costs of the work and the equipment to complete it. Over the years, the council's costs had been lower than the County allowance and a surplus had accrued which had to be reserved for the care and maintenance of the verges and public areas. It was this reserve which had provided for the purchase of the new mower, without any charge being made on the precept.

1189 **Correspondence.**

Newsletters, general information and dates - These have been forwarded on arrival, as have any Play Equipment catalogues.

LALC's notification of an increase in the subscription rates was noted for precept-planning.

It was confirmed that no action need be taken on the deadline for registering Public Rights of Way as the registrations for this council's area had been up-dated some years ago and there was nothing to add.

Other items:-

Lincolnshire Transport sent details of the Wragby roadworks and closures which have now been completed.

There has since been a warning of the closure of part of Torrington Lane for patching works from 5th to 8th December.

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Anglian Water has now prepared an on-line consultation regarding the proposed siting and design of the new Lincolnshire reservoir. The initial e-mail was circulated and the survey can be found at www.lincsreservoir.co.uk.

Alford Storage and Textile Company is an organisation providing textile collection facilities as a means of fund-raising for communities. They empty the container once a week and pay 30p per kilo (£300 per tonne) each month for all the clothing and shoes collected. This could provide additional revenue for the council's Village Hall support if the members will agree to the siting of the container in the car park. Funds could be paid directly to the Village Hall or to the council (as land-holder) and saved in the council's reserve for Village Hall projects as any bills paid from this would be eligible for reclaiming the VAT.

It was agreed that, subject to any comments from the Village Hall Committee after next week's meeting, the council would make the necessary arrangements and the funds would be added to the council's account in the reserve for Village Hall support.

1190 **Planning** - a) Applications - There has been no further information on the application for the cycle track at South Willingham.

b) Decisions - There were no decisions to report on this occasion.

1191 **Reports** -

a) Village Hall - The recent Christmas Craft Fair went well, bringing a total of £160 to be shared equally between the Village Hall funds and Rheumatoid Arthritis reasearch. Thanks are due, once again, to Elizabeth Eden for organising it all.

The AGM is to be held next Monday evening, 21st November, to be followed by the Annual Committee Meeting. The subject of the Clothing Bank will be presented to the committee.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - The Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators had held a meeting, just before the council meeting, to discuss the arrangements for the next few months. With the approval of Cllr. Wilson, as chairman of the Village Hall Committee, it was agreed that they should hold their next meeting independently of any council meeting but could use the village hall without a direct charge as part of the council's business for the benefit of the community. The position could be reviewed once the group was fully established.

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c) Play Area - Cllr. Wilson reported that there will shortly be a meeting of the sub-committee. He is hoping to relinquish the position of chairman but will remain on the committee as the council's representative.

He wished to record his thanks to Ned Chamberlain and Peter Thornally for their help with the work on the seats and the general tidying up of the area.

d) Countryside Committee - Cllr. Wilson thanked to David Garrad for the donation of seeds and plants to be established in the re-wilding projects. There is room for more spring bulbs whenever donations are available.

The forms have arrived to register for next year's Grass-cutting Agreement. There is one change in that, from 2023 onwards, the system will operate on a continuous rolling basis so it will no longer be necessary for the council to sign up each year. The agreement can still be terminated by this council or the county council giving the appropriate notice. The forms were approved and the clerk will see that they are completed and returned.

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

f) History Group - Meetings are expected to resume next year, hopefully at the Crossroads if it is operating.

1192 Amenities -

a) War Memorial - A sign has been placed to explain that there will be no winter planting this year while the ground lies fallow to regain strength. Mr. Les. Robinson has offered some well-rotted farmyard manure to help in this and fresh seeds, rather than those locally saved, will be obtained for the next planting.

The Remembrance Service was very well attended. Fewer local residents went to the village hall afterwards for the refreshments but the collection there raised £60 for the Royal British Legion. This will be paid into the bank and the clerk will send a cheque in the next few days.

Thanks are due to Barbara Theairs for arranging for the wreaths and setting up the display of the fallen, Tammy Dollan for organising the attendance of the Scouts and helping with the display, Yvonne Wilson, Elizabeth Eden and Brenda Cartledge for serving the refreshments and clearing away, Phillip Wraight and Brian Cartledge for assisting with traffic control to protect those attending, Ned Chamberlain for helping to set up and clear away and for laying the adult wreath, Phoebe Rowson for laying the children's wreath, Tom and Jenna Bolland for reading the names of the fallen and Paul Fuller for providing the sound system and conducting the service.

Cllr. Fincham wished to add his thanks to Cllr. Wilson for the addition of the soldier silhouettes to the outdoor setting and the overall management of the event.

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b) Post Office and Shop - As the proprietor of the business, Cllr. Ward has been involved for some months in the negotiations with the Post Office and Royal Mail authorities on their future plans. He is attending meetings this evening and during next week and these may provide some clarification as to the future of small post offices and the effect on attached village shops. He has requested that the topic of Barkwith's shop should be on the agenda for the next meeting and this was agreed.

c) Jubilee Clock - This has now been installed and connected, with thanks due to Cllr. Stamp for his assistance in erecting it. There have been no installation costs so it was agreed that the accounts for all the Jubilee activities could now be closed.

1193 **Highways** - Cllr. Wilson commented on the remarks made by the resident at the end of the last meeting and confirmed that there was no flood water issue on Panton Road and had not been for some time.

He had been looking into an up-date on the costings for the village 'gates' and signs which had been suggested as part of the traffic calming measures. Prices for the manufactured products had risen sharply to over £20,000. However, there might be the possibility of obtaining suitable recycled plastic components to make a similar set locally. He will be investigating the sources of materials and likely costs.

1194 **Finance** -

a) Receipts	- The children's Hallowe'en event for the Play Area raised	£36.00
	The Collection for the Royal British Legion amounted to	£60.00

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
Eric Brady - Mower fuel	000949	£27.59	£5.52	£33.11
Mark Woodcock - Grass-cutting	000950	£132.00	-	£132.00
Eric Brady - Mower fuel and Oil	000951	£45.18	£9.04	£54.22

Bills also approved at the meeting:-

HAGS - Play Area replacements	000952	£662.16	£132.43	£794.59
Royal British Legion - Collection	000953	£60.00	-	£60.00

and the clerk's salary payments which are due in December.

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c) Signatories - The forms were submitted in early October. There was then a further query which was resolved so confirmation is expected shortly of the removal of the name of former Cllr. Battell from the list of approved signatories.

d) Audit - The documents for the mid-year audit were completed and sent to Sophy Warren. They have now been returned with no issues reported. The details of the Bank Reconciliation and Reserves were circulated but there were no questions and the documents were accepted along with the audit report.

e) Precept - Once the work resulting from this meeting has been completed, the clerk will begin compiling the summaries for the final assessment of the Precept for 2023 / 2024. Councillors are asked to send in details of any special requirements, such as the celebrations for the forthcoming Coronation, so that these can be taken into account in preparing for the discussions at the next meeting.

On the subject of the 3-yearly salary review, the clerk presented details of the NJC standard pay-scales for council employees and the hours currently needed for the regular work. After some discussion, it was agreed that the hourly rate would be increased to £13.45, in accordance with the relevant point on the pay-scale. In addition, the hours ought to be increased from 7 to the 10 per week shown in the clerk's records as the average time needed over the past year for the regular tasks.

1195 **Any Other Business** - It was agreed that the topic of the village shop should be tabled for the next meeting, under the Amenities section.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed by the Chairman