

# East and West Barkwith Parish Council

## Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 23rd November, 2023, starting at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Mr. J. Stamp, Mr. C Wilson, Mrs. T. Brady, Mr. C. Fincham,  
Mr. N. Gibson, and Mr. D. Platts.

The District Councillor, Mrs. R. Yarsley, and the County Councillor, Mrs. P. Bradwell, were also in attendance and there was one member of the public.

1249 **Apologies** - Cllr. Platt was unwell and his role as Chairman was taken by Cllr. Stamp. Cllr. Parker had been called into work and Cllr. Ward had a business meeting. These apologies were accepted and approved by the meeting.

1250 **The Minutes** of the meeting of 21st September had been circulated. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

1251 **Matters Arising :-** The meeting was opened for comments from the public and up-dates from the District and County Councillors. All these referred to the items listed under Highways on the agenda so the information will be included under those headings. The meeting then continued.

1252 **Correspondence.**

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

Other items:-

**Electoral Register** There have been no up-dates since the last meeting.

**Lincolnshire County Council** sent information on the roadworks on the route into Wragby. These are requiring full closure of the A157 from the junction with Silver Street to the roundabout until 12th November and traffic-light controls for single carriageway operation from then until 22nd December.

**East Lindsey** have been up-dating their information on local services and facilities for the Local Plan. Their draft spreadsheets have been completed for the three vilages of this parish with entries showing the shop and post office, the village hall and play area, St. Mary's Church and graveyard, and the bus service. The pub is listed but the clerk has informed them that it is temporarily closed. The garage at West Barkwith is not listed as it no longer offers refuelling facilities. They have been told that it does still operate for other services. The lists can be forwarded if required.

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Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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East Lindsey also sent information on its review of Polling Districts and arrangements. There are no changes affecting this area but it is worth noting that the Boundary Commission has been working on a revision of the Parliamentary Constituencies. If this is adopted, This parish will be reallocated from Gainsborough, with Edward Leigh as the current Member of Parliament, to Louth and Horncastle, with Victoria Atkin.

The first copy of **Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance Newsletter** was forwarded on arrival in early October. They are offering talks on their work for the community. It was agreed that this might be of interest to the WI and, possibly, to the Heneage at Hainton. The e-mail will be forwarded.

The **Keep Britain Tidy** group has announced a Buy Nothing New Month to take place in January, 2024. There is a link in the e-mail which can be forwarded if anyone wishes to become more involved in the campaign.

**Lincs Police** have sent an invitation to an on-line Parish Council Engagement Session with the Police and Crime Commissioner. The details were forwarded and Cllr. Parker has agreed to represent this council. The necessary registration for the session has been completed. Cllr. Platts has also registered for attendance.

An e-mail had been received from a representative of the **National Grid** reporting a complaint concerning the boundary hedge which runs alongside the strip of land leading to the electricity sub-station. This had been referred to Cllr. Wilson for attention by the Countryside Committee and the Village Hall Committee. Cllr. Wilson reported that he had been in touch with the householder and was arranging to deal with the requested trimming early in the New Year. National Grid will be informed that the matter is in hand.

**Three survey questionnaires** have been received since the last meeting:-.

**Leisure and Open Spaces** was issued by the combined group of East Lindsey, Boston and South Holland District Councils. Councillors' folders contained copies of the form, with entries completed as far as possible. They were asked to check them and add any other comments, then leave the document in the folder for the clerk to collate the results to make a collective response on the on-line form.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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**Lincolnshire Wolds AONB** is preparing the next stage of its Management Plan and is seeking input from local groups and organisations. Again, Councillors' folders contained copies of the form, with entries completed as far as possible, for checking and leaving in the folder for collection, collation and on-line completion.

The **Sub-regional Strategy Consultation** came from the group of three district councils. The initial e-mail was forwarded to everyone on 18th October but there were no replies as to whether the questionnaire would be completed by councillors individually, by answers sent to the clerk for a collective response, or by discussion at a meeting. Paper copies of the questionnaire were issued at the meeting for Councillors to take and answer those questions thought to be relevant. The clerk asked for the forms to be returned by Monday, 27th November so that the council's collective response could be made on-line by the specified date.

### 1253 **Planning** -

a) Applications - All circulated between meetings:-

S/044/01883/23 - Barkwith House, Torrington Lane, East Barkwith

This application is in addition to that for the main building and is for a garage with an office above, to be situated in a secluded part of the site. It was agreed to support the application but with the proviso that sufficient care should be taken when working around the trees on the site and that the building would look better if constructed of red brick, recycled if possible, in order to blend with the surroundings,

S/202/01872/23 - 1, Westholme House, Louth Road, West Barkwith

Application for extensions to the existing dwelling to provide additional living accommodation and the erection of a garden store. All details were circulated by e-mails. The councillors found no issues for comment and it was agreed to support the application.

S/044/01565/23 - Fairacre, Willingham Road, East Barkwith

Extension and alterations to existing dilapidated dwelling so that it is again fit for occupation. This was a revision to the earlier version, now showing a pitched roof to the upper floor of the extension. It was agreed that this was a definite improvement to the original design and should be approved by the council.

b) Decisions:-

S/044/01565/23 - Fairacre, Willingham Road, East Barkwith

Extension and alterations to existing dilapidated dwelling so that it is again fit for occupation. This has been granted based on the revised design showing the pitched roof to the upper floor of the extension.

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S/044/01416/23 - The Beeches, Benniworth Road, Panton

Application for an extension of one Dwelling, Detached Annexe, Music Room and Pottery Studio on site of existing building and outbuilding to be demolished.

This has been granted, subject to a number of conditions concerning protection of wild-life, the use of the proposed annexe and the installation of charging facilities for an electric vehicle.

### 1254 Reports -

a) Village Hall - The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday, 31st October, and was followed by the Annual Committee Meeting. As a result of these, the Management Committee membership is now down to 3 elected members and 5 representatives of the users, with the officials serving a further term. It would appear that, although there are people willing to help with specific events, the obligations relating to trusteeship are discouraging them from serving on the Committee and this is a long-standing situation. The solution would be for control to revert to the Parish Council which is currently the Custodian Trustee but, if such a proposal is acceptable to the council, it would work more effectively without the conditions of the original Trust document. Achieving this would require the intervention of a solicitor.

The members present agreed that the proposal should be accepted by the council and that the consultation with a solicitor should be recommended to the next meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - The Chairman reported an incident from the previous night when white paint was thrown over a car parked in Torrington Lane and asked whether there was any private CCTV installation which might have recorded it. There was also a paint marking on a gate post which could be a sign for later unwanted attention. Residents are asked to watch for any similar marks on their own property and remove them quickly.

Another incident occurred on Willingham Road concerning offers of 'drive work' and there was a further occasion when two or three men seemed to be 'checking over' the new houses which are not yet occupied.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's office is organising a series of on-line Engagement Sessions for local councils to learn more of the forthcoming proposals on Police work and to raise their own issues. Cllrs. Parker and Platts will be attending on behalf of this council.

c) Play Area - A committee meeting had been set for last week but could not go ahead due to a number of members being unable to attend. A new meeting will be arranged shortly, to include an invitation for new members. It was suggested that such a meeting might be held shortly before the start of a council meeting.

d) Countryside Committee - The re-wilding projects continue to develop but there is currently some difficulty in sourcing hedge plants for the 'corridor' linking the sections.

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Two replacement belts have been obtained for the smaller mower and this can now be used in sweeping up loose leaves. Those which cling to the road will still need the extra power of the main sweeper from East Lindsey.

Following what is expected to be the final cut of the season, the larger mower has been given a pre-winter check to see what will be needed to prepare for an early spring service. These items will be costed and notified at the next meeting.

For those areas inaccessible to the mower, a leaf-blower would be useful and a Stihl model could be bought for just over £200 (plus VAT). Since the areas involved include the Churchyard as well as other parts of the village, it was thought that the expense could be shared between the remaining churchyard funds held by the council, and the council's own resources. This was approved and the purchase can be made as soon as the figures can be confirmed.

e) Dog Watch - Cllr. Platts reported that there were no new issues at this time.

f) History Group - While the Crossroads Inn is closed the meetings are being held by invitation of Tricia and Eric Brady at their home, although the October meeting was sparsely attended. The next meeting is likely to be in February, after which there could be a request for spending on stationery supplies.

g) Special Events - D-Day 80 - 6th June - There will be no arrangements for a Beacon for this event as the last construction has been dismantled. It is also difficult to balance the best time for people to attend a weekday evening event with the level of daylight remaining which detracts from the spectacle.

It was agreed to hold a 40's style street event at the weekend, based on Torrington Lane, with a display of vintage army vehicles and the participants having the opportunity to dress in costume or uniform appropriate to the period. The event would continue with an evening dance in the village hall.

It was suggested that an initial figure of £2,000 should be allowed for the costs and that there should be an immediate start made on booking the vehicles and any entertainer required.

### 1255 Amenities -

War Memorial - The winter pansies were set in place in time for the Remembrance Sunday Service but they are struggling in the current wet weather. For the same reason, it has not yet been possible to repaint the posts. However, thanks are due to Cllr. Platts for dealing with the repairs to the seat.

The Act of Remembrance saw a record attendance of some 160, including 60 from the Scout and Guide organisations, and a small contingent from Wragby's Fire and Rescue Station.

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Thanks are due to Tammy Dolling for organising the Scout and Guide contingents and for their provision of the Guard of Honour, to Paul Fuller for conducting the Service, to Brian Cartledge and Anne Yates for reading the names of the fallen, to Ned Chamberlin for laying the Village Wreath and Dace Goodacre for laying the Children's one. There was also a wreath from the Wragby Fire and Rescue representatives and one other but the donor is unknown.

Thanks, too, to Mike Yates and Ned Chamberlin for helping to dress the War Memorial beforehand and to clear away afterwards, to To Phil Wraight and Mike Yates for traffic control, to Barbara Theairs for organising the wreaths and the display in the hall, to Margaret Tyson for the power supply to the sound system, and to Yvonne Wilson, Melissa Chamberlin and Brenda Cartledge for serving the refreshments after the Service. The collection raised £54 which has been forwarded to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

1256 **Highways** - Drainage - District Councillor, Ms. Yarsley had sent information on an East Lindsey team which can help with certain practical issues, such as the fallen leaves. However, Cllr Wilson had replied that he was trying to deal with that in the community.

It had been noticed, especially during the recent heavy rain, that the drains running between Beadwick House and no. 5 Torrington Lane are still bubbling up at times. County Councillor Mrs. Bradwell agreed to press for further action on these.

- Speed limit - Mrs. Bradwell had said that progress on the council's request for a County investigation into the traffic conditions around the 30mph and 40mph zones on the Lincoln Road will take some time. She had received a copy of Cllr. Wilson's document on speed control measures for the village, which included the costings of approach gates. This had also been circulated to all councillors. There was a discussion on the costs of the gates and it was agreed that Cllr. Platts would look into the possibility of funding from the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership.

- Road Conditions - Cllr. Wilson reported that it had been necessary to activate the Parish Emergency Plan this morning, Thursday, 23rd November, due to a mobile crane becoming lodged in the roadside ditch on Langton Road, Panton. It had been removed but the damage caused to the verge, by the crane and from the heavy lifting equipment needed to extricate it, had left the road almost impassable with the risk of other vehicles sinking into mud or sliding into the field. Actions were taken to notify the Highways Department and, in the meantime, to clear enough of the road and place warning cones to allow cautious passage.

There were a number of comments on the unsuitability of the smaller roads for those large vehicles which use them as short-cuts whenever there are roadworks on the main routes. The result is potholes, damage to the road edges, churned up verges and blocked drainage ditches. Heavy lorries need to be deterred from using the smaller roads through the use of 'Not Suitable for HGV's' or 'Maximum Axle Weight' signs. Those companies needing to access rural premises should be encouraged to use smaller vehicles which cause less disruption.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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Mrs Bradwell had hoped to bring a member of the highways team to this meeting but that had not been possible. The alternative would be a day-time meeting with a highways representative to view some of the sites in question and to discuss all the issues along with the legal and enforceable measures which might be available to resolve them. This was agreed and the provisional date was set for **Tuesday, 12th December at 2pm** at the village hall. Once the date is confirmed, the meeting would be open to all councillors who are able to attend.

### 1257 Finance -

#### a) Receipts -

The second half of the Precept has been paid into the bank in the sum of £5,800.

The Grass-cutting payment has also been received, amounting to £1,063.08.

The September payment from the Clothing Bank has brought £12.00 for the Village Hall Reserve and the October one £15.00.

Mr. Martyn Chambers' donation of a quantity of gardening equipment has brought a further £20.00 for the Play Area and there have also been the proceeds of £150.00 from the Scrap Metal sale and a donation of £50.00.

The Remembrance Sunday collection for the Royal British Legion raised a total of £54.00 which will be forwarded to their Poppy Appeal.

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
Royal British Legion - Wreaths	000991	£50.00	-	£50.00
Mike Yates - Mower Fuel	000992	£24.82	£4.97	£29.79
Mike Yates - Mower Fuel	000993	£26.21	£5.24	£31.45
George Lodge - Mower Spares (small)	CARD	£27.70	£5.54	£33.24
Mike Yates - Mower Fuel	000994	£27.16	£5.43	£32.59

#### Also due and approved -

Royal British Legion - Collection	000995	£54.00	-	£54.00
Mark Woodcock - Grass-cutting	000996	£96.00	-	£ 96.00
Steve Campion - West Barkwith Grass	000997	£125.00	-	£125.00

#### Due in late December -

Clerk's PAYE	£461.00
Clerk's Salary	£1,287.50
Village Hall Hiring fees for 2023 expected at	£200.00

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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Also approved for payment on the due date or on receipt of invoice showing the precise charge -

Timber for Play Area kickboards                      £180

Leaf-Blower - on approval of the final cost, approx £200 plus VAT

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

It was also agreed that some more Christmas Tree Lights should be purchased in the January Sales to improve next year's display on the growing trees by the Village Hall.

### c) Audit Matters -

The transactions for the first half of the year were completed and the books were sent for the half-year audit by Ms Sophy Warren. They have been returned and there are no issues to report.

The clerk reminded councillors that any projects requiring funding in the 2024/2025 year should be notified as soon as possible so that they can be included in the preparations for the precept discussions at the next meeting.

### 1258 Any Other Business -

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .