

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 18th November, 2021

Present: Mr. A. Platt, Mr. N. Battell, Mrs. T. Brady, Mr. C. Fincham, Mr. N. Gibson and Ms. S. Scott.

The County Councillor was also present, together with one member of the public.

1134. **Apologies for Absence.**

Cllrs. Stamp, Wilson and Ward were all working. Their apologies were accepted and approved by the meeting.

1135. **Minutes.**

The Minutes of the meeting of 16th September, 2021 were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

1136. **Matters Arising.**

There were no matters to discuss at this point.

1137. **Correspondence.**

General information and dates - already forwarded, or as listed for circulation

Other items:-

SeaFarers Charity - The Certificate of Participation has been received and is being prepared for display.

The **County Council** is carrying out an on-line survey on the Local Transport Plan, to be completed by 1st December, and the initial information has been circulated. A further check has brought a print-out of the questions but they include personal sections such as age group, They also require reference to a large body of on-line documents giving background information before entering the responses.

It was agreed that the councillors would complete the on-line survey individually.

The **County Council** has sent the initial invitation to register for the Grass-cutting Agreement for 2021/2023. They have installed an improved system for mapping and calculating the areas and this has shown that our area is a little larger than they first estimated. This means that next year's payment would be slightly higher to take this into account. They have quoted a minimum of £945.39 at this year's rate, plus any increase resulting from the budget calculations for the year.

It was agreed to register for the agreement for the coming year.

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Signed by the Chairman

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The **Police and Crime Commissioner** has opened an on-line consultation relating to police priorities and funding in the next County Precept, closing on Sunday, 28th November. It has not been possible to print out anything for discussion at this meeting due to the way the consultation has been constructed on the system. Therefore, councillors were asked to complete the survey individually and this was agreed.

Defibrillator - There have been no further requests to join a training session for this, leaving six names on the current list. Other names could be added once a date has been settled. Kirsty Raywood has said that she is willing to take the session if she can be given the choice of two or three possible dates. It was agreed to request a Saturday or Sunday in mid-December or in January.

‘Nextdoor’ is a web-site with local groupings, for which flyers have been circulating in the neighbourhood. The quarterly newsletter from the police shows that they are using it to relate local information and it has been mentioned in LALC E-News. It is possible that this would be a useful addition to the council’s methods of reaching members of the community, in view of the lack of responses to the Broadband and Defibrillator notices on the boards and the web-site, and it was agreed that the clerk should establish contact on behalf of the council.

The **Citizen’s Advice Bureau** (Gainsborough office) has sent its annual request for a donation. There is likely to be a similar request from the Louth office before long. It was agreed that the council would follow the established policy and decline both requests on the grounds of supporting local organisations.

Wragby & District Outreach is allied to the Lincoln Community Larder, which has been supporting people needing help with food supplies through the pandemic and is continuing to do so. They have sent a poster for display in the notice board showing contact details for anyone needing to request their services.

The **Future of Rural Post Offices** was a topic highlighted in a recent issue of Rural Bulletin. A letter has been sent to the Chancellor urging the necessity to continue government support for rural post offices, three quarters of which are also community shops and the last shop remaining. It was agreed that the local Post Office and shop was a most important asset to the community and the council would maintain its established policy of supporting it in any way within its powers for the benefit of the residents of East Barkwith and the surrounding area

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The **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** Information has arrived concerning a tree-planting initiative and this has been passed to Cllr. Wilson for the attention of the Countryside Committee. The celebration weekend runs from 2nd to 5th June and will include a chain of beacons on the first evening, with the lighting ceremony starting at approximately 9.05pm and the actual ignition at 9.15pm. We have the opportunity to register our intention to raise and light a beacon and will receive a certificate afterwards. It was agreed that this should be done.

1138. **Planning.**

a) Applications - S/044/02212/21 - Woodland Stables, Lincoln Road, East Barkwith Extensions and Alterations to existing dwelling to provide additional living accommodation. The plans were viewed and it was agreed to give the application full support.

b) Decisions - S/044/01545/21 - Warren House, Benniworth Road, Panton Listed Building Consent for change of use, conversion, extension and alterations to existing barn to provide 2 holiday lets, as described under application S/044/02043/20, which has already been granted. The Building Consent has been granted.

- S/044/01853/21 - Toad Hall, Langton Road, Panton.
Erection of a detached single storey Granny Annexe for ancillary use to the main building. This has been granted.

1139. **Reports.**

a) Village Hall - The regular users are now returning, and casual bookings and fund-raising events have been resumed. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, 29th November and will be followed by the Annual Committee Meeting.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - Councillors confirmed receipt of the Police newsletters now being forwarded by the clerk. Cllr. Ward had sent a reminder to maintain vigilance against telephone and on-line scams and to remain watchful regarding the security of outbuildings and any equipment stored outside.

c) Play Area - Cllr. Wilson sent word that a Committee meeting had been held electronically. Two committee members had recently left so new volunteers would be welcome. There were no major issues needing attention after the recent inspection.

d) Countryside Committee - Thanks are, again, due to Eric for his continued work in the Parish Fields and with the grass-cutting of the verges - in spite of the struggles with the ailing tractor-mower. There has been a large reserve in the Grass-cutting account and prices are being sought for a possible replacement within a budget of £5,000. Final calculations will be made once the last bills have been received for the end of this season.

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The issue of the Churchyard flowers has now been resolved. It appears that there may have been some misinterpretation of the rules and misunderstanding of the implications. Following the clerk's letter to Revd. Hewitt, as agreed at the last meeting, he telephoned to confirm that the Diocesan Churchyard Regulations govern all churchyards and do permit the placing of good quality silk flowers which are then removed within a given time period.

The meeting was adjourned at this point so that a representative of the Church Committee could take the floor and give a further explanation of the situation. She reported that some 'mischief-making' may have exacerbated the original problem but confirmed that no good quality artificial flowers will be removed before their time-limit (one month for Christmas and Easter tributes and three months for others) unless they become unsightly and, in any case, the timings are not monitored so closely as to be rigidly enforced.

The meeting was resumed and it was agreed to accept these assurances and continue the council's support for the work in St. Mary's churchyard

e) Dog Watch - Cllr. Brady reported that she has neither seen any problems nor received any complaints from residents and the village remains fairly clean.

f) History Group - A group of picture frames has been obtained and, by agreement with the landlord of the Crossroads, some photographs of past village events are now on display. The suggestion was made for similar photographs to be displayed in the village hall.

It is getting late to plan a meeting before Christmas but the group is expecting to resume meetings in the New Year.

1140. Amenities.

a) War Memorial - The Remembrance Service was able to revert to its usual format this year, with Paul Fuller taking the service, the Scouts in attendance, and refreshments afterwards in the village hall. There were over 100 residents at the Service, although not all stayed for the refreshments. The collection there raised £35.30 for the Royal British Legion. Cllr. Wilson has sent his thanks to all who helped with the setting up and clearing away of the event and the display in the village hall, and with the refreshments.

b) Web-site - The regular up-dates to the site continue as information arrives. The associated e-mail service will not be renewed and Cllr. Brady will be using an alternative address. This does not affect the 'contact us' access through the web-site as these messages come to the council's address. It was agreed that the essential subscriptions for the Domain Name and the Web-site & Marketing service should be set for automatic renewal.

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c) Broadband - A notice was posted on the notice boards and on the web-site, inviting residents to notify their wish to attend a Public Meeting at which the organisers can present the details of Lincolnshire County Council's continuing campaign for improved Broadband connectivity across the county, working with Broadband Delivery UK. There has been no response to this so it was agreed that no further action could be taken at this stage.

1141. Highways.

The Neighbourhood Police Team has begun an official check on vehicle speeds on Willingham Road, as requested following the last council meeting.

There has still been only the one request for moving the A 157 speed sign at the Lincoln end of the village a little further out to cover the new buildings at the site of the old garage and the neighbouring properties. It was agreed that no further action could be taken at this time.

Cllr. Wilson sent word that reports have been submitted on the hump in the road along Torrington Lane and the blocked drain on Louth Road. Due attention is being given to other items raised at the last meeting.

The County Councillor reported that there has been no further progress on the request for remedial work on Church Path. Its status as a Public Footpath allows attention to be given only when it is blocked or there is a serious danger. There is a fund which can sometimes be accessed for projects such as this but it is not available at present so nothing more can be done through this channel.

However, the main damage appears to be caused by tree roots emerging from the neighbouring property. The trees themselves may be protected but, if an inspection proves a need to arrange some trimming, this might help. An alternative surfacing could then be explored. An attempt will be made to arrange the inspection.

Cllr. Bradwell had also received reports of potholes on the road through East Torrington to Market Rasen. These have been lodged with the 'Fix My Street' web-site and she will press for urgent action.

1142. Finance.

a) Receipts - From County Council - for Grass-cutting -	£941.71
From Hallowe'en Party - for Play Area -	£40.00
Royal British Legion Collection -	£35.30

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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
Amazon - History Group Picture Frames	CARD	£99.02	£19.91	£118.93
Viking Direct - Printer Inks	000905	£71.45	£14.29	£85.74
Mark Woodcock - Grass-cutting	000906	£77.00	-	£77.00
GoDaddy - Domaine Name	CARD	£51.36	£10.27	£61.63

Also approved for payment now:-

Payee - For	Cheque no.	Net	VAT	Total
Royal British Legion - Collection	000907	£35.30	-	£35.30

(There may also be final payments for the grass-cutting.)

And in December:-

Mrs. B. Theairs - Net Salary	£854.20
HMRC - PAYE for Clerk	£237.80

c) Audit Matters - The transactions in September completed the accounts for the first half of 2021/2022 and all the relevant documents for the mid-year audit were sent to Sophy Warren. The audit has been completed with no items requiring attention and the documents have been returned.

d) Precept - The clerk reminded councillors of the need to prepare notes and costings for any specific projects and send the details to the clerk by the end of December, so that they can be incorporated into the initial documents and calculations for the Precept.

The possible replacement of the tractor-mower will be considered then.

The chairman asked whether the installation of a community notice board at the garage could also be considered.

1143. Any Other Business

The suggestion was made that Council Meetings might be set to start earlier, particularly during the winter months. After a short discussion, it was agreed that the January meeting would start at 7.30pm. as a trial, and the March timing would be confirmed thereafter.

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

Signed by the Chairman