

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 29th September, 2022, starting at 7.30pm.

This meeting had to be postponed from the original date of 15th September due to the period of National Mourning following the death of Her Majesty the Queen having interrupted the required period of notice.

Present: Mr. A. Platt, Mr. D. Ward, Mrs. T. Brady, Mr. N. Gibson, Ms. S. Scott and Ms. H. Parker.

There were also three members of the Neighbourhood Watch Group and one other member of the public in attendance.

The evening began with a one-minute silence in memory of the late Queen Elizabeth II, after which the Chairman signed the Council's entry for the Book of Condolences.

The floor was then handed over to Susan Mcallister, of the Neighbourhood Watch Group, to present the case for greater co-ordination between the various villages of the area in managing the scheme and how this might be achieved.

Mrs. Mcallister explained that a number of villages in the area had noted similar problems relating to community crime and felt that they were not getting helpful replies from the police because they were too small for their issues to be significant.

They were proposing a grouping of villages to allow a co-ordinated approach to the police when the situation merited it, in the expectation that the pressure of numbers would improve the chances of an effective response. Police spokesmen in both Louth and Horncastle are favourable to the idea and have agreed that a group of villages would have a stronger voice.

With one village as the 'Hub' for the surrounding communities, there would be better opportunities for communication between the watch groups in gathering information and in spreading warnings. Social media might also be used to keep everyone informed.

Following a general discussion it was suggested that there should be a further meeting of the Neighbourhood Watch Groups before the council's next meeting on 17th November to discuss the details of the co-ordination and define the overall area to be covered. Co-ordination meetings would then take place approximately twice a year.

The chairman thanked Mrs. Mcallister, then opened the council meeting. The suggestion for the next Neighbourhood Watch Group meeting was accepted and approved.

The chairman then welcomed the new councillor, Ms. Helen Parker, to her first meeting and began the proceedings.

Signed by the Chairman

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1176 **Apologies** - Cllr. Stamp was away, Cllr. Wilson was working and Cllr. Fincham had a prior engagement.

The County Councillor also sent her apologies as she had been delayed in London. These were accepted and approved by the meeting.

1177 **The Minutes** of the meeting of 21st July had been circulated. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

1178 **Matters Arising** - There were no items for discussion on this occasion.

1179 **Correspondence.**

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

Other items:-

East Lindsey has sent an up-date for the Electoral Register for 2022, totalling three creations and four deletions.

Lincolnshire County Council has sent posters for the campaign to encourage more use of the Bus Pass Scheme by those eligible.

They also sent details of a training session for those involved in organising Community Parades. This had been referred to Cllr. Wilson in relation to the Remembrance Sunday Service but, unfortunately, the notice was rather short and it was not possible for him to attend.

NALC sent an up-date on the **Civility and Respect** project. They are currently lobbying for legislation on a revised Code of Conduct to maintain standards of appropriate behaviour within councils and in their dealings with the public.

The information was forwarded to councillors but there were no comments at this stage.

Information was forwarded on the **Lincolnshire Good Homes Alliance Project**. The aim is to design a service which can give advice and support for older residents to help them stay safe and warm in their homes and to access the services which assist with arranging improvements and adaptations or a move to more suitable accommodation. The initial survey (no deadline given) has 13 main multiple choice questions plus a supplementary section on demographic details and is available online at:-

www.letstalk.lincolnshire.gov.uk/good-homes-alliance-pilot.

There were no comments to record at the meeting.

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Louth Town Council had earlier implemented an **Active Travel Scheme** which included changes and restrictions in parking arrangements, particularly in Mercer Row, the Cornmarket and the Market Place. They are now running a short survey (just 6 questions) to gauge the reactions, to be completed online by 30th September at:- www.louthtowncouncil.gov.uk/active-travel-scheme-surveys. There were no comments to record at the meeting.

Anglian Water are preparing plans for two new reservoirs, one in Cambridgeshire and one in Lincolnshire. It has now been proposed that the Lincolnshire one should be sited approximately half way between Grantham and Boston and be about the same size as Grafham Water. Approaches have been made to some farm owners in the area and a formal consultation process will begin shortly.

Age UK are looking to recruit more volunteers to assist with their services and have supplied posters.

In response to the current cost of living crisis, **East Lindsey** is hoping to work with a number of groups to identify premises and register a network of 'Warm Spaces' where people can go to 'get warm, stay warm, and enjoy a little company and some hot refreshments'. It is difficult to see how new facilities could be provided as there is no indication of any funding to support the energy costs etc. so no action can be taken at this time.

LALC have sent details of the AGM and Conference to be held at the Bentley Hotel in Lincoln and full information was circulated for any councillor who might be able to attend.

The **Royal British Legion Industries** are offering to supply aluminium commemorative outline statues and other items for use on Remembrance Sunday. It was agreed that the community already has sufficient memorabilia for this year but the details would be kept for future reference.

1180 **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.

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1181 Reports -

a) Village Hall - The vacancy for a caretaker / cleaner was advertised locally and Ms. Karen Thackeray has been appointed, subject to confirmation by the Management Committee at the next meeting. This will be the Annual Committee Meeting, which follows the AGM, and will be held at the end of October or early November. The Committee will also be looking at the up-dated Development Plan and the implications for funding.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - It was agreed that the Neighbourhood Watch Group meeting would commence at 7pm on 17th November, to be followed by the Council Meeting. Locally, there has been a report of shed break-ins in the Panton area.

c) Play Area - Cllr. Wilson had sent word that the annual RoSPA safety inspection had taken place. One or two minor matters had been raised and these had received attention. Two other items, not affecting the safe operation of the Play Area, will be referred back to the inspectors.

d) Countryside Committee - Cllr. Wilson sent his thanks to David Garrad for allowing the plants on his verge to mature and provide seeds. These have been collected and will be used in one of the re-wilding projects.

Cllr. Scott has been looking further into the possibility of a Community Garden and has visited Dunston, near Lincoln. Their garden is based on the area around their village hall, where local donations have enabled bulbs to be planted in the verges and planters to be set out for seasonal flowers. Cllr. Scott reported that a number of people have shown an interest here and a project could be started in the Spring.

e) Dog Watch - Cllr. Brady has recently been unable to make personal checks around the village but has received no complaints. Cllr. Wilson has made the formal application to East Lindsey for the installation of the additional Dog Waste Bin on Louth Road.

f) History Group - There was no report on this occasion.

g) The Queen - The clerk reported that the latest version of the official 'Protocol', for marking the deaths of important national figures, had arrived just in time to advise on the council's response to the news of the Queen's passing on Thursday 8th September.

With the agreement of the churchwarden, a Book of Condolences was set up in St. Mary's Church, to remain there until after the coming Sunday service. Copies of the loose-leaf sheets are also available at the Shop and from the clerk.

Thanks are due to Tom Bollan for his very prompt reaction in setting the Union Flag at half-mast within an hour of the announcement and for his assistance with the web-site entry; also to Cllr. Wilson for his help with the pictures and the notice boards and for the adjustments to the flag on Proclamation Day.

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1182 **Amenities** -

a) War Memorial - Thanks are due to Ned Chamberlain for continuing the extra cuts of the grass around the Memorial.

It has now been decided that there will be no winter planting this year. The ground will lie fallow for the season to regain strength and reduce the level of disease dormant in the soil.

The Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday, 13th November, followed by refreshments in the Village Hall. It was agreed that the clerk should obtain the two wreaths as in previous years.

1183 **Highways** - Cllr. Wilson sent word that the ‘bump’ across Torrington Lane has been scheduled for attention. He also wished to send his thanks to Tom Bollan for taking over the analysis of the data from the Speed Camera, following the resignation of Mr. Battell, and the latest report was circulated. It was accepted, with the comment that the few incidents of speeding over 70mph might be due to emergency vehicles attending an address there.

The report has been referred to the Police and they have attended with their own monitoring device, as a result of which several motorists were escorted to the village hall car park for an official conversation.

Cllr. Gibson has recently become a Special Constable and has contact with the traffic officers. It was agreed that the clerk would send him an electronic copy of the Speed Report so that he could forward it to the right department.

1184 **Finance** -

a) Receipts - The VAT Refund has now been received in the amount of £215.92
 The advice note has been received for the Grass-cutting payment
 and this should be in the bank shortly in the sum of £976.78

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	000938	£32.23	£6.45	£38.68
BHIB - Mower Insurance	CARD	£132.04	-	£132.04
Play Days - Play Area Bark	000940	£270.00	£54.00	£324.00
Mark Woodcock - Grass-cutting	000941	£66.00	-	£66.00
RoSPA - Play Area Inspection	000942	£73.50	£14.70	£88.20
Eric Brady - Mower fuel	000943	£30.32	£6.07	£36.39
Chris Wilson - Mower fuel (small)	000944	£14.19	£2.84	£17.03

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Bills also approved at the meeting:-

HMRC - PAYE for Clerk	000945	£258.80	-	£258.80
Mrs. B. Theairs - Clerk's net salary	000946	£833.20	-	£833.20
Royal British Legion - Wreaths	000947	£50.00	-	£50.00
Mrs. B. Theairs - Clerk's expenses	000948	£101.50	-	£101.50
The Flag Shop - Replacement flags for pole	CARD	£50.47	£10.10	£60.57

The Invoice for the payment due on the Cradle Seats and spare chains in the Play Area (approximately £662.00 plus VAT) has not arrived yet following a difficulty with the chains.

c) Signatories - The bank forms for the removal of the name of former Cllr. Battell from the list of approved signatories have finally arrived. They were completed by the clerk and signed at the meeting by the Chairman and Cllr. Ward as existing signatories. They will be posted to the bank without further delay.

d) Audit - The payments listed will complete the transactions for the first half of the year. It was agreed that the clerk should complete the paperwork for the half-year audit by Sophy Warren.

The process has begun to appoint new external auditors for the 2022/2023 Annual Return, along with another opportunity to opt out of the main scheme and appoint a local firm. However, the required arrangements and conditions for this are complicated and onerous with the possibility of additional costs.

It was agreed that the council would NOT opt out of the national arrangements.

The Pensions Regulator has been in touch with an initial reminder that the registration for the Workplace Pension arrangements will need to be reviewed and up-dated during the course of the next few months. The clerk will attend to this in due time.

1185 **Any Other Business** - There was no other business from the councillors but a resident wished to raise some issues. The chairman adjourned the meeting to allow this.

The first question related to the recording in the Minutes of comments from the public and it was explained that rules of privacy and data protection meant that, barring exceptional circumstances, names were not mentioned by councillors in a public session nor were they recorded in public documents. However, the nature of the topic could be noted for attention and any discussion during a meeting, with any resulting action, would be reported in the minutes.

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The council's attention was then directed to a problem concerning a water issue at the top of Willingham Road. This had previously brought to the notice of the council but it appeared that nothing had been done in spite of the threat of flooding of an adjacent property at times of heavy rain. It was explained that the council had approached both the Highways Department and Anglian Water but neither had been able to identify the source of the problem at that time. However, Anglian Water had been at the property at the beginning of the week to deal with another matter and had discovered a broken pipe which may have caused the earlier problem and this had been repaired.

There was another complaint about the state of Church Path and the fence between it and the Old Rectory. It was pointed out that the fence was being monitored during the on-going renovations but the condition of the path was a matter for the Highways Department. They had been notified a number of times of the surface problems but had repeatedly replied that it was a minor public footpath, of the same status as those across the fields. It was therefore up to users to assess the situation and act accordingly.

The final comment related to the cost of the new tractor-mower at a time of national financial pressures. It was explained that the purchase had been long-planned and fully discussed before a decision was made. The choice of model was governed by the nature of the terrain on which it was to be used.

The chairman re-opened the meeting but were no further comments from the councillors and the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed by the Chairman