

# East and West Barkwith Parish Council

## Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 21st September, 2023, starting at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Mr A. Platt, Mr. J. Stamp, Mr. C Wilson, Mr. D. Ward, Mr. C. Fincham, Mr. N. Gibson, Ms. H. Parker and Mr. D. Platts.

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

1239 **Apologies** - Cllr. Brady was away.

Her apologies were accepted and approved by the meeting.

1240 **The Minutes** of the meeting of 20th July had been circulated. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

1241 **Matters Arising :-** The meeting was opened for comments from the public. As these were all related to items on the agenda, the information given on the drains and other road issues will be included under those headings. The meeting then continued.

1242 **Correspondence.**

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

Other items:-

**Electoral Register** East Lindsey has sent two up-dates, showing six deletions.

As there are no more litter-picking kits available from the County Council, **East Lindsey** had been asked whether they were still providing any equipment. They had replied that they could only offer packs of the refuse bags and these have been requested.

They have also sent details of the launch of the UKSPF GRASSroots Grant and these have been passed on to the Village Hall Committee. Details can be accessed through the Lincolnshire Community Foundation website.

**Lincolnshire County Council** has sent details of a forthcoming road closure in West Barkwith. This will be between 16th and 19th October so that National Grid Electricity Distribution can replace a Transformer Pole. The affected area is from the junction of the A157 to a point 150m West on Torrington Lane, **West** Barkwith.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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The LIVES organisation has sent an outline of their work with a request for financial support. The council had sent them £80 in response to their January request and it was agreed that no further donation could be made at this time.

**Slow Ways** is a new organisation proposing to establish a national walking network of trusted routes throughout the country. The e-mail was passed to Cllr. Wilson for review by the History Group and the Countryside Committee.

### 1243 Planning -

#### a) Applications -

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 arrived just after the last meeting and the details were circulated by e-mails. The councillors agreed to approve the proposal.

S/044/01565/23 - Barkwith House, Torrington Lane, East Barkwith

Extensions and alterations to existing dwelling and annex including demolition of existing single storey ancillary buildings and single side and rear extensions.

The details of this application were circulated by e-mails. There was one comment concerning the modification of a window overlooking the next property but, other than that, the councillors were in full agreement to support the proposals.

S/044/01702/23 - Fairacre, Willingham Road, East Barkwith

Extension and alterations to existing dilapidated dwelling so that it is again fit for occupation.

The details of this application were circulated by e-mails. The councillors were in full agreement to support the proposals.

S/202/01399/23 - Low Farm, Louth Road, West Barkwith

Erection of a building to house stables, storage area, tack room and feed store, and construction of a menage area.

This application was viewed at the meeting. Cllr. Wilson had declared a pecuniary interest as designer of the plans and withdrew while the topic was discussed.

A suggestion was made concerning the colour of the roof but, apart from that, the councillors recorded their full agreement to support the proposals. Cllr. Wilson returned to the meeting..

#### b) Decisions -

There were no decisions to report at this meeting.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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### 1244 Reports -

a) Village Hall - The Summer Fete was held on Sunday, 20th August. Thanks are due to all those who helped to set it up, to run the attractions and to clear away afterwards, also to Nick Pope, for the use of his trailer to transport all the equipment from the store and back. Thanks, too, to the District Councillor, Ru Yarsley, for opening the event and to all who supported it.

The Annual General Meeting has been set for Tuesday, 31st October, to be followed by the Annual Committee Meeting at which there will be a report on the latest prices for the improvement programme.

There will be a proposal that, once the Car Park has been re-surfaced, a height restricting barrier should be erected to prevent heavy vehicles creating new damage. It will be removable for necessary access by the electrical contractors' visits to the substation. In addition, Mr. Martyn Chambers has donated large stone bollards which can be placed either side of the entrance to prevent vehicles harming the grass.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - Cllr. Ward reported that there was little property crime at present and no warnings from the Wolds Group. However, residents needed to be on the alert against scam telephone calls and e-mails and other cyber-crime.

c) Play Area - There will be a committee meeting shortly to invite new members and to discuss what new equipment might be installed in the play area. An e-mail, received recently, has offered the supply and installation of a 'Monkey Wall', with the company organising the grant funds to cover the costs. Chrissy Yates and Tom Bollan have used Facebook to assess local support and this has been very positive.

The annual RoSPA inspection took place in August. The report has been received but it raises issues which had already been given the necessary attention and the photographs appear to have been taken well before the clean-up session which was organised in early July, instead of in the course of the inspection. Cllr. Wilson will be writing to the inspectors for clarification.

Cllr Wilson wished to thank all those who support the area, specifically:-

Chrissy Yates and Tom Bollan - for their use of Facebook to contact residents.

Martyn Chambers - for the donation of a quantity of Gardening Equipment which is being sold in the community to raise funds for the Play Area.

Paul Elliott - for donating a Picnic Bench from the Pub.

Mike Yates - for help in moving the bench into place.

All members of the Village - for their donations of scrap metal for sale to raise funds.

Paul Elliott - for the use of his trailer to take the scrap to the registered dealer.

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d) Countryside Committee - The first re-wilding project is developing well. The proposed route for the corridor connecting it with the second has been adjusted and is currently being costed for a line of trees beside the access track for the protection of migrating wildlife. A copy of the diagram will be circulated before submission of an application for support funding through the 'Plant a Tree in 23' scheme. The trees will be supplied with supports and the planting will be carried out by volunteers. The access track will be for maintenance purposes, with visitor numbers to either project carefully controlled to avoid disturbance to the wildlife.

The Parish Field Maintenance plan has been up-dated, as has the work and costing schedule. Copies are available on request.

Thanks are due to David and Merle Garrad for allowing their verge to remain uncut for so long. The seeds from the wild flowers have been harvested and are now being dried and stored. The area will be strimmed and the cuttings collected to be spread and left where any remaining seeds can drop and germinate.

Cllr. Wilson wished to thank Mr. Eric Brady for all his hard work in maintaining the fields and verges in the parish. However, Mr. Brady now feels it is time for him to retire. The council agreed that it was appropriate to show their appreciation for all that he had done and the clerk was instructed to prepare a letter of thanks and a suitable gift.

Mr. Mike Yates has volunteered to take over Mr. Brady's responsibilities and the mower has been re-located to allow him easy access. It was agreed that the location should not be made public for the security of both the machine and the owner of the premises where it is held.

There are areas in the parish where hedgerows are depleted and Cllr. Wilson is looking into gaining support from the Tree Council for the planting of 90m of native species.

e) Dog Watch - Cllr. Platts reported that the new signs are in place where needed and there has been less fouling in recent weeks.

f) History Group - The Crossroads Inn is now closed so the meeting planned for September had to be cancelled. The next meeting should be towards the end of October and will be held at the home of Tricia and Eric Brady once a suitable date can be set, as will the November meeting.

Thanks are due to the WI for the invitation to the recent presentation on the archaeological history of Lincoln Cathedral. The evening was well attended and much appreciated.

There is now a National Walking Network co-ordinated by 'Slow Ways' and they have sent an invitation to have our Heritage Walks included on their records. It will require volunteers to walk the routes to ensure they are still viable and two councillors asked to be included in this.

There will be a Metal Detection Event on Willingham Road this Sunday, 24th September, from 9am to 1pm.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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g) Special Events - D-Day 80 - 6th June - There has been a request for a 40's style event, based on the hall, with a band, a display of vintage army vehicles in the car park, and participants dressing in costume or uniform appropriate to the period. An invitation could be extended to Kelly, who led the sing-along sessions at the VE 70th street party. It is expected that the event would be largely self-funding.

Participation in the National Beacon Ceremony is still intended, subject to the construction of a new beacon to replace the old one which was dismantled after the Jubilee event as being unfit for further use.

### 1245 Amenities -

War Memorial - The summer marigolds are setting seed and councillors are invited to take some if they wish. The pansy seeds were sown for the winter plants but, even with the propagator, not all came up and further plug plants had to be bought. These are doing well and will soon be ready for planting out.

The Act of Remembrance will be held at the War Memorial, on Sunday, 12th November, starting at 10.45am. The service will be conducted by Paul Fuller and the Scout and Guide organisations will be in attendance to carry the flags and provide a guard of honour. The service will be followed by refreshments in the hall, where there will be an exhibition on the history of those whose names are on the Memorial.

Thanks are due to Cllr. Danny Platts for repairing and staining the memorial bench.

Post Office - Cllr. Ward again urged councillors to use the on-line service to support the campaign for the retention of the DVLA services through the Post Offices as these have an impact on the financial viability of community post offices and the shops of which they are an integral part. If the government succeeds in taking away the DVLA work, then other services would also be at risk of removal and the loss of income could result in more post office closures and the loss of the other facilities they provide. Putting more and more government services on-line is not helpful to those without an internet service or with poor reliability and more closures in rural areas is detrimental to the community.

Crossroads - Confirmation of the closure of the pub came too late to be included on the agenda but it was thought appropriate to note the fact. It is believed that the owner is currently looking at ways of continuing the business but it is still possible that it will be sold. It was suggested that there were difficulties in attracting the right management who would be prepared to put in the work needed to improve the atmosphere and thus increase attendance.

It was agreed that Cllr. Ward would invite the owner to the next meeting.

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1246 **Highways** - Drainage - Cllr Wilson expressed his thanks to the clerk for the up-dated summary of the issues and action taken to date and to the District and County Councillors for their help in getting action on the drains along Torrington Lane and Willingham Road.

County Councillor Mrs. Bradwell reported that all the drains had now been flushed and that she should be notified as soon as possible if there were further problems. The team on Willingham Road had reported the need for more repair work and will be back to deal with it.

Cllr. Wilson commented on the suggestion made at the last meeting, that residents could be asked to clear fallen leaves from outside their own properties before they start to rot down and that the Parish Council might employ someone to attend to the areas where the property is empty or there is no building. He said that, as the residents paid for street-cleaning as part of their council tax, there should be some recompense if they or the Parish Council were to undertake the task. Cllr. Bradwell agreed to make this point to the appropriate department.

District Councillor, Ru Yarsley, had reported that the major obstacle to the regular attendance by the sweeper was the age of the only two machines available and the shortage of staff to operate them. New machines are not expected until the beginning of next year.

- Speed limit - Tom Bollan attended the meeting to present his report on the traffic passing through the 40mph zone on Lincoln Road. The data collected from the recorder indicates that the average speed of the vehicles entering the village is within the limits for that stretch of the road. These appear to be slowing in preparation for the 30mph limit nearer the village centre. However, 40mph may still be considered too fast for the safety of residents trying to cross the road to or from the footpath and there is still a large number of speeders over 40mph. This is why the residents have been asking for the 30mph zone to be extended to include their part of the road, with the 40mph zone being pushed further along towards West Barkwith.

Mr. Bollan has suggested setting the recorder to gain more information on the speeds of traffic leaving the village at various points and reveal the areas of greatest potential for an accident. Cllr. Wilson thanked Mr. Bollan for his report and it was agreed that the suggestion would be followed over the coming weeks.

County Cllr. Bradwell confirmed that the council's request for a county investigation into the traffic conditions had been referred to the highways department but there would be no immediate news on either the speed limit zones or on the possibility of a crossing. There could also be the provision of 'lead-in' stretches of 40mph outside the present 30mph zones on Louth Road and Willingham Road, in line with the current practice when assessing the needs for restrictions. Cllr. Platts and Mr. Bollan will liaise with the Cllr. Bradwell when the new recorder figures are complete.

In the meantime, Cllr. Wilson will review and up-date an earlier document on speed control measures for the village, which included the costings of approach gates. It may be possible to use the funds from the sale of land for the electricity sub-station towards those costs.

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District Cllr. Yarsley had also reported that the Panton issue raised by Cllr. Fincham had brought the response that the road in question was graded as ‘unclassified’ so did not warrant the same priority for attention as other parts of the network, in spite of being the only access to a business. However, she would continue to press for attention. If any other matters come to light, she would appreciate information by 1st October, in time to refer them to a meeting.

### 1247 Finance -

#### a) Receipts -

The July payment from the Clothing Bank brought £19.50 for the Village Hall Reserve and the August one £25.50. The September figure will show on the Bank Statement in time for the mid-year audit but the total currently stands at £104.70.

Mr. Martyn Chambers has donated a quantity of gardening equipment which is being sold for the benefit of the Play Area. The total raised so far is £220.

The Red Ensign collection tin raised a total of £10 which will be forwarded to the Seafarers’ Charity.

The claim form for the grass-cutting money has been received from the County Council. It has been completed and returned for the expected payment of £1,063.08.

Notice has been received of the forthcoming payment of the second half of the Precept in the sum of £5,800.

These last two sums should appear in the Bank Statement at the end of September.

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     |
|------------------------------------|------------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| Viking - inks for main printer     | 000983     | £77.22    | £15.46 | £92.68    |
| Amazon - Plants for War Memorial   | CARD       | £65.29    | £13.09 | £78.38    |
| Play Safety - Play Area Inspection | 000984     | £78.50    | £15.70 | £92.20    |
| Eric Brady - Mower Fuel            | 000985     | £26.12    | £5.22  | £31.34    |
| Mark Woodcock - Grass-cutting      | 000986     | £144.00   | -      | £144.00   |
| Also due -                         |            |           |        |           |
| Seafarers’ Charity                 | 000987     | £10.00    | -      | £10.00    |
| Clerk’s PAYE                       | 000988     | £461.00   | -      | £461.00   |
| Clerk’s Salary                     | 000989     | £1,287.50 | -      | £1,287.50 |
| Clerk’s Expenses                   | 000990     | £95.00    | -      | £95.00    |

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 |
| Wreaths for Remembrance Sunday  | £50  |

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

c) **Audit Matters -**

These entries will complete the transactions for the first half of the year and the books will be completed at the end of September for the half-year audit by Ms Sophy Warren.

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

1248 **Any Other Business -**

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

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .