

# East and West Barkwith Parish Council

## Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 16th September, 2021

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

Having missed the last meeting, for which he apologised again, Cllr. Platt extended his own welcome to the newest councillors, Mr. N. Gibson and Ms. S. Scott.

1124. **Apologies for Absence.**

Cllr. Stamp was working. His apologies were accepted and approved by the meeting.

1125. **Minutes.**

The Minutes of the meeting of 22nd July, 2021 were approved and signed by the chairman.

1126. **Matters Arising.**

As agreed at the last meeting which ratified them, all the notes from the E-Meetings have now been signed by the chairman and have become part of the true record of the council's business during the period of Covid restrictions. (Item 1115)

Now that the holiday season is over, the notice seeking interest in the Defibrillator Training will now be prepared and posted so that a date can be arranged with Kirsty Rayworth, from LIVES. (Item 1117)

1127. **Correspondence.**

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

Other items:-

East Lindsey has sent up-dates to the Electoral Register, showing a total of  
4 deletion and 4 creations.

SeaFarers Charity - The invitation to register participation in Merchant Navy Day was accepted and the Red Ensign was flown from the village flagpole.

- The Summer News Magazine is available to anyone interested.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

# East and West Barkwith Parish Council

## Parish Council Meeting

The County Council has sent details of the ‘Riparian Project’ on local water courses with the related questionnaire for its full River Study. This was forwarded for consideration by the Countryside Committee but it was felt that it had little relevance to this area and the ‘box-ticking’ nature of the questionnaire gave no space for extended comments, so no further action was taken.

One of the newsletters referred to the new version of the Country Code. This comes in a short, poster-like form with the main ‘rules’ and the longer full text as set out by the government department. Either, or both, can be forwarded on request, by e-mail or as hard copy and a number of councillors asked for these..

A resident has contacted Cllr. Ward to report “the lack of street lighting, the state of the footpath and the overgrown vegetation along Louth Road from the pub corner down to the Community Field area” and is wondering whether the council can take any action to improve matters. Cllr. Wilson offered to speak to the owner of the property in question.

### 1128. **Planning.**

a) Applications - 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 full details of this application had been circulated in August and it had been agreed to approve the application.

- S/044/01853/21 - Toad Hall, Langton Road, Panton.

Erection of a detached single storey Granny Annexe for ancillary use to the main building.

The planning details were viewed and it was agreed to give full support to the proposal.

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

The Parish Emergency Plan is currently undergoing some revision due to changes in the requirements. The revised draft will be presented as soon as it is ready.

### 1129. **Reports.**

a) Village Hall - The regular users are now beginning to return, along with some additional bookings. Fund-raising events can also be resumed. Thanks are due to the hall secretary for keeping up to date with the changes in the rules and the notices to be posted.

# East and West Barkwith Parish Council

## Parish Council Meeting

The plans for improvements to the kitchen are in the final stages of preparation and costing, with the intention of providing a better facility which it is hoped will attract more bookings.

Cllr. Gibson has obtained preliminary quotes for the resurfacing of the car park ranging from £20,000 to £23,000, plus VAT.

The difficulty is that, although the village hall has funds from the Covid support grants, they will not be enough to cover both projects, and income levels will remain fragile for some time to come. The village hall may be able to get grant assistance for the kitchen but there are fewer sources available to it for the car park. The Management Committee is therefore asking for the support of the Parish Council in seeking the additional funding.

It was proposed and agreed unanimously that the Parish Council should offer full support to the proposed works.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - The warning to continue vigilance against cyber crime was repeated. There has been one report of a vehicle having been stolen from a residence in East Barkwith and residents are, again, reminded of the need for maintaining appropriate security measures.

c) Play Area - The annual inspection of the Play Area has taken place at a cost of £86.40, with only minor issues to be resolved at this stage. It was already known that the cradle swings will soon need new seating and suitable replacements and costings are being sought.

Thanks should be given to the team of volunteers for continuing the regular safety checks and assisting with the general maintenance. Eric is repainting the seats now that the schools have reopened after the summer break.

A member of the community has asked if there could be more equipment. It was explained that there are limitations of space but that some adjustments were being planned.

d) Countryside Committee - Thanks are due to Eric for his continued work in the Parish Fields and with the grass-cutting of the verges.

The Owl and Bat boxes have been completed and most have been installed at a variety of locations around the parish. There is a little timber left which may be enough for two or three smaller nest boxes.

-----

The meeting was adjourned at this point so that a resident could take the floor and give the details of an issue which has arisen in the churchyard concerning artificial flowers. These are often left by relatives of those interred there when they are unable to visit frequently because they live at some distance from the village. It was reported that these offerings are being arbitrarily removed soon after being left, in spite of the fact that the Diocesan Churchyard Regulations permit good quality silk flowers provided they are removed within a certain time so that they do not become unsightly.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

# East and West Barkwith Parish Council

## Parish Council Meeting

The community has given St. Mary's Church a lot of help over recent years, in fundraising for the repairs to the roof and stonework of the church, and in the clearing, tidying and on-going maintenance of the churchyard, and the Parish Council has given financial support for this. The church visitors' book shows some of the many compliments received on the simple beauty and peacefulness of such a well-kept churchyard. The relatives would like to know why the rules are now being over-enforced and why the community should be expected to continue to support the churchyard, through the Parish Council, if there is apparently no respect for those rules as stated or the feelings of the relatives who visit the graves.

-----

The chairman thanked the resident for his contribution and re-opened the council meeting for a brief discussion. The clerk read the relevant section of the Diocesan regulations which confirmed that although there is a general ban on artificial flowers, good quality silk flowers and wreaths were exempt. It was then agreed that the clerk should write to the incumbent, Revd. C. Hewitt, and ask for clarification of the rules, as interpreted in this case, and why they are being enforced so harshly. A further discussion could be held when the position is clear.

Cllr. Ward stated that as he already had an appointment to meet the Bishop towards the end of the month, he could make an informal approach on the subject if that would help. It was agreed that the clerk would provide any up-dates concerning the letter to Revd. Hewitt and that Cllr. Ward might discuss it with the Bishop if the opportunity presented itself.

e) Dog Watch - Cllr. Brady reported that her walks are not as long since she lost her retriever, Molly. However, the only issue has been one incident of abandoned dog mess in Torrington Lane, when the culprit and the owner were not seen.

f) History Group - The group is still active and hopes to resume meetings at the Crossroads in the near future.

The landlord is preparing to show photographs of past events on the premises and a source frames, to a cost of approximately £100, is being sought.

### 1130. Amenities.

a) War Memorial - There is no news, as yet, on the figure for the revaluation. The winter pansies are growing on for planting out soon. Thanks are due to Ned Chamberlain for his continued work on the extra cutting around the Memorial while the grass has been growing so fast. He does not want a payment but it was agreed to offer him petrol money.

It is hoped that the Remembrance Service can revert to its usual format this year, with Paul Fuller taking the service, the Scouts in attendance, and refreshments afterwards in the village hall. It was agreed that the usual two wreaths should be obtained, from the Royal British Legion, for the donation of £50.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

# East and West Barkwith Parish Council

## Parish Council Meeting

b) Web-site - The regular up-dates continue as information arrives. It has been noted that the associated e-mail service will shortly be due for its annual renewal at a cost of some £120 for the year. It is now used only by Cllr. Brady for communications relating to the council and other village matters and she has offered an alternative address. It was agreed that any information still required should be transferred and the service would not be renewed.

c) Broadband - With the summer holiday period now over, it was agreed that it was time to publicise Lincolnshire County Council's continuing campaign for improved Broadband connectivity across the county, working with Broadband Delivery UK. The clerk will prepare an invitation to residents to notify their wish to attend a Public Meeting at which the County organisers can present the details of project.

### 1131. Highways.

Cllr. Battell had circulated a report on the data from the speed camera during its siting on Willingham Road. It shows some speeding during the peak periods of the day but the main concerns were the instances recording 70mph or more between 3pm and 4pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays - the period covering the arrival of the school buses bringing the children home from their schools.

It was agreed that the report should be sent to the Neighbourhood Police Team, as suggested in their latest newsletter, with a request for an official check and enforcement at the earliest opportunity. It was also suggested that there should be 'repeater signs' to remind drivers of the 30mph limit in the village.

### 1132. Finance.

a) Receipts - From C. Harrington - donation for Play Area Equipment - £20.00

The claim form for the grass-cutting contribution was received from the County Council and has been completed and submitted.

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
You Garden - War Memorial plants	CARD	£88.29	£17.65	£105.94
Play Safety - Inspection Fee	000897	£72.00	£14.40	£86.40
LALC - Printed Newsletter	000898	£12.00	-	£12.00
Mark Woodcock - Grass-cutting	000899	£121.00	-	£121.00
Viking - Paper & Black ink	000900	£36.92	£7.38	£43.30

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

# East and West Barkwith Parish Council

## Parish Council Meeting

Also approved for payment:-

Payee - For	Cheque no.	Net	VAT	Total
Mrs. B. Theairs - Net Salary	000901	£854.20	-	£854.20
HMRC - PAYE for Clerk	000902	£237.80	-	£237.80
Mrs. B. Theairs - Clerk's Expenses	000903	£111.99	-	£111.99
Royal British Legion - Wreaths	000904	£50.00	-	£50.00

The Clerk's expenses include the costs of replacing the battery in the Village Computer operated by Cllr. Brady, a total of £16.99. It has not been possible to get the VAT breakdown for this Amazon transaction which was paid on-line by Mr. T. Bollan and reimbursed by the clerk.

The Hiring Agreement for the use of the Village Hall for the rest of this year was approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

c) Audit Matters - All audit documents for 2020/2021 are on the web-site as required. There had been no requests to view the documents when the Inspection Period ended on 7th August so there will be no further communications from the External Auditor and the file for the year can be closed.

The transactions in September will complete the accounts for the first half of 2021/2022 and the clerk will complete the preparations for the internal mid-year audit. It was confirmed that the documents will again go to Sophy Warren.

The clerk asked any councillors considering projects for next year to prepare outline information for the next meeting so that appropriate costs can be incorporated into the initial documents and calculations for the Precept.

### 1133. Any Other Business

The question was raised of councillors' use of electronic devices during meetings. With the minutes and many other documents now being sent by e-mail, the tendency was to leave them on the device rather than print them out and the wish was to refer to them that way whenever necessary.

It was agreed that devices should be permitted for reference purposes during the meeting, but that any telephone elements should be turned to 'silent' and used only if required by the meeting or in the case of an emergency.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed by the Chairman . . . . .