

# East and West Barkwith Parish Council

## Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 20th November, 2025, starting at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Mr. A. Platt, Mr. J. Stamp, Mr. C. Wilson. It was confirmed that this was sufficient for the meeting to be quorate.

The County Councillor, Ms. N. Oliver, was also present but the District Councillor, Ms. R. Yarsley, had a prior meeting. There were no members of the public.

1376 **Apologies** - Cllrs. D. Ward had a Post Office meeting and Cllr. N. Gibson was working. Cllr. Brady was unwell and Cllr. Parker had been delayed on her journey back to the village. These apologies were accepted and approved.

1377 **The Minutes** of the meeting of 18th September, 2025, had been circulated. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

1378 **Matters arising** - There were no matters arising.

1379 **Correspondence.**

The fortnightly newsletter from LALC should now be coming directly from their office and this was confirmed. Other newsletters and information items have been circulated as they arrived.

One item from LALC concerned web-site accessibility standards and the question of councillor's e-mails working through a council-owned system, not private addresses. This may mean re-instating the e-mail system available via our own web-site. I will be discussing this with Tom shortly, along with the adjustments necessary for a new clerk.

Specific items to note:-

**Electoral Register** There have been no recent changes.

The new **LALC Training Schedule** shows a 'Finance for New Clerks' session in early March of next year which I would recommend for the new clerk. There may also be an induction training to be shown in the next issue. It would be wise to renew the Training Scheme subscription for the coming year to cover any further sessions needed and this was agreed.

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Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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**Lincolnshire County Council** held a virtual presentation on the **Local Government Reorganisation** proposals and a print-out of the information given is now available. Cllr. Wilson requested a copy and this will be provided.

They have also sent warning of restrictions in and around Swineshead and Alford due to outbreaks of **Bird Flu**.

The invitation to apply for a **one ton bag of salt** for winter use was accepted and the request is being processed. The timing for the delivery will be notified to the clerk and Cllr. Stamp will receive a call when it is on its way.

A prospective resident has been in touch to enquire about the possible effect of the '**Chancel Repair Liability**' on the property he is buying. After checking with St. Mary's churchwarden, it was established that the facility had not been used in the last twenty-five years or more and that, as the land on which the specified bungalow was built had never been part of church land, it was not likely to apply there.

Cllr. Gibson had e-mailed between meetings, enquiring about drones which had been seen hovering over properties in the village during September. It was noted that there was no way for the council to control these incursions.

### 1380 **Planning** -

#### a) Applications -

03366/25/FUL - The Paddocks, Torrington Lane, East Barkwith.

Extension to existing dwelling to provide additional living accommodation.

This application had been viewed between meetings and it had been agreed to support it.

#### b) Decisions -

03066/25/FUL - The Barn, Glebe Farm, Louth Road, West Barkwith.

Extension to existing dwelling to provide additional living accommodation.

This application has been granted.

03133/25/RVC - Fairacre, Willingham Road, East Barkwith.

Application to vary condition no 9 on planning permission S/044/00692/24 and alter the layout of the vehicular access.

This application has been granted.

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### 1381 Reports -

a) Village Hall - Following the instructions from the last meeting, the clerk had informed the solicitors of the council's concern at the new estimated costs of £3,500 to £4,500 and had requested a breakdown for clarification of the marked difference. After a number of reminders, a reply was finally received, last week, to the effect that, due to an increase in other cases, they would not be able to proceed with the matter of the Village Hall. It was agreed that the clerk would write to protest against this somewhat cavalier treatment and the delays caused by the apparent prevarications. In the meantime a new contact had been offered to Cllr. Wilson and an approach would be made as soon as possible. This was approved.

The Management Committee's Annual General Meeting will be held next week, followed by a committee meeting for full discussion of the implications of the new delays to its reform.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - Cllr. Stamp reported that he had cleared some fly-tipping found along Torrington Lane. Paperwork amongst the rubbish had revealed the name and address of a local resident and Cllr. Stamp will contact the District Councillor for advice on how East Lindsey might be able to take the matter further. Cllr. Wilson agreed to supply him with some of the 'official' litter-picking bags which, when filled, can be left at the roadside to be collected by the district teams when the litter bins are emptied.

The chairman had logged in to the recent Police and Crime Commissioner's Engagement session but reported that it had produced no useful information.

c) Play Area - Cllr. Wilson reported that there will be a meeting in late January or early February to encourage new volunteers to take part in the regular local inspections and assist with any work needed on the site or its equipment. He pointed out that this was becoming more difficult and it was agreed that it may become necessary to engage a local firm to carry out the work. The chairman offered to make some preliminary enquiries.

d) Countryside Committee - Cllr. Wilson wished to thank Eric Brady and Mike Yates for their continued work on the summer grass-cutting and on forthcoming winter projects. The re-wilding sites are developing well and the last few owl and nest boxes have been made and installed. With the cutting season over, the mowers will need servicing and Cllr Wilson will liaise with Ned Chamberlain regarding the materials needed and the costs.

e) Dog Watch - There was no report on this occasion.

f) History Group - The final meeting of the year was held last week, with the aim of preparing further web-site articles during the winter and holding the next meeting towards the end of February.

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There has been more interest in the Heritage Trails and it is hoped that there may be more support from the Crossroads in publicising these.

Today's meeting of St. Mary's Church Committee confirmed that all the formalities regarding the recent work had been completed and it would now be possible to seek the funding for displaying the underground chambers. The earlier proposal of a viewing panel in the floor has now been discarded in favour of a camera system which could be directed at additional parts of the area and would have a display monitor in the church. Preliminary wiring for lights and power had already been installed as part of the church works so the new proposal is likely to be more economical than the earlier plan.

The intention is that the history group will mount a display for the Open Churches weekend in May of next year.

### 1382 **Amenities** -

War Memorial - The summer marigolds have been removed and the winter pansies have settled well.

The annual Act of Remembrance was held on Sunday, 9th November, with over 150 in attendance. Cllr Wilson wished to thank a number of people for their help in the organisation and running of the event, namely:- the clerk, for obtaining the village and children's wreaths, Paul Fuller, for leading the Service, Veronica Chamberlin, for distributing the service sheets, Tom and Jenna Bollan, for reading the names of the Fallen, a serving officer from Torrington for laying the village wreath and those who laid the other three wreaths, Tammy Dolling, for supervising the Parade and appointing the Flag Bearers, Nick Gibson, for providing police coverage and representing Horncastle Division, Mike Yates and Phil Wraight, for marshalling the event, Ned Chamberlain, Barbara Theairs and Ron and Jane Conway, for helping to set up the displays and clearing up afterwards, Melissa Chamberlain and Barbara Theairs, for serving and clearing the refreshments, and all those who came to support the Act of Remembrance.

1383 **Highways** - Cllr. Wilson reported that the fallen leaves had been swept from Torrington Lane but work may still be needed to clear the drains there and in some other parts of the village. A footpath survey has been carried out and he is still awaiting the results.

Thanks are due to Tom Bollan, who has been working on the making of more brackets for the speed camera so that all roads into the village can be covered in turn. He is now processing the data from Louth Road while the camera, itself, has been relocated to Willingham Road.

1384 **Preparation for New Clerk** - It was confirmed that Miss Sophy Warren would begin working in the New Year under the direction of the current clerk. Proposals were discussed for the induction process and initial payment rate and a schedule was approved. The clerk would arrange a meeting with Miss Warren to confirm with her the details of the process.

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Signed by the Chairman . . . . .

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### 1385 Finance -

#### a) Receipts -

Clothing Bank - Collections - September £2, October £7	Total	£9.00.00
Precept - second half		£6,750.00
County Council Grass Payment		£2,314.45
Remembrance Sunday Collection		£40.00

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
Lloyds Bank - Service Charges	Direct	£5.25	-	£5.25
HMRC Payment - online	£547.00 plus service charge 33 pence			£547.33
Clerk's Net Salary Payment - second quarter plus expenses	001073			£1,311.61
Viking - Ink and stationery	CARD	£126.73	£25.35	£152.08
Royal British Legion - Wreaths	001074	£60.00	-	£60.00
Mark Woodcock - Grass-cutting	001075	£144.00	-	£144.00
Chris Wilson - Countryside expenses	001076	£39.39	£7.68	£46.07

Also approved -

Royal British Legion - Remembrance Sunday Collection - £40.00  
 Steve Campion for West Barkwith Verge-cutting - last year £125.00  
 Bank Service Charges October - £5.25 and November - TBA  
 HMRC and Clerk's Salary Payments - for the third quarter, due in December.

It was agreed that all these payments, along with the on-going expenses for grass-cutting and office stationery, were approved and should be made as they arise.

c) **Audit Report** - The internal audit report for the first half of the year was satisfactory with no issues requiring attention.

d) **Precept Preparation** - The proposals for 2026/27 will be drafted to include the figures for the new clerk. Councillors are requested to inform the clerk of any other specific requirements by the end of December.

1386 **Any Other Business** - The next meeting will be held on January 22nd, 2026.

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

Signed by the Chairman .....