

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 19th March, 2026, starting at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr. J. Stamp (in the chair), Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. C. Fincham, Mr. N. Gibson, Ms. H. Parker,
. There were two members of the public.

1397 **Apologies** - Cllr. A. Platt was away, Cllr D. Platts was working and Cllr D. Ward had been called away on a family matter.

The County Councillor, Ms. N. Oliver, and the District Councillor, Ms. R. Yarsley, had other meetings

These apologies were accepted and approved by the meeting.

1398 **The Minutes** of the meeting of 22nd January, 2026, had been circulated. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

1399 **Matters arising - Council Vacancy** - East Lindsey confirmed that there had been no requests for an election to fill the vacant seat so the council had prepared for co-option. Two residents had come forward and submitted appropriate personal information so the public were asked to leave the room and the council went into closed session. The details were discussed and a decision was reached.

The meeting was re-opened and the public invited to return. The chairman announced that the members had agreed to the co-option of Mrs. Jane Phillips to serve until the next Parish Council elections. Mrs. Phillips signed the Declaration of Acceptance and took her seat for the rest of the proceedings.

1400 **Correspondence.**

The fortnightly newsletter from LALC is now coming directly from their office. Other newsletters and information items have been circulated as they arrived.

For information purposes, the end of January issue reported that the coming year's limit for S137 spending will be £11.60 per elector.

The same issue referred to a Governance Checklist from the Civility and Respect Working Group. This relates to the system of management, policies and controls which ensure efficient working and avoidance of conflict in conducting the council's business.

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Signed by the Chairman

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It may be noted that the council follows these guidelines in principle but lacks a number of the formal documents. An annotated copy of the checklist is included in the folders for reading at home and comments at a later meeting.

Specific items to note:-

Electoral Register There have been three up-dates showing four deletions and seven additions.

The traffic report, which was presented at the last meeting, has been forwarded to Wolds Police and acknowledged.

Able Community Care has provided a quantity of 'Do Not Knock' door stickers to discourage unwanted callers. These have been placed in the shop for distribution.

The Pelican Trust has sent details and images of their recent work in completing orders for notice boards and other outdoor furniture and for their printing services. Cllr. Fincham asked for the contact details and the original e-mail will be forwarded.

The Bus Shelter at the top of Willingham Road is in need of repair work and the details have been reported to highways through 'Fix My Street'. Cllr. Parker also has the details for reference during the 'Ward Walk' tomorrow (Friday, 20th March).

The Great British Spring Clean is taking place from 13th to 29th March.

1401 Planning -

There were no planning issues to discuss at this meeting.

1402 Reports -

a) Village Hall - After some four months of reminders, the new solicitors have still not responded to the initial information sent and members of the current management committee now need to resolve the issue as a matter of urgency. It was proposed that the Charity Commission should be informed that the Parish Council is to become the Sole Trustee as soon as possible so that the regular use of the hall is not interrupted. Any issues from the Charity Commission regarding the action would be handled as and when they arise. Cllrs. Wilson and Fincham had taken part in presenting information for the discussion but had each declared a personal interest as chairman and member, respectively, of the village Hall Committee and abstained from voting.

The proposal was put forward, seconded and agreed by the remaining councillors.

Thanks were due to Mr. D. Stevenson for providing road planings for a repair in the Village Hall Car Park.

Signed by the Chairman

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b) Neighbourhood Watch - Cllr. Parker discussed the issues of online fraud and the impact on vulnerable people and would like to arrange an event to raise awareness of the issue and how to report an incident. Cllr Gibson has spoken to Horncastle Police and they are willing to attend an event to speak on the matter. The question of a venue was discussed as being either the Village Hall or the Church. Cllr. Stamp is going to speak with the Church group regarding their possible involvement. It is expected that this will be arranged as a daytime session.

c) Play Area - The preparation for the coming weekend's spring clean is being undertaken. There are a number of volunteers who have come forward to assist with this. Cllr. Wilson is also working on some fund-raising plans for the play area.

d) Countryside Committee - Cllr. Wilson has not been able to inspect all the rewilding sites due to bad weather and some personal time needed. He is working on a full report for the next meeting.

Thanks are due to Tom Stamp for cutting the boundary hedge of the Parish Field. The ponds there are full but there is an absence of toad and frog spawn this year.

Mr. Ned Chamberlin will be confirming the parts needed for servicing the mower. The cost is expected to be in the region of £300, which is part of the grass-cutting budget.

An environment committee is assessing the impact of the grey squirrel population. Cllr. Wilson asks for any sightings, stating where and how many, to be reported to him.

e) Dog Watch - There are two new bins available for waste, - one to be placed on Louth Road, near the Parish Field, and the other by Church Path, on the Village Green. The precise location has been agreed with the district council's waste team for collections.

f) History Group - The first meeting for this year is scheduled for Thursday, 26th March, from 8pm at the Crossroads Inn. There will be an up-date at the next meeting.

1403 Amenities -

War Memorial - Thanks are due to Jenna and Finn Bollan who have looked after the Memorial during Cllr. Wilson's absence, and to Tom Bollan for keeping up with the changing of the flags. It is reported that, due to the level of rainfall, there may be a need to dig out and replant some of the bedding areas.

1404 **Highways** - There is to be a 'Ward Walk' tomorrow, with County Councillor N. Oliver, the head of the Highways department, Leila Hardy, a councillor from South Willingham and Cllr. Parker for East and West Barkwith. The route will cover South Willingham, East Barkwith and West Barkwith and review the needs relating to the state of the roads and gullies and the Willingham Road bus shelter.

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Cllr. Wilson reported that the potholes on Torrington Lane have now been repaired. Carl, from Highways, has told him that the date of 16th April has been set for work on the drainage issue on the village green followed by any further work on the deeper cleaning of the gullies.

Permission is to be sought for the installation of the entrance ‘gates’ and fund-raising planned for these and the other speed control measures. Cllr. Parker has prepared an analysis of the population for demonstrating the needs and benefits when making funding applications.

It has been reported that the bus shelter at Panton is in need of restaining. Cllr. Fincham said he has supplies remaining from last year and will undertake the maintenance with Cllr. Phillips.

1405 **Funding** - Cllr Parker attended a recent funding meeting. There are four different agencies offering opportunities for particular projects. Crowd funding is promoted as a popular way to raise funds with East Lindsey District Council offering to match any monies raised in this manner. The funding available via other methods has to be tied to a particular project, rather than a more general aim. Ideas put forward were the possibility of additional speed cameras, village hall facility upgrades, play area equipment, or community events

Cllr. Parker has requested the presentation handout for the meeting and will forward the information when she receives it.

There is also the possibility that Cllr. Yarsley may be able to provide some funding from her District Councillor’s allowance.

It should be noted that most funding sources will not be open again until after the beginning of the new financial year.

1406 **Finance** -

a) **Income** -

| | | |
|---|-------|--------|
| Clothing Bank Collections - January £9, February £30.40 | Total | £39.40 |
|---|-------|--------|

Outgoings -

| | | | | |
|---|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| Lloyds Bank - January Service Charges | Direct | £4.55 | - | £4.55 |
| February Service Charges | Direct | £5.75 | - | £5.75 |
| East Lindsey - Green Bin Subscription | CARD | £55.00 | - | £55.00 |
| Viking - Inks and Stationery | CARD | £159.04 | £31.82 | £190.86 |
| Miss S. Warren - Assistant Clerk’s Salary | | | | |
| for February | 001083 | £195.00 | - | £195.00 |
| Steve Campion for West Barkwith Grass - | 001084 | £125.00 | - | £125.00 |
| LALC - Course expenses for Asst. Clerk - | 001085 | £13.00 | £2.60 | £15.60 |

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|---------------------------------------|------|--------|-------|--------|
| B & Q - Woodstain for Play Area - | CARD | £20.00 | £6.00 | £26.00 |
| Amazon - Gloss paints for Play Area - | CARD | £33.06 | £6.62 | £39.68 |

Due now -

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|-----------|------------------------------|---------|
| Donnington on Bain Primary School - | | | | |
| Two refuse bins | 001086 | £75.00 | - | £75.00 |
| Miss S. Warren - Asst. Clerk's Salary | | | | |
| for March | 001087 | £195.00 | - | £195.00 |
| Clerk's Net Salary Payment - | | £1,201.50 | | |
| Clerk's Expenses for October to March | | £124.58 | | |
| Paid together | 001088 | £1,325.08 | | |
| HMRC Payment - online | | £547.00 | plus service charge 33 pence | £547.33 |

Also Expected -

| | | | | |
|---|--------|--|--|---------|
| Lloyds Bank - March Service Charges | Direct | | | £5.25 |
| April Service Charges | Direct | | | TBA. |
| Miss S. Warren - Assistant Clerk's Salary for April | | | | £390.00 |

Mower servicing supplies, estimated at £300, and grass-cutting costs.

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

Other matters -

The Grass Agreement has been renewed with an expected payment of £2,373.29 in the autumn.

It will be necessary to amend the banking instructions to remove former Cllr. Tricia Brady from the approved signatories and add at least one new name. It was agreed to add Cllrs. Fincham and Gibson to the list. The clerk will obtain the necessary forms and prepare them for signature at the next meeting.

At the same time, the details of the approved contact and card holder can be amended to reflect the transfer of responsibilities to the new clerk.

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The council's insurance policy is due for renewal from 01.06.26, including the long term agreement. The assistant clerk is currently researching available deals and will make a report at the next meeting.

c) Precept Submission -

The precept form was submitted directly after the last meeting and has been acknowledged.

d) End of Financial Year -

The payments listed will complete the transactions for the 2025/2026 financial year. The clerk will complete the council's records and prepare for internal audit by Mr. Roger Miller, if he is available, otherwise by Mr. Paul Elliott. The documents will then be assembled with the Annual Return forms for public inspection. This was approved by the meeting.

The clerk will complete the closure of the 2025/2026 records but, as part of the handover, the assistant clerk will take over the regular accounting processes as from the beginning of April.

1407 Any Other Business -

The issue of fly-tipping was brought up as a continuing nuisance. Cllr. Stamp reported that the latest incident had occurred on the outer end of Torrington Lane, just beyond the boundary with West Lindsey. The perpetrators had left evidence of their identity and the enforcement officer from West Lindsey District Council will be contacting them. Cllr. Stamp wished to send a formal letter of thanks to West Lindsey for their prompt actions and will forward the details to the clerk.

The list of Committees and Representatives was circulated to give time for individual review. Former Cllr. Brady's name will need to be removed and this will leave a particular problem with the web-site management where there will be no serving councillor listed. Suggestions in advance of the next meeting will allow other possible reallocations.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Signed by the Chairman