

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 18th September, 2025, starting at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr. A. Platt, Mr. J. Stamp, Mrs. T. Brady, Mr. C. Fincham, Mr. D. Platts,

The District Councillor, Ms. R. Yarsley, and the County Councillor, Ms. N. Oliver, were also present, as were three members of the Hatton Action Group.

1365 **Apologies** - Cllrs. D. Ward and C. Wilson were working, Cllr. Parker was still away due to a family issue and Cllr. N. Gibson was out of the village.

These apologies were accepted and approved.

1366 **The Minutes** of the meeting of 17th July had been circulated. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

1367 **Matters arising** - There were no matters arising.

1368 **Correspondence.**

General newsletters and information items had been circulated as they arrived.

The covering e-mail for the LALC newsletter of 29th August had included notification that the organisation now requires the clerk to register the e-mail addresses for ALL councillors so that they can receive copies of the fortnightly news directly from their office. It will also be possible for registered councillors to access the website should they wish to seek guidance or information on any topic under the council's consideration.

There were no objections to this and the clerk will process the registrations.

Other items:-

Electoral Register There have been two up-dates with a total of three additions and one deletion. Cllr. Yarsley said that letters were being issued shortly, regarding adjustments to the system for postal voting.

Page 1172

Signed by the Chairman

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

Lincolnshire County Council has sent a poster informing residents about reporting floods. This will be copied and laminated for display.

They have also appointed a **Community Resilience Officer** to support individuals and communities in preparing for emergency situations. The officer is Kimberley Pickett who can be reached at:- Kimberley.Pickett@lincolnshire.gov.uk. The District and County Councillors reported that she is willing to visit Parish Councils to discuss her work and the assistance available to communities. It was agreed to consider this at a later date.

Another e-mail from the County Council concerned a survey of **Public Rights of Way**. This was forwarded at the time but Cllrs. Fincham, Stamp and Platts asked for it to be re-sent.

Yet another message related to the **Local Government Reorganisation** proposals and provided a poster with the dates of local public meetings. Copies of these were posted alongside the Agenda posters for this meeting.

Their final message related to the **East Lindsey Investment Fund GRASSroots Grant Scheme**. The guidelines and application form have been stored on the system but the list of eligible projects does not appear to cover anything which is currently on the council's 'wish list'.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Office has sent notification of the next Parish Council Briefing session, to be held via Teams on Tuesday, 23rd September. They are anxious to know who will be representing each council as soon as possible due to considerations regarding numbers. Cllr. Parker had agreed to attend but may not now be available. The chairman agreed to step in and the clerk will arrange for the contact details to be sent.

Ron Bailey has sent confirmation that many of the proposals of the Lithium Battery campaign have been incorporated into a government bill which has been passed into law. There will be a webinar shortly to clarify the details.

The **Highways Department** has sent notification of a road closure on Willingham Road for 19 days, between 27th October and 14th November, to allow the National Grid Distribution to carry out electrical works.

The **Pensions Regulator** has sent an initial letter advising of the need to complete the re-declaration process by July of next year. The clerk will process this in due course but there will need to be an up-date once a new clerk is in post.

Signed by the Chairman

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

A late e-mail from the County Council announced the availability of **one tonne salt bags** for Parish Council's winter maintenance work. Cllr Stamp again agreed to store the bag and the clerk will complete the online request form.

1369 Planning -

a) Applications -

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.

The application was viewed at the meeting and it was agreed to support it.

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

Extension to existing dwelling to provide additional living accommodation.

The application was viewed at the meeting and it was agreed to support it.

b) Decisions -

02326/25/FUL - Barkwith House, Torrington Lane, East Barkwith.

Installation of a ground mounted solar array and landscaping in connection with the existing dwelling.

This application has been granted.

02572/25/FUL - Sycamore Cottage, Torrington Lane, East Barkwith.

Replacement of existing oil tank on an adjusted position within the curtilage of a listed building.

This application has been granted

c) Appeal - Hatton Solar Farm - The meeting had been preceded by a presentation from the Hatton Action Group relating to the current appeal process against the refusal of planning permission from East Lindsey for the Solar Farm. There have been some small adjustments to the plans but these have been published with very little time for proper study. The group is asking for the council's continued support in opposing the project as the changes make little difference to the surroundings of the listed building. In addition, the area is currently classified as E1, an area with 'no appreciable industry', but the development will result in a change to 'partly industrial'. This has the risk of opening the door to further development. The District Councillor has a draft form of the comments which would be helpful in preparing any letter and this will be reviewed by the clerk before formulating the council's response.

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

1370 Reports -

a) Village Hall - The clerk reported on the information now received from Nelson's solicitors regarding the proposed transfer of responsibility for the Village Hall to the Parish Council. They will need a copy of the formal request from the Village Hall Committee and a copy of a similar document showing the Council's agreement.

The costs of their work have now been revised from the £1,700 quoted by the previous firm as the new representative, Gemma Hopper, has taken a deeper look into the requirements. Councillors expressed concern at the new figures of £3,500 to £4,500 and the clerk will request a breakdown for clarification of the marked difference.

There was further discussion of the management tasks and costs which would ultimately fall to the council and clerk. Further information on these points will be given to the next meeting, after the Village Hall accounts have been completed for the year at the end of September and the Annual General Meeting has been held in early November.

The solicitors are estimating a time-scale of three to four months to complete their work, which should allow transfer of the Village Hall accounts just after the end of the current financial year and avoid complications with the annual external audit.

It is important that the process be completed as soon as is practical due to the extreme difficulty in gaining new trustees for the committee and the delay currently caused to the grant-seeking measures for the improvements needed.

b) Neighbourhood Watch - There was no report on this occasion.

c) Play Area - Cllr. Wilson sent word that the annual inspection had been completed with no major issues. Some small tasks remain to be addressed when the weather permits. There may need to be some expenditure on paint and stain. Cllr. Platt said he had some stain remaining from last year's work and will contact Cllr. Wilson. Cllr. Oliver said that there were now Community Re-paint Stores at the household recycling centres where residents could take unwanted paint or collect, at no charge, a supply for their own needs.

d) Countryside Committee - Cllr. Wilson sent word that he wished to thank Eric Brady and Mike Yates for keeping the grass cut and tidy along the verges, in the parish field and in the parking areas for the Village Hall and St. Mary's Church.

Another Owl Box has been constructed and installed at the Grange, while more types are being prepared for the other rewilding areas.

Thanks are due to David and Merle Garrad for growing the wildflowers on their verge. There has been a good yield of seeds which are being stored for sowing later, while the subsequent mowings have been taken to another rewilding area to improve the range of plants there.

Particular thanks are due to the litter pickers for their efforts in trying to keep the verges clear, even when the rubbish includes such odd items as a child's car seat. There is photographic proof of this one.

Page 1175

Signed by the Chairman

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

e) Dog Watch - More signs have been installed but, although fouling remains at low levels, it has been noted that some dog-walkers are picking up after their animals but then abandoning the bag instead of taking it to a bin.

f) History Group - The group has welcomed two new members and is still receiving new materials for the collection. It is hoped to stage an exhibition in St. Mary's Church showing some of the more recent items along with a display of wildlife photographs taken by David Cotgrave, both locally and further afield.

1371 Amenities -

War Memorial - The winter pansies are now ready for planting out, which will be completed in the next two or three weeks. The posts will require painting shortly.

The annual Act of Remembrance will be held on Sunday, 9th November, starting at 10.45am. It will be followed by refreshments in the Village Hall with a display of information on the fallen from the parish.

1372 Highways - Cllr. Wilson sent his thanks to Cllr. Oliver and the Highways Office for the site meeting during which a number of issues were discussed. As a result of this, he has been in contact with Carl Parker about the drainage conditions around the village. These will be surveyed shortly and Cllr. Wilson would appreciate it if councillors would let him know quickly, of any issues which come to their notice.

Cllr. Oliver reported that Leila, from the highways department, would be arranging for the sweeper to attend, particularly along Torrington Lane, once the main leaf-fall had occurred.

She also said that the footpath on Panton Road is now regarded as a very low priority as there are too few dwellings alongside it. However, she would continue to press for funding for the work on the Lincoln Road path and those elsewhere. In the meantime, there is a 'patching plan' for Lincoln Road. Cllr. Platt remarked that a resident has asked why Highways did not simply construct a new path on the opposite side of the road, where the dwellings were, rather than repair the one on the field side.

It was noted that Tom Bollan is preparing a new report on the speed camera findings and a further mounting bracket has been made to facilitate re-siting at the required intervals.

1373 Finance -

a) Receipts -

The Recycling company has made payments in the last two months for collections from the Clothing Bank and the combined amount for the Village Hall Reserve was £14.00.

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East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

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	£5.75	-	£5.75
Clear Councils - Mower Insurance	CARD	£178.96,	-	£178.96
J. Parker's - War Memorial Plants	CARD	£95.67	£19.13	£114.80
Eric Brady - Mower Fuel	001068	£23.04	£4.61	£27.65
Huws Gray Buldbase - P. Area Bark	CARD	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00
Chris Wilson - Churchyard Mower Fuel	001069	£14.03	£2.81	£16.84
Greenstripe - Mower Service Parts	CARD	£77.15	£15.43	£92.58
Play Safety Limited - Inspection	001070	£84.00	£16.80	£100.80
Lloyds Bank - Service Charges	Direct	£6.25	-	£6.25
Mark Woodcock - Grass-cutting	001071	£144.00	-	£144.00
Eric Brady - Mower Fuel	001072	£23.67	£4.74	£28.41

Also approved -

Clerk's Salary Payment - for the second quarter - £1,201.50, plus £547.00 to HMRC

Clerk's Expenses - as listed - £110.11

Bank Service Charges September - £5.25 and October - TBA

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 - The external auditors have confirmed that the Certificate of Exemption has been fully registered. There will be no further contact until next year's documents are due.

The end of September marks the end of the first half of the year and the accounts will be prepared for audit as soon as the Bank Statement arrives.

1374 Any Other Business -

Cllr Yarsley wished to remind councillors of the Grant Information session she had organised for Friday, 10th October, from 10am to noon, in Wragby. The clerk will re-send the earlier e-mail.

There are also a number of information sessions relating to the proposals for the reorganisation of Local Government. Details have already been circulated and they are highly recommended.

Cllr. Oliver reported that the Local Government Reorganisation proposal by Lincolnshire County Council is the one which has no plan for the break-up of the county as it wishes to avoid disruption to the various services and organisations which are currently working well.

Page 1177

Signed by the Chairman

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

There being no other general business, the council then went into closed session for the full discussion of the remaining item. The following report omits details which are currently confidential.

1375 Process for New Clerk - The clerk had prepared a full Job Description for use by potential candidates and this had been approved by the chairman. Copies were circulated. The intention had been to begin advertising after this meeting but, in the interim, a resident had come forward to enquire about the work. This person has lived in the village for many years so knows it and its people well. Their working background is also appropriate. The clerk had discussed the details of the Job Description and, after studying it for a few days, the resident had offered to take up the post if the council approved.

There was a brief discussion on the necessity and arrangements for an induction period and it was agreed by all present to approve the appointment and the clerk will notify the resident accordingly. The induction period and other details will be presented to the next meeting when the appointment will be made public. Until then, the specific details of the matter must remain confidential.

The meeting then closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed by the Chairman