

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at 8.00 pm. on 21st March, 2019, in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr. A. Platt, Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. J. Stamp, Mr. D. Ward, Mr. N. Battell, Mrs. T. Brady, Ms. K. Breckons, Mr. C. Fincham and Mr. Stuart Goodacre.

The District Councillor was absent on this occasion. Mrs. P. Bradwell, the County Councillor was present but there were no members of the public in attendance.

Mrs. Bradwell had to go on to another meeting so the chairman exercised his discretion to allow her to speak before beginning the main business.

She reported a complaint from a resident concerning the speed of traffic on the main road through the village, with a request for a crossing island for safer access to the shop. It was noted that the latter was unlikely due to the sharpness of the bend. There have been ‘visible’ speed checks, with consequent temporary slowing of the traffic but the request for a ‘stealth survey’, to assess the need for greater enforcement, has received no response to date. Mrs. Bradwell agreed to liaise with Cllr. Wilson, the Highways department and the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership to press for action.

Thanks to the mild winter, less gritting work was needed so there were four extra pot-hole repair teams available. Problems can be reported online at Lincolnshire.gov.uk, or via the ‘FixMyStreet’ independent web-site and will usually require a photograph of the issue.

Cllr. Wilson spoke of the recent rule that removes any direct contact he once had with the engineer’s department and requires all communication to be made through the County Councillor. This is making it difficult for him to report an up-date to the situation on Panton Road, where it would be pointless to go ahead with this year’s scheduled repair and resurfacing of the footpath until after the persistent water problem is resolved. Mrs. Bradwell agreed to add this to her discussions with Highways.

The County scheme for grass-cutting for ‘bio-digesters’ is currently being tested in a pilot area. In the meantime the Agreements for this year will require 3 cuts over the season and the payment will reflect the extra work. The County Council will also be arranging an enhanced rota for clearing roadside gullies.

There were no other matters for Mrs. Bradwell to take back to County so the Chairman thanked her for her support and opened the main meeting.

978. **Apologies for absence.**

The District Councillor, Mr. Nick Guyatt, had been in touch to say that he would not be attending the meeting due to on-going health problems and that, for the same reason, he would not be standing for re-election in May. It was agreed that the clerk should write to thank him for his support over the past few years and to wish him well in his retirement.

Signed by the Chairman

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979. **Minutes.**

Draft copies of the Minutes of the meetings of 17th January, 2019 and 12th February (Planning), had been circulated prior to the meeting.

They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

980. **Matters arising.**

There were no items on this occasion.

981. **Correspondence.**

General information and dates - as listed for circulation

Other items -

East Lindsey has sent two up-dates to the Register of Electors, totalling four additions and three deletions.

BHIB sent advice on risk factors for Trees and this was referred to Cllr. Wilson in his capacity as Safety Officer.

They have also announced the launch of a new web-site for Councils' Insurance.

Lincolnshire County Council have sent details of the proposed closure of a road in West Torrington in order to carry out work on the West Torrington Grange culvert. This is not in our area but County has no details of any local contact. The clerk contacted a resident and the information has now been passed to Mrs. Mary Hoban, who is willing to act as an unofficial representative until such time as other arrangements may be made.

Keep Britain Tidy has announced the Great British Spring Clean campaign, to be run from March 22nd to April 23rd, with a request for all communities to get involved. Copies of the information sheet were circulated and details were passed to Cllr. Wilson for the Countryside Committee. Mention was made of the thanks due to all those residents, especially the dog-walkers, who go about armed with a spare bag and collect litter as a regular part of their journey.

L.A.L.C. has sent information and a questionnaire about the Cluster Groups. Copies were circulated and it was agreed that councillors would study them individually and return completed copies to the clerk for amalgamation and onward transmission. The clerk will need the documents by Friday, April 5th in order to forward the completed response by the deadline of April 12th.

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The Rural Services Network has begun sending an e-newsletter, at approximately weekly intervals, covering a wide range of issues and campaigns relevant to rural communities. They are also calling on the Government to develop a 'Rural Strategy' to support these communities in maintaining an effective and sustainable role in the social and economic life of the nation. Six councillors expressed an interest in receiving copies of the newsletter, either forwarded from the clerk, or directly, and this will be arranged.

982. Planning

a) Applications - One application had been viewed since the Planning Meeting on February 22nd:-

S/044/00220/19 - Land to the West of Louth Road, East Barkwith - Variation to earlier application ref. S/044/01192/18 to allow the new building to be set further back from the roadside boundary.

This was approved.

b) Decisions - There were no decisions to report.

983. Reports

a) Village Hall. The Management Committee met last Tuesday next month and discussed the current financial position and fund-raising proposals. These include the Summer Fete, a 7-mile Run and an Entertainment evening. The committee approved a proposal to erect an advertising notice board to promote the hiring arrangements but this will require formal planning permission.

It was formally agreed that the Council would make and fund the application.

The guttering and fascia boards will be installed as soon as the necessary scaffolding can be obtained. Other work will include the installation of a concrete planter beneath the Heritage Notice Board (an attractive method of offering some protection against vehicle collision), the removal of two cherry trees and one elder, the levelling of the soil at the rear, and the application of a coat of white paint to the boundary posts. Volunteer help may be sought through the next issue of the community 'Flyer'.

It was agreed that the council would sponsor the printing of this and any other notices by supplying the ink and paper needed for the printers.

The question of the charitable status and management basis of the hall will be discussed with Samantha Smith from Community Lincs, at a meeting to be arranged shortly.

b) Neighbourhood Watch. There have been five instances of break-ins to sheds on Willingham Road recently, but the major problem overall is the increasing risk of cyber-crime and residents are urged to be particularly careful about their computer security.

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c) Play Area. At the recent committee meeting, the members welcomed the proposal for a questionnaire to assess the use and support for the Play Area and suggestions for new equipment. One new volunteer has come forward to join the committee and others have said they will help with specific projects when needed. The Council Agreed to support the issue of the questionnaire.

d) Countryside Committee. Thanks are due to Eric Brady for his hard work in the Parish Field - it is looking really good. Thanks, too, to Paul Ballard for his assistance whenever his work allows, to Colin Poxson for his work on servicing the mowers and to the chairman for arranging the supply of the necessary parts.

The entry forms for the Best Kept Village competition have been issued and referred to Cllr. Wilson to review the maps required and any other information to support an entry. It was agreed that the entry should be submitted as soon as Cllr. Wilson and Cllr. Brady have assembled the necessary details.

The 'Open Gardens' event will take place in July and any funds raised will be shared between the Play Area and the Village Hall.

As his final act of support for this council, the retiring District Councillor, Mr. Nick Guyatt, had underwritten an application to the Councillors' Community Grant Scheme for the costs of a project to install Owl and Bat Boxes at a number of locations around the Parish. This has been granted in the sum of £769. Cllr. Wilson will be sourcing the materials shortly and approaching those who have volunteered to assist with construction.

e) Dog Watch Co-ordinator. Cllr. Brady has contacted the District Council and obtained permission for the dog-bin in Willingham Road to be moved slightly to improve access to and from the field for agricultural vehicles, provided there is no objection from the owner of the verge.

A new sign will be needed at the little bridge opposite Bodkin Lodge to warn those who walk their dogs along the field edge.

There has been recent evidence of fouling along Torrington Lane, possibly from a dog belonging to new residents who are not yet familiar with the rules. There has been a request for an additional bin to be placed at the outer end of Torrington Lane. Cllr. Brady will contact East Lindsey to find out whether this is possible, given the existence of the one opposite the church.

f) History Group. The Crossroads is open under new management, and meetings can continue there. Cllr. Wilson is looking for picture frames to mount items for display in the pub as the landlord wishes to promote local interest.

There has been a contact, via the web-site, from a relative seeking further information about the Brackenbury family. A suitable response will be prepared.

g) Churchyard. A recent visitor to the area has commented that the village should be proud of the care that is taken with the churchyard. Thanks are due to Cllr. Stamp for emptying the green-waste pit so that the good work can continue.

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984. Amenities.

a) War Memorial. The cleaning of the War Memorial will take place before the first round of the Best Kept Village competition provided Steve Andrews is able to fit it into his timetable. Plants are in preparation for the summer bedding, to include sufficient for the proposed new planter under the Heritage board.

b) Web-site. This is continuing to develop on the History pages and the council pages will be up-dated as soon as the clerk is able to schedule a session with Tom Bollan.

985. Highways.

See the report from the County Councillor at the beginning of the meeting. There were no other matters for attention on this occasion

986. Finance.

a) Receipts - The Councillors Community Grant had been received in the sum of £769.

b) Bills - The following items had been approved for payment on receipt of invoice -

Payee - For	Cheque no.	Net	VAT	Total
Viking - Ink supply	000810	£138.92	£27.78	£166.70
Star Garage - Mower Parts	000811	£216.41	£43.28	£259.69

Bills approved at this meeting -

L.A.L.C. - Annual Subscription	000812	£147.09	-	£147.09
L.A.L.C. - Training for GDPR	000813	£12.00	-	£12.00
HMRC - Clerk's PAYE	000814	£153.90	-	£153.90
Mrs. B. Theairs - Clerk's Salary	000815	£561.10	-	£561.10
Mrs. B. Theairs - Clerk's Expenses	000816	£165.20	-	£165.20

Also approved, in principle, for payment on receipt of invoices -

Servicing and maintenance costs for the mowers during the rest of the season.

Fuel expenses for outdoor machines.

Essential Stationery supplies from Viking.

Materials for the construction of the Owl and Bat Boxes as specified for the Grant.

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Mark Woodcock has agreed to undertake this year's cutting of the small grass areas on the same terms as last year and it was agreed to make his payments on arrival of his invoices.

The Parish Grass-cutting Agreement was approved for signature.

c) Accounts - These payments will complete the records for 2018/19 and the clerk will prepare the books for audit once the final Bank Statement has arrived.

It was agreed that Sophy Warren would be asked to undertake the Internal Audit.

The Annual Return forms will be arriving shortly. It is expected that they will take the same form as last year with only the Certificate of Exemption being submitted to the External Auditors and the rest of the documents being posted on the web-site.

987. **Any Other Business.**

Cllr. Breckons returned to the topic of speed control and suggested that the council might consider registering for the Community Speedwatch scheme. This was supported by the Police who could then follow up any issues raised. There would also be information on reactive speed signs available for purchase. It was agreed that Cllr. Breckons should register for further information.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.50pm.