

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at 8.00 pm. on 20th September, 2018, in the Village Hall.

Present: Mr. A. Platt, Mr. C. Wilson, Mr. N. Battell, Mrs. T. Brady, and Mr. S. Goodacre.

The District and County Councillors were both absent on this occasion.

There was one member of the public in attendance.

944. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs. C. Fincham and J. Stamp, who were both working, Cllr. D. Ward, who had a family commitment, and Cllr. K. Breckons, who was unwell. These were accepted and approved by those present.

945. Minutes.

Draft copies of the Minutes of the meeting of 19th July, 2018 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The clerk pointed out two errors which had already been notified to the councillors and which had been corrected on the copies presented for signature and it was agreed to accept these. The Minutes were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

946. Matters arising.

There were no items on this occasion.

947. Correspondence.

General information and dates - as listed for circulation

Other items -

East Lindsey has sent two up-dates to the Electoral Register showing a total of 4 deletions, 1 amendment and 3 additions.

Royal Mail has sent notes and a poster on dealing with Scam Mail. It was agreed that the poster should be copied for display in the bus shelters and on other notice boards in the parish.

Signed by the Chairman

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948. Planning

- a) Applications - There were no applications on view at this meeting.
- b) Decisions - There were two decisions to report.

S/044/01247/18 - Ashgrove House, Panton Road, East Barkwith - Extensions to include provision of an indoor swimming pool. Granted

S/202/00863/18 - Star Garage, Louth Road West Barkwith - Amendment to earlier application to show - Change of use of former agricultural land. Erection of a garage (works completed) Granted

Although this was granted, there were such stringent conditions attached relating to the use of the land that further developments may be expected.

A further application is still being processed by the District Council.

S/044/01192/18 - Land to the West of Louth Road, East Barkwith - Erection of a detached house on site of existing buildings to be demolished. This is subject to further discussions and may then be referred to the full planning committee for the decision.

c) Village projects -

There have been so many changes relating to the criteria for the route of the Cycle Path that Cllr. Wilson will need to carry out a new survey.

The District Council is seeking up-dates of the Community Emergency Plans, taking into account the need for greater security of personal data. Cllr. Wilson will make a further report at the next meeting.

949. Reports

a) Village Hall. Cllr. Wilson expressed his thanks to all who had supported, in any way, the Summer Fete which was held on Sunday, 15th July.

The new rear doors and guttering have arrived and will be fitted when there is a sufficient gap in the weekend bookings.

The Management Committee AGM will be held in early October, followed by a meeting of the new committee.

The grass at the front of the hall sometimes needs an extra cut to keep it tidy. It was agreed to ask Mark Woodcock to add this to his regular schedule.

Cllr. Brady presented the results of her research into a replacement for the gas barbecue. It is possible that someone in the area may be willing to donate a used barbecue they were replacing. It was agreed to look at this matter again in the Spring.

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Cllr. Wilson proposed the purchase of two sets of low-voltage LED Christmas Lights which could be connected via a concealed socket and wiring to the RCD socket in the Village Hall. It was agreed to allow £50 for this and Cllr. Goodacre will investigate the source used by Horncastle for their lights.

b) Neighbourhood Watch. There was no report on this occasion but the clerk had received a sample poster concerning Mail Scams. It was agreed that this would be copied for display in the bus shelters.

c) Play Area. The RoSPA Annual Inspection had confirmed some minor matters which were already on the list for attention. Some pre-winter maintenance will also be required. Issues with the placement of the litter bin had been repeated but, as there is no position which fulfils all the conditions, the inspectors have usually agreed that the current site is the best option and Cllr. Wilson will write to confirm this.

The inspectors have also asked for there to be two gates to the area, largely to prevent bullying. This could be difficult with the present layout and bullying has never been an issue in the Play Area. Cllr. Willson will include these points in his letter.

The new fence posts have been installed and are awaiting connection to the fence itself.

The Bonfire Night event will be held on Saturday, 3rd November, in the field entrance off Torrington Lane.

d) Countryside Committee. The ending of the long, dry spell has brought a general spurt in growth and it was agreed that Mark Woodcock should be asked to make an extra cut if necessary. Thanks are due to Eric Brady and Colin Poxson, for their sterling work on mowing the verges, and to Messrs, Robinson and Stephenson for their kind donations of fuel for the mower.

There has been an offer of a sack of daffodil bulbs, to be planted around the parish.

e) Dog Watch Co-ordinator. There is still no permanent replacement for the Dog-waste bin on Panton Road. The temporary one has no cover and is very unpleasant, for both users and for those who empty the bin, in the warm, damp weather. Cllr. Brady will contact the District Council to press for action.

The damaged notice on the footpath connecting Torrington Lane with Foster's Field will be replaced shortly.

f) History Group. Thanks are due to all who helped with the 'Hunt' at the latest Field Survey, last Sunday, in Foster's Field and Kyms Dairy Paddock, and to Tricia and Eric Brady for serving the refreshments. There were a number of finds to be recorded and stored and a report on these will be made in due course.

The next event is likely to be in the Spring and the Metal Detectorists have already asked if they can send another group from their club.

Cllr. Wilson will be contacting the new landlord of the Crossroads with a view to re-instating the display pieces and the arrangements for the Trail Walking Guides.

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g) Churchyard. Mowing continues as conditions require and the area attracts many compliments on its care and appearance. There are no particular issues to report at this stage.

950. Amenities.

a) War Memorial. The summer marigolds are still looking well but the new plants for the winter will be ready for planting out by the end of the month. Cllr. Wilson will be arranging for a ‘wash down’ of the Memorial before the Remembrance Service.

The details of the arrangements for the special Remembrance Commemoration were reviewed. Some of the estimated costings may be covered by donations once the details have been formally approved.

It was agreed to accept the proposed format for the day and to allow an overall budget of £500 to cover the costs, with bills to be paid as they arise, up to that limit.

The Poppy Cascade for the Church is in its final preparation stages and should be ready for installation by the end of the month so that more visitors will have time to appreciate the display before the actual day. In the meantime, Mary Jordan is working with other local clergy on the content of the Church Service which will precede that at the War Memorial on the Sunday Morning.

b) Web-site. Tom Bollan has almost completed his revision of the web-site but still needs certain information from Mike Burton. It was suggested that there should be an ‘e-notice board’, showing fairly prominently on the site, to encourage participation in parish events and to display other local information. Physical notices would continue to be posted on the usual boards and in the bus shelters, and the flyer would continue to be issued for the benefit of those without access to the web-site.

951. Highways.

Bus Shelters - Another telephone call to the department has brought the news that a survey has been undertaken of all the shelters on the county’s routes and this has found that a large number are suffering from the same degradation of the perspex panels as those in East Barkwith. Some have physical damage as well. The County Council’s budget cuts have removed all finance for such repairs and replacements so the team is proposing to visit all the shelters again, over the next few months, to try a ‘cleaning programme’. Badly damaged panels may have to be replaced with boarding. It is hoped to make a case for reinstatement of a repair budget for the next financial year but the outcome is uncertain.

Grit Bins - Since the last meeting, the lidless bin in Willingham Road has been removed entirely, as had the one at the top of Torrington Lane. This has since been replaced. Enquiries made of the Winter Maintenance Team brought the comments that:-

‘The bin at the top of Torrington Lane was blue and needed to be changed for a green one.’

‘The bin on Willingham Road was removed because it was damaged. That position no longer meets the criteria for installing a bin as both Willingham Road and the main road are gritted. Therefore it will not be replaced.’

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Cllr. Goodacre reported that, in his work for Horncastle, he had learned that there was no money to order replacement bins and there was no remaining stock.

Cllr. Wilson stated that when the gritting routes were established, it had been agreed that the Willingham Road bin would remain for use at the top end of Panton Road, which was not gritted, and for gritting the footpaths, particularly those alongside the main road where residents crossed to access the shop. This had been minuted at the time (in the mid 1990's). These minutes are now with the County Archives but Cllr. Wilson would seek out his copy for the relevant details. The clerk would then write to press for further action and report back at the next meeting.

952. Finance.

a) Receipts - There were no receipts to report. However, the claim form for the grass-cutting money has arrived and will be completed for submission in the next few days. The sum is expected to be £573.10.

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

Payee - For	Cheque no.	Net	VAT	Total
Buildbase - Village Hall doors -	000789	£139.74	£27.95	£167.69
Mercury Plastics - Village Hall guttering -	000790	£531.58	£106.25	£637.83
B. Theairs - War Memorial plants (reimbursement)	000791	£71.96	-	£71.96
Play Safety - Play Area Inspection -	000792	£70.00	£14.00	£84.00
Mark Woodcock - Grass-cutting -	000793	£88.00	-	£88.00

Bills approved at this meeting -

HMRC - Clerk's tax -	000794	£153.90	-	£153.90
Mrs. B. Theairs - Clerk's salary	000795	£561.10	-	£561.10
Mrs. B. Theairs - Clerk's Expenses	000796	£100.10	-	£100.10

An invoice had been received from Mike Burton for the renewal of the Hosting Fees for the web-site. It was thought this had been deferred by GoDaddy until late October but it seems the payment was debited anyway. However, as there are still some issues with the final handover of the site, the councillors agreed that the payment should be held back until they are resolved. The clerk will write to Mike Burton to that effect.

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

Any remaining fuel bills for grass-cutting work

Wreaths - 1 large and 1 small, for Remembrance Sunday - £50.00

Other items for the Remembrance Sunday events as listed on the programme - up to £500

Further bills for Village Hall work as listed in the grant

c) Annual Return - The Certificate of Exemption from external audit has been accepted by the auditing company with no resulting questions. There is, therefore no external audit and, thus, no charge for this process. The 2017/18 formalities are now complete.

d) Bank Debit Card - The application forms completed at the last meeting were submitted and the card and related notes have now arrived. The final copies of the associated 'Financial Controls', as prepared at the last meeting, were circulated, approved and signed by the chairman.

e) Forward Planning - The current detailed account sheets are becoming unwieldy, taking one and a half pages of A3 paper, in landscape format, to print out the spreadsheets. The layout could be simplified by grouping the entries according to the section or sub-committee which generates them. The clerk circulated an example of the simplified layout and this was approved.

For the system to work effectively, the responsibilities of each committee need to be clearly understood. To this end the clerk had prepared and sent out, prior to the meeting, an outline of the tasks of each group. These were accepted and the clerk will use them to prepare separate 'Terms of Reference' for each committee for formal approval at the next meeting.

Each committee can then judge the costings involved in carrying out the tasks for which it is responsible as part of the precept preparation. In this respect, it would be a help if any major items could be brought to the attention of the next meeting.

953. Any Other Business.

There was no further council business so the chairman closed the meeting and allowed a resident present to voice his concerns:-

He was unsure as to the safety and legality of the arrangements for the grass-cutting along the verges. Cllr. Wilson assured him that all the requirements had been met and that the guidelines issued by the county authorities were being followed.

He reported that the flooding on an area of Panton Road, possibly due to the fracture of an old field drain, had still not been stopped. The problem was now compounded by a smell related to raw sewage which may emanate from a septic tank overflow. He has reported the matter repeatedly to Anglian Water, the Highways Authority and Environmental Health but without any positive result.

Signed by the Chairman

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An old ditch which ran along what is now the back of the properties in Torrington Lane, became a covered drain when those houses were built. It empties into a ditch which fronts his property, near the bus shelter on the main road, and from there the water should flow into a drain running under the road. This drain appears to be blocked somewhere as heavier rain causes a back-up in the ditch and, ultimately flooding in his garage.

He described Church Walk, the footpath linking Torrington Lane to the Church, as ‘not fit for purpose’ due to the severely uneven state of the surface. It was explained that the path was the responsibility of the county authorities who had been approached but had replied that lack of funds prevented any action.

He complained of compost having been thrown into the drainage ditch on the corner of Torrington Lane, opposite the War Memorial.

The Chairman stated that the matters raised would be given due attention.

There being no other business, the meeting dispersed at 9.45pm.

Signed by the Chairman