

East and West Barkwith Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 21st November, 2024, starting at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr. A. Platt, Mr. J. Stamp, Mr. C. Wilson, Mrs. T. Brady, Mr. N. Gibson
and Ms. H. Parker.

The District Councillor, Mrs. R. Yarsley, was present but there were no members of the public.

1310 **Apologies** - Cllr. Ward had a business meeting, Cllr. Platts was working away and Cllr. Fincham was with family in Kent.

Cllr. Brady had also sent her apologies for the last meeting, 19th September, as she was unwell, but they had been received too late to be presented at the time.

These apologies were accepted and approved.

1311 **The Minutes** of the meeting of 19th September had been circulated. The clerk pointed out that two errors in the original draft had been corrected and re-circulated and that the copies presented for acceptance and publication were of the corrected version. They were approved by the meeting and signed by the chairman.

1312 **Matters arising** There were no items relating to the earlier minutes.

1313 **Correspondence.**

Newsletters, general information and dates - These have been forwarded on arrival, as have any Play Equipment catalogues, and there were no comments from these.

Other items:-

Electoral Register There have been no changes since the last meeting.

East Lindsey has sent notice of a drop-in session to help residents prepare for the winter, with information on energy efficiency, heating systems, home improvements and financial support. It will be held at the Trinity Centre in Louth from 10am to 2pm on Wednesday, 27th November.

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Lincolnshire County Council has sent notice of roadworks on the A1104 at Maltby le Marsh from today and lasting for about three weeks. This will affect the bus route between Louth and Mablethorpe and a revised timetable has been produced.

The clerk will arrange for a poster to be placed in the bus shelter.

There has also been a telephone call to confirm the details regarding the delivery of a one tonne bag of salt to the Grange. The team will contact Cllr. Stamp directly to confirm the day of delivery. The damaged and empty bins have been replaced and filled.

Ron Bailey's work on the campaign for a Bill relating to the safety and disposal of **Lithium Ion batteries** continues.

The initial Bill, introduced by Lord Redesdale, has been presented and will go forward to the Committee stage. As a result of that pressure, the Government has introduced its own Bill into the Lords, under the title of Product Regulation and Metrology, and led by Baroness Jones of Whitchurch. This covers much of the same ground but omits items which are in Lord Redesdales Bill and considered important enough to be emphasised in the Committee Stage of that document.

There is now an invitation to sign up for an on-line session with Electrical Safety First to discuss a summary of the relevant issues and the progress of the campaign so far, and to allow a question and answer session. It will take place on 11th December, starting at 9.30am. The clerk will provide contact details if requested.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Office will be holding another Parish Council Engagement Session on Thursday, 16th January, 2025. No time is given so this may clash with the Parish Council meeting that evening. Cllr. Parker has offered to attend and it was agreed that the Parish Council meeting would be deferred to 23rd January to avoid the conflict of dates..

East Lindsey is conducting a review of its support for towns and parishes across the district and have sent the e-mail and questionnaire included in the meeting folder. It was agreed that councillors would complete the paper documents with individual comments and return them to the clerk for incorporation into a consensus to be sent to East Lindsey. This must be submitted by 6th January so the clerk would appreciate receiving the responses within the next three weeks, that is by Friday 13th December.

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1314 Planning -

a) Applications -

S/044/01574/24 - Grange Cottage, Torrington Lane, East Barkwith,
Extension and alterations to existing dwelling to provide additional living accommodation.

The application was circulated between meetings and it was agreed to support the proposals, Cllrs. Stamp and Wilson had declared their interests, as relative of the owner of the property and designer of the proposals respectively, and made no comments on the application.

b) Decisions -

S/044/01574/24 - Grange Cottage, Torrington Lane, East Barkwith,
Extension and alterations to existing dwelling to provide additional living accommodation.
This has now been Granted.

S/079/01078/22 - Land adjacent to Sotby Woods, Sturton Road, Hatton.
Installation of a temporary ground mounted 49.9MW solar farm with associated infrastructure, (with other measures for access and security).

This was the proposal referred to this council by the Hatton Farm Action Group who opposed it on the grounds of the use of quality agricultural land and the effects on the surrounding area and its inhabitants and were facing a legal process. This council agreed to write in opposition to the project and the legal process required a new submission for planning permission. This application for Planning Permission has now been refused.

District Cllr. Ru Yarsley said that the Hatton Action Group wished to send their sincere thanks for all the support they had received in the campaign against the proposals. The refusal refers to the impact on the countryside character of the area and the listed buildings within it so it is less likely that there will be a further appeal.

1315 Reports -

a) Village Hall - The redevelopment plans, as shown at the last meeting, were displayed in the village hall on Remembrance Sunday and there were many favourable comments. The plans have now been sent to the contractors for their prices and will then go to the grant-finders to quote their fee. This will be added to the total sum for the grant application but, if their work is unsuccessful, it will be chargeable. However, the plans have been designed for implementation in three stages so that, should there be insufficient funds for the whole project, the less urgent work can be postponed.

Cllr. Wilson reported that Cllr. Gibson had been required to resign from the Management Committee due to the nature of his police work. The secretary has been in touch with the solicitor to request an up-date on progress regarding the trustee management system and its probable transfer to the Parish Council, as has been agreed at a previous council meeting. It is important that this process continues as, although there are a number of supporters for events, there are too few people willing to serve on the committee due to the implications of the trustee status as required by the Charity Commission.

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b) Neighbourhood Watch - The clerk had been in touch with the area group and received the response that there had been no communications as there had been no incidents to be reported or warnings to be circulated.

Cllr. Wilson said that a resident had been asking how to get in touch with Neighbourhood Watch and it was noted that Cllr. Ward was already listed as the main contact.

There were no other matters to report.

c) Play Area - Cllr. Wilson wished to thank Cllr. D. Platts for his help with the staining of the benches, and Ned Chamberlin for the extra grass-cutting around the Area.

There are a few trees which are now in need of some cutting back, particularly the silver birch near the Village Hall. Cllr. Wilson will be contacting the District Council to inform him of the extent of the work and to ensure that it can be carried out safely.

d) Countryside Committee - Cllr. Wilson wished to send his thanks Mike Yates, for his continuing efforts in keeping the verges tidy.

After helping with the planting of the winter pansies around the War Memorial, the younger residents at The Old School are now working 'officially', under Cllr. Wilson's guidance, at weekends in the Parish Field. This is part of their voluntary work to qualify for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and they will be working on suitable sections of the Program of Work and Maintenance which was circulated and accepted. Cllr. Wilson will notify the clerk of their names, to be entered on the Register of Volunteers for the insurance records.

Donnington on Bain School has some redundant steel posts and gates, in good condition. It was agreed that Cllr. Wilson would ask if they can be acquired at reasonable cost, for the entrance to the Parish Field.

The last of the wild-flower seeds have been collected as mowings, to be spread as a green mulch in the re-wilding areas. A new Owl Box has been installed and a Tawny Owl has been very quick to take up residence.

Mike Yates is still helping the residents of Willingham Road with the cutting of the verge as there has still been no news from the housing group's lawyers.

e) Dog Watch - A resident had reported witnessing a dog-walker failing to pick up after the animal along Church Walk. The culprit had been recognised and a copy of the public notice was delivered as a reminder of the responsibility for removing dog waste.

Enquiries as to the availability of additional dog-waste bins brought an official reply and a form from East Lindsey. This will be referred to Cllr. D. Platts for attention to request one for Louth Road, near the exit from the Parish Field, and one for the Village Green at the Torrington Lane end of Church Walk.

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f) History Group - The meetings are running and information continues to come in from various sources. Members are working on further articles for the web-site.

Thanks are due to those who helped to set up the display for the Remembrance Service, and to pack away afterwards. Large pictures for these displays depend on the use of the big printer but this is not working properly and needs professional attention. The service required has been estimated at approximately £70 and this was approved.

g) Special Events - The prospect of an event to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, in May, was discussed. It was pointed out that the same figure applies to VJ Day in August and this, too, should be marked as the actual end of the Second World War. Cllr. Wilson repeated his concern for others to take the lead in the arrangements for any event and it was suggested that the Crossroads might be invited to organise something which would be supported by the Parish Council. The Chairman agreed to make enquiries.

1316 **Responsibilities and Succession** - The Chairman stressed the need for all councillors to be aware of the details of the work of the council through the main meetings and through the actions of the sub-committees, and that leadership roles cannot remain with the same people indefinitely.

The clerk circulated the list of Members' Responsibilities and the Committee Terms of Reference to show the current situation. The established Committees are permitted to include residents but there must also be at least one councillor on each. They do not necessarily have to be the chairman; they are there to represent the council and to report back on the committee's activities and any issues arising. To have more than one councillor on a committee can be helpful in ensuring continuity in that area of the council's work.

The ensuing discussion recognised the need to seek out 'younger blood' onto the council as vacancies arise and to spread the committee responsibilities more evenly wherever possible. Cllr. Wilson said that, following a recent health issue, he was looking to relinquish his position as chairman on both the Play Area and the Countryside Committees in the near future in order to concentrate on the work for the Village Hall. He will also be up-dating the notes on the roles of Parish Safety Officer and Highways Liaison Officer ready for handing them on.

The chairman drew the discussion to a close, asking everyone to examine the points made and consider any possible way forward.

1317 **Amenities** -

War Memorial - Cllr. Wilson wished to thank Cllr. Parker for helping to weed the War Memorial border, and Ned Chamberlin for extra grass-cutting and general tidying of the surrounding area.

The chairman apologised for being unable to attend the Remembrance Sunday Service. It was well supported with some 160 people present.

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The Service was conducted by Paul Fuller, with traffic control managed by Mike Yates, Clive Yates and Phil Wraight, and the Scouts' and Guides' parade was co-ordinated by Tammy Dolling and marshalled by Barbara Theairs. Thanks are due to Tom and Jenna Bollan for reading the names of the fallen, to Ned Chamberlin for laying the community wreath, and Roseline Warren-Wilkinson for laying the children's wreath.

Refreshments were served in the Village Hall, where the display of the Fallen had been mounted by the History Group. The collection for the Royal British Legion amounted to £45 and this will be forwarded to the representative, Mr. Mick Kenning. It will be followed by some of the photographs taken for him to include in his report to the regional authorities.

1318 **Highways** - The County Council has completed work on the repairs and refilling of the roadside grit bins and they have also dealt with a pothole on Torrington Lane. The drainage issues have also been rectified with the repair to the damaged water pipe near the Village Green.

In spite of local efforts to clear them, the leaves are becoming a problem again on Torrington Lane. A request for the road-sweeper was made on Fix My Street but this system works only for county matters and this issue must be re-directed to East Lindsey. District Councillor Ms. Yarsley agreed to report it.

An unexpected opening in the work schedule has enabled a repair team to spend a week clearing debris and completing the re-surfacing of Church Walk, at last. It is now a much smarter and safer pathway for everyone.

The speed camera is to be resited once more and Tom Bollan will be preparing the next data report.

1319 **Finance** -

a) Receipts -

The September Clothing Bank payment for the Village Hall Reserve amounted to £9.00 but there was no payment for October.

The Grass-cutting payment has been received in the sum of £2,275.22

The collection on Remembrance Sunday amounted to £45, to be forwarded to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

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
Mike Yates - Mower Fuel	001042	£23.96	£4.79	£28.75
Royal British Legion - Poppy Wreaths	001043	£50.00		£50.00
Mike Yates - Mower Fuel	001044	£23.20	£4.64	£27.84
Mike Yates - Mower Fuel	001045	£23.17	£4.63	£27.80

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Also approved -

Royal British Legion - Collection	001046	£45.00		£45.00
Viking - Inks (Part for History)	001047	£181.14	£36.23	£217.37
GoDaddy - Web-site Domaine - 3 yrs	D. debit	£56.52	£11.39	£68.36
Clerk - for delayed history item	001048	£14.10	£2.85	£16.95
from Amazon				

And for late December -

Clerk's salary and HMRC payments totalling £1,226.50

Servicing of the big printer when the precise cost is known.

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

The Bank has just sent notification of a change to the classification of the account from Treasurer's Account to Community Account, as from January, 2025. They will also be imposing regular charges. It has not yet been possible to access the full details and assess the implications but this will be done shortly, in time for the Precept preparations.

Cllr. Yarsley said she would check with East Lindsey for possible alternative banking arrangements and suggested also making an enquiry with LALC. It should be noted that East Lindsey also has a revised protocol for Parish Council loans.

c) Half-year Audit -

The papers were submitted to Sophy Warren and have been returned with no comments to be noted and no action to be taken.

1320 Any Other Business -

The clerk reminded everyone that the next meeting will now take place on Thursday, 23rd January and that it will include discussion of the amount to be set for the Precept.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

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