

AT A MEETING of the BARKSTON AND SYSTON PARISH COUNCIL held in the Village Hall, Barkston on Monday 12th January 2015 at 8.10pm

PRESENT

Councillor Miss M E Nussey in the Chair

Councillors A.C. Card, P.C. Connor, S.T.Elnor, J.A. Jackson, S.J.Kelly, B.H.Noyes and A.J. Rowell. Also present: Councillors T.J.Scott (District Council) and R.Wootten (County Council).

COMMUNITY HEARTBEAT TRUST

The Council received Mr Martin Fagan from the Community Heartbeat Trust, who gave a short presentation on the work of the Trust, including a demonstration of the various types of defibrillators which were available to the Council, following the decision to proceed with the installation of a unit in Barkston. He explained that, once the unit had been installed a community awareness evening would be arranged, the aim of which was to explain the system to local residents. Following questions from Members, during which it was suggested that consideration should be given to a unit in Syston, it was proposed that submission of an order be deferred for 10-14 days to enable the grant making body supporting the provision of the Barkston unit to be asked to double the grant, to include a unit for Syston. Mr Fagan said that he would supply the first unit, with the Syston one to follow once a grant had been arranged, and a location established. The Chairman thanked Mr Fagan for his presentation.

PUBLIC FORUM

Two members of the public attended. One member of the public referred to the recent article by Councillor Jackson in "In Touch", in relation to the proposed refurbishment of the children's corner at the Playing Field. He had sent an email to Councillor Jackson, which had been responded to, and he sought further information. Councillor Kelly, as Secretary of the Playing Field Committee, responded with further information, as did the Clerk to the Council. It was noted that the responses would be taken into account when consideration was given to the Budget later in the meeting.

The public forum was closed at 8.17pm.

2083. *APOLOGIES*

Apologies for absence, accepted for the purpose of an attendance, were received from Councillor Mrs Evans.

2084. *MINUTES*

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2014, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

2085. *DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST*

Councillors Card and Kelly declared an interest in the budget item in relation to funding for the Playing Field, as they were Members of the Playing Field Management Committee but not appointed by the Parish Council.

2086. *ROADS AND FOOTPATHS*

Matters raised at previous meetings, which had been referred to the County Council and other agencies for comment, were discussed as follows, together with further matters

raised at the meeting:-

- 1. Footpath, Honington Road – the Clerk advised that following an enquiry as to the current status of the scheme, the Area Surveyor had again advised that the scheme had been placed on a list of works, but due to financial resources and cuts he could not give a date when the works would be undertaken.*
- 2. Barkston Gorse/Bridleway 4 – the Countryside Officer had responded in detail, and had sent photographs of two sections of the route, pointing out that there was no evidence of illegal use. He said that a barrier or gate was not needed, and also that he had visited the site four times during 2014 and from 2012 up to the present day, he had found no evidence of illegal use on any of his visits. However, he said that if circumstances changed he would review the situation, but asked that any future reports from the Parish Council include photographic evidence. The Clerk advised that he had visited the site early in the new year, but had similarly found no evidence of illegal use. Councillor Connor reported a visit by two motorcycles yesterday. It was agreed to note and monitor the situation, in particular to ensure that photographic evidence was available.*
- 3. Church Street/Church corner/Honington Road – the statutory consultation for the double yellow lines would commence in the next week or so. Councillor Wootten advised that patching would be done at the same time.*
- 4. Wall Strike, Church Street – the Area Surveyor’s opinion was that the wall strikes were being caused by poor manoeuvring by members of the public and as such this was beyond the control of the County Council.*
- 5. Flooding, The Stag corner and Station Road – the Area Surveyor had advised that detailed investigations had taken place into the drainage problems in the area. The main problem appeared to be the pipes in the area, which were considered to be too narrow. It was intended to install new gullies uphill (towards Grantham) and to install pipes of larger capacity to ensure that the water was removed quicker. The order for the works would be issued in the near future. Members suggested that the problem was exacerbated by the run-off from the nearby fields, and silt in the drains.*
- 6. Flooding, Hough Road and the Garage – the Area Surveyor advised that the petrol station had recently undertaken a drainage survey at the request of the Environment Agency. This had highlighted issues which were now being dealt with by the Agency.*
- 7. Barkston Gorse – the Area Surveyor had advised that the road was classified as a green lane from a maintenance point of view, and would therefore only be maintained at its current level. Whilst noting the Area Surveyor’s view, the Clerk was asked to enquire when the worst of the holes would be filled with road planings again.*
- 8. The Drift, Syston, trees – work apparently completed, although Clerk to check with Veolia as to whether this was the correct tree.*
- 9. Dyke, Minnetts Hill – the Area Surveyor had advised that he was to contact the owner of the dyke with a request that it be cleaned out.*
- 10. Potholes, Honington Road/A607 – an order was to be issued to repair the potholes.*
- 11. Walkabout – arranged for 2nd March.*
- 12. Grit Bin, Minnetts Hill – the poor state of the bin at the side of the first slope had been drawn to the attention of the Area Surveyor, who had promised a replacement.*

13. *Syston bypass – it was reported that there were a considerable number of trees/bushes overhanging or near to the road, following the recent bad weather, and the Clerk was asked to refer this to the Area Surveyor, with a request that they be tidied up.*
14. *Street light, West Street – a request for a street light covering the four houses at the end of the street on the right was noted. The Clerk reported that a rough cost for the provision would be £2,000, although a firm price was awaited. Councillor Wootten advised of proposals to reduce the street lighting by 50% (unsure whether in time or amount). In the circumstances, the Council agreed to take no action until this was clarified.*

2087. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) General

Decisions had been taken on planning applications as follows:

Erection of dwelling, 12 West Street, Barkston – refused

*Installation of a flue to serve the installation of a multi-fuel stove,
The Stag Inn, Church Street, Barkston – approved*

Following consultation, comments had been made on planning applications as follows:

*Single storey side extension and car port, The Old Parsonage,
The Drift, Syston - no objection*

The Clerk reported that the application for a solar farm at Heath Lane, Honington, on which the Council had been consulted as a neighbouring authority, had been refused. A series of applications for minor developments on the Mid-UK recycling site at Barkston Heath (Parish Council consulted as a neighbouring authority), had all been approved. In all cases the Parish Council had not commented.

(b) Parish Council's application for a bus shelter

The Clerk reported that the application had been approved, and the necessary licence from the County Council had been obtained. The supplier of the shelter intended to install it in the week commencing 19th January. It was, however, suggested that to avoid conflict with children/parents at the school, the supplier be asked to consider delaying until half term.

Councillor Wootten mentioned that, in connection with the application by Larkfleet Homes, referred to at the last meeting, cameras and road monitoring strips had been installed at various locations around the site. These were illegal, and action had been taken to remove them tomorrow.

2088. BURIAL GROUND

The Clerk advised the Council that a quotation had been received for the works to the unsafe headstone in the Burial Ground in the sum of £250 plus VAT. Repairs would be carried out to the Blackburn memorial in the Churchyard at the same time, free of charge. NB – this memorial is to a local resident named on the War Memorial. The Council accepted the quotation, with thanks for the extra work.

Councillor Rowell reported that the dead trees had not yet been removed, but he and

Councillor Card hoped to complete this work shortly.

2089. VARIATION OF STANDING ORDERS

The Council confirmed its acceptance of the amendment to standing order number 71, as circulated to and discussed at the last meeting.

2090. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) SKDC – Community Broadband - the Clerk reported on further correspondence from SKDC in regard to the community broadband project, on which the Parish Council expressed an interest in principle. Details of costings over three years were given, but Members expressed concern that the Village Hall had not yet been asked for their opinion. It was agreed to defer consideration to the next meeting, for Councillor Rowell to ascertain the views of the Village Hall Committee.*
- (b) SKDC – sand/sandbags stock – the Clerk reported an offer from SKDC to supply sand/bags to help cope with cases of localised flooding. It was agreed that the offer be accepted, and that the sand be stored in the Bier Shelter.*
- (c) Lincolnshire Energy Switching Scheme – latest issue of the scheme noted. Information was on the Parish Council website and on all notice boards.*
- (d) Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils Circular 152 was noted. (Circulated to Members via email). It was agreed to authorise the attendance of the Clerk and Councillor Jackson on a LALC course at Coningsby, in relation to internal audit, budgets, VAT and external audit, at a cost of £22 per head, plus travelling.*

2091. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Financial update and Budget 2015/16

The Council received and noted the financial updates at the present date and also the likely financial position at the end of the current financial year, together with the budget report for 2015/2016. It was noted that a donation of £100 had been received from Barkston and Syston show, towards the defibrillator provision. A quotation for grass cutting on the basis of a 2.9% increase over current prices had been received from Veolia, and this was agreed.

Councillor Jackson explained the accounts in detail, with reference to the above circulated documents, and discussions took place on the recommendations for expenditure in the budget report. Members noted in particular the budget options for support of the children's corner, and also the views expressed in the emails from local residents which had been circulated. Funding for the new bus shelter, defibrillator and tree felling had been included, and the precept had been targeted at 2014/15 level plus inflation. There was no allocation to Section 137, in view of the balance of £980 and the Playing Field grant had been set at 2014/15 level plus 1.5%. The War Memorial grant had been reset at £100 and the General Fund at £4,600 to maintain the precept at 2014/15 level plus 1.5%, and including the three items mentioned above.

The support options for the children's corner were discussed, with a figure of £10,000 suggested. This could be achieved by a combination of a grant from the Council's reserves plus a precept increase, e.g. £5,000 grant plus £5,000 precept would equate to £1.80 per month for a Band D equivalent property, and a £7,000 grant plus £3,000 precept would equate to £1.08 per month for a Band D property. After discussion, it was agreed to accept the first option.

It was agreed to precept for a total of £14,185 – General Fund (£4,600), Burial Ground (£1,000), Playing Field (£3,485), War Memorial (£100) and Children’s Corner (£5,000) for the financial year 2015/2016.

(b) Accounts paid and for payment

RESOLVED:-

That payment of the following accounts now submitted be approved and confirmed:-

	£
<i>Veolia ES (UK) Ltd (Mowing – October)</i>	<i>275.40</i>
<i>Anglian Water (Supply 31.7.14-6.11.14)</i>	<i>1.97</i>

(c) Defibrillator

The funding for the defibrillator for Barkston, as discussed earlier in the meeting, had been agreed, and similar funding for a unit at Syston would be considered when the grant situation had been clarified.

Dated

Signed

Chairman

