

AT A MEETING of the BARKSTON AND SYSTON PARISH COUNCIL held in the Village Hall, Barkston on Monday 11th January 2016 at 7.45pm

PRESENT

Councillor Miss M.E. Nussey in the Chair

Councillors A.C. Card, P. Connor, S.T. Elnor, J.A. Jackson, S.J. Kelly and A.J. Rowell.

Also present: Councillor Mrs R. Kaberry-Brown - District Council and Councillor R. Wootten – County Council.

No members of the public attended.

2154. VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR FOR SYSTON

Mr Anthony Hine was proposed and seconded. There being no further nominations, Mr Hine was declared elected. The declaration of acceptance of office was signed and Councillor Hine was welcomed to the meeting.

2155. APOLOGIES

An apology, accepted for the purposes of an attendance, was received from Councillor Mrs Evans, and an apology was received from District Councillor Stokes.

2156. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2015, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

For information, the Clerk advised the Council that due to a lack of space, the minute books from 1974 to 2009 had been taken to Lincolnshire Archives for safe keeping.

2157. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

2158. ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

(a) 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. Waiting restrictions - Church Street/Church corner/Honington Road – the Clerk advised the Council that the County Council did not yet have a start date for the re-consultation. As the proposal was essentially starting again, following objections, new plans and letters would be needed.*
- 2. Dyke, Minnetts Hill, Barkston –all of the gullies at the junction with Honington Road had been cleaned and jetted recently. No defects were found and it was considered that the system was running fine. It was suggested that the adjoining dyke would provide extra capacity if it were cleared and the grips excavated. This was being looked into.*

3. *Self-help and mutual aid in times of severe winter weather – the Clerk reported that the grit bins had been checked and found to be in good condition and full of grit/salt. The County Council had been advised accordingly.*
4. *Prioritisation of outstanding highways issues – it was agreed to ask the Area Surveyor to consider at least a temporary repair to the road adjoining the bank/War Memorial, such as filling the holes with stone to support the road and bank, and prevent further damage.*
5. *Footpath sign, West Street, Barkston – this sign had now been replaced.*
6. *Hole outside Barkston Garage – the Area Surveyor had advised that the hole was part of investigations still being carried out into various drainage issues in Barkston, and would therefore remain for the time being.*
7. *Syston village sign – this had fallen down following deterioration over the years. The Area Surveyor had been advised by local residents, but the Clerk was asked to write on behalf of the Parish Council.*
8. *Syston by-pass – the Clerk was asked draw the attention of the Area Surveyor to overhanging and dangerous tree branches, some of which had fallen onto the A607 causing danger to road users, and to ask that the trees be maintained.*

(b) Area Surveyor's walkabout – agreed to consider at the next meeting. Clerk to request a date from the Area Surveyor.

2159. PLANNING MATTERS

Decisions had been taken on planning applications as follows:

Lime rich render to gable end wall, 8 West Street, Barkston – approved

Fell Sycamore tree, West Lodge, Syston – approved

Retention of garage, reduction of shed ridge height from 3m to 2.5m, 4 Holmes Row, Barkston – approved

Reduce height of Sumach tree by 4m, fell one Horse Chestnut and prune Plum tree by 30% reducing canopy by 1.5m, The Yews Barn, Church Street, Barkston - approved

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

Various applications, Land at High Dyke/Heath Lane/King Street, Ancaster

The Clerk advised that the above applications had been received as a neighbouring authority consultation from the County Council. Details had been circulated to Members, in view of the tight timescale, and comments had been received in regard to the increase in traffic using local roads, the potential use of Station Road as a 'rat run' from the A1 and the potential fire risk. Comments had been sent to the County Council.

2160. BURIAL GROUND

The Clerk advised that during a recent interment of ashes, it had been discovered that the water pipe did not run along the hedge bottom, as had been thought, but in fact through the plots, mostly at the head end. It was intended to advise anyone intending to inter ashes to be careful

when digging. In addition, a note had been made on the Burial Ground plans.

Some soil remained behind the Bier Shelter, although it was being removed gradually.

The lock on the Bier Shelter had been replaced with a bolt and padlock.

2161. PLAYING FIELD

(a) Children's Corner update

Councillor Kelly gave an update on the Children's Corner project. All the new equipment had been installed, although the suppliers still had to fix one or two minor issues. The area was currently closed in view of the bad weather, and also to allow the grass to grow. Benches were to be installed, possibly next month. Discussion took place on whether or not to arrange an official opening, and Councillor Kelly advised that the suppliers were keen to be involved. It was agreed that Councillor Kelly would discuss with the suppliers and report to the next meeting. Also agreed that the Clerk would contact the Insurers in view of the significantly increased value of the equipment.

(b) Charity Commission return

The Charity Commission return had been circulated for the information of Members, and was discussed. Councillor Kelly advised that he had received a comment that the precept should be included as income, which he had done. However, this had the effect of making it mandatory to submit a financial return. The situation was noted.

2162. APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE TO THE BARKSTON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Clerk told the Council that the Clerk to the Trustees of the Foundation had advised that the Parish Council had for many years been responsible for appointing one of the Trustees of the Foundation. It had been decided that the number of Trustees should be increased, as the positions previously taken by the Vicar and Churchwardens had been empty for some time, leaving the Charity with rather fewer Trustees than necessary for efficient running.

It had been decided therefore to increase the number of Trustees that could be appointed by the Parish Council to two, the existing Trustee being Councillor Jackson. It was agreed to appoint Councillor Card to fill the vacancy.

2163. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils – Circular 156 was received and noted (circulated to Members via email).

(b) LALC and NALC subscriptions 2016/2017 – the Clerk advised on discussions between the various County organisations and NALC in regard to the amount of the levy to NALC. There had been opposition, as it was felt that the proposal would result in many parishes leaving the association. However, the estimated increase in the Council's subscription was only £5.61. In the circumstances, the situation was noted and no further action proposed.

(c) Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Electoral Review of Lincolnshire – the Clerk reminded the Council that details of the review had been circulated by email, to enable Members to consider the proposals and decide what comments, if any, to make. A discussion took place, and the Clerk suggested that the proposed name for the Division did not accurately reflect its location. He suggested that Grantham North Rural might be more appropriate. After comments from Councillor Wootten, the Council agreed with the Clerk's suggestion.

2164. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Financial update and Budget 2016/17

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 2026/2017. A quotation for grass cutting had been received from Glendale Countryside on the basis of a 2.4% increase over current prices, and this was agreed. The Clerk also reported a quotation for the supply of a new bus shelter, in the event that it was agreed to provide one in Syston. It was confirmed that funding would be available for this.

Councillor Jackson explained the accounts in detail, with reference to the above circulated documents, and a discussion took place on the recommendations for expenditure in the report. Members noted in particular that funding for expenditure on the Neighbourhood Plan, if it was decided eventually to proceed, had been included (£1,000); the Syston defibrillator (£2,500); Burial Ground levelling (£500); Syston bus Shelter (£1,200) and a street light on West Street (£1,000). After Councillor Wootten had confirmed that there was no LCC budget for street lighting, it was agreed to remove the provision from the Parish Council's budget.

In regard to the bus shelter at Syston, it was agreed to defer consideration until the next meeting, pending investigations into the likely need, with local residents. Councillor Jackson drew the attention of Members to information from SKDC in relation to the effect on the Band D charge of the Parish Council's proposed budget. If left as proposed, in the sum of £14,185, there would be a small increase in the Band D charge but if the budget was reduced by £299 to £13,886 the Band D charge would remain as for 2015/2016, i.e. £55.53. The General Fund would reduce by £299 as a result.

It was agreed, after discussion, to precept for a total of £13,886 – General Fund (£5,481), Section 137 (£1,500), Burial Ground (£3,250), Playing Field (£3,555) and War Memorial (£100), for the financial year 2016/2017.

(b) Accounts paid and for payment

RESOLVED:-

(i) *That payment of the following accounts be approved and confirmed:-*

| | £ |
|---|------------------|
| <i>A.C. Card (Bolt/padlock for Bier Shelter)</i> | <i>7.48</i> |
| <i>Sutcliffe Play (Supply/installation of play equipment)</i> | <i>21,099.60</i> |

(ii) *That payment of the following accounts now submitted be approved and confirmed:-*

| | £ |
|---|-------------|
| <i>Anglian Water (supply 6.8.15 to 5.11.15)</i> | <i>8.52</i> |

(c) Audit Provision 2017 onwards

The Clerk advised that from the start of the 2017 financial year, smaller authorities such as Parish Councils, could choose to have an auditor appointed to them by a new 'sector-led body', or they could procure their own. The National Association of Local Councils had established such a 'sector-led body' and unless a Parish wished to opt out of the arrangements it would automatically be included in the new arrangements. The Clerk recommended that the Parish Council did not opt out, and this was agreed.

(d) Bank Account

Noting some changes necessary to the signatories following the election of Councillor Hine and the decision to exclude Councillor Jackson from the list of permitted signatories in view of his role in preparing financial statements, it was agreed to continue the bank account on the same terms and conditions as before.

2165. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION BUT NOT DECISION

It was agreed to include an item on the next agenda to enable consideration to be given to the 'Clean for the Queen' project.

Dated

Signed

Chairman

