

AT A MEETING of the BARKSTON AND SYSTON PARISH COUNCIL held in the Village Hall, Barkston on Monday 8th January 2018, at 7.45pm

PRESENT

Councillor Miss M.E. Nussey in the Chair

*Councillors A.C. Card, P.C. Connor, Mrs S.B. Evans, A. Hine, J.A. Jackson and S.J. Kelly.
Also present: Councillors I. Stokes and Mrs R. Kaberry-Brown – District Council.*

PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public attended, referred to a planning application he had recently submitted for residential development on land to the rear of 21 West Street, Barkston, and asked if Members had any questions to ask in relation to the application. The Chairman explained the Parish Council's agreed method of consulting on most planning applications, which was that the Council's comments would be agreed by herself, as Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, and the nearest Councillor to the site. In the case of this application this was Councillor Kelly, Councillor Evans having declared an interest as she lived next to the site. All Councillors had, however been sent the plans and invited to add comments. The decision was to object to the application, and the Clerk would accordingly send the Council's comments to the District Council. The member of the public then left the meeting and the public forum was closed at 7.48pm.

2290. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Elnor and Rowell (accepted for the purposes of an attendance), and Councillor Wootten (County Council).

2291. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2017, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

2292. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

2293. ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

(a) Community Speedwatch Scheme

The Clerk reminded the Council that they had, at the last meeting, considered the proposed Community Speedwatch Scheme. Information sent by Councillor Wootten had been circulated to all Members, and the Clerk outlined the purpose and operation of the scheme, as outlined in the booklet which had been sent round electronically.

The Council discussed the proposal in detail, and queried whether or not they would be covered by insurance. The Clerk said that he was not sure, but that Members on approved Council duties were normally covered, although he could check. It was pointed out that any commitment to carry out checks would be ongoing, and there was doubt expressed among many Members whether they would personally have enough time to make sure that the scheme operated properly, and also whether there would be enough support from local residents. An opinion was expressed that this was 'policing on the cheap', and could not be supported. Apparently many Parishes were considering whether or not to support the scheme but none had yet

finally decided one way or the other. It was then proposed, seconded and agreed that no further action be taken.

(b) 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. Fly tipping – most of the rubbish had been removed, but there was still a significant remainder. The Clerk advised that he was in contact with SKDC and it was expected that the remnants would be removed shortly.*
- 2. Church Street, Barkston – the Clerk said that the resurfacing issues had been reported back to the Highway Authority, who had indicated that they would be addressed when the crews returned to the area in July/August. The problem mainly arose because of parked cars, which resulted in an area being missed.*
- 3. Church Street and West Street, Barkston – double yellow lines – the Clerk said that as requested he had again asked the County Council for action in regard to the requests made for double yellow lines. The County Council had advised that due to well publicised financial restrictions no new traffic regulation order investigations were taking place, other than those raised by the Police or Road Safety Partnership, supported by accident/collision data or required in relation to new developments approved by the County Council. The decision had been agreed by County Council members and would be reviewed periodically.*
- 4. Grass Verges, Main Street, Syston – the Clerk said that the County Council had acknowledged the problem of damage to the verges, and that they would be monitored and defects affecting safety would be repaired as they occurred. It was pointed out that there was now a wide mud slick, which was dangerous in cold/frosty weather. Clerk to again refer this to the County Council.*
- 5. Speeding, A607 – the Clerk reminded the Council of previous discussions and decisions in relation this issue. Belton and Manthorpe Parish Council had been advised of the Council's support for their campaign to have the limit lowered and for other safety action to be considered, especially at the junction with the Belton turn/accesses to the garden centre and Belton Woods Hotel. The County Council had replied that the speed limits along the A607 and A153 had all been re-assessed following the latest review in 2008. Any changes that satisfied the criteria were made at that time, other requests would not comply with the current speed limit policy, and therefore it was proposed to take no further action.*

Members were of the opinion that the volume of traffic since 2008 must have increased dramatically, as had accidents, particularly at the Belton junction. It was agreed to repeat these points to the County Council, but to first advise Belton and Manthorpe Parish Council to clarify their position, and offer the Council's support.

- 6. Footpath, Barkston to Honington – this had been referred to the County Council, who had replied stating that this was the responsibility of SKDC, who had replied stating that this was not the case. After further investigations, it appeared that this issue was in fact for the County Council to deal with, and they had been advised accordingly.*
- 7. Bridleway No. 4 – the illegal use by motorcycles had been referred to the County Council, who had advised that this would be investigated and resolved by the 7th February.*
- 8. Footpath, opposite Village Hall, Barkston – Clerk to repeat this request, made some time ago, for this path to be sided back.*

2294. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Comments/decisions

None to report.

(b) SKDC Draft Local Plan

The Clerk reminded Members that a letter from SKDC Planning Policy had been circulated early in December. This letter offered Parishes the opportunity to write the profile text for their own area. However, in the case of Barkston and Syston, this had been considered at the meeting in July, and certain minor amendments had been made. The letter had been circulated to see if there were any further comments. None had been received, and SKDC had been advised accordingly.

2295. PICNIC AREA – STATION ROAD, BARKSTON

The Clerk reported that a decision was still awaited on the Council's application to register the picnic area, although an acknowledgement had now been received. The delay had been put down to a heavy workload at the local Land Registry office.

2296. BURIAL GROUND

The Clerk advised that the remaining two grave mounds on the south side of the Burial Ground would be levelled shortly. The grant holders had been advised and no objection had been received.

A request had been received for permission to place a bench on the south side, just inside the roadside hedge boundary. There would be no cost to the Council. The request was agreed, subject to the construction of an appropriate base.

The Vice-Chairman mentioned that there was a substantial bush growing out of an old plot on the north side, which had been frequently cut down, but which re-grew. It was agreed to completely remove this bush, noting the need to be careful with the plot's surface.

2297. PLAYING FIELD

Councillor Kelly reported that the Charity Return had been prepared and submitted, a copy having been sent to Members via email, and this was accepted by the Council, as Trustees. The regular Health and Safety inspection of the children's area had been carried out, and a copy lodged with the Clerk on the risk file.

2298. TREE – RIVER LANE, SYSTON

The Clerk reported that one quotation had been received for maintenance and alternatively felling of the tree. A further quotation was awaited. It was apparent that the tree had been planted following the receipt of a number of trees under a scheme then operated by the County Council. For the information of Members, the Clerk read the relevant parts of the survey which had been commissioned. It was pointed out that if it was agreed to maintain the tree, as had been suggested as an alternative, there would be a continuing requirement for this to be done. Following a further discussion it was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Parish Council should, without creating a precedent, accept liability, and that the tree be felled. The Clerk was given authority to accept the lowest quotation submitted.

2299. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter in relation to a scrutiny review of the impact of the County Council's part night street lighting policy had been received and circulated to Members via email for comment, before the

deadline of 5th January. No comments had been received from Members.

2300. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Financial update and budget 2018/19

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 2018/19.

Councillor Jackson then explained the accounts in detail with reference to the above circulated documents, and took members through the development proposals and recommendations for expenditure in the report, as noted below, following which Members made decisions as follows:

- (i) Clerk's salary – it had been agreed earlier in the year that the Clerk's salary be reviewed, both basis and financial package from 1st April 2018. Historically the Clerk's salary had been calculated on an annual inflation increase with periodic base increases. His salary was currently £1830, and this was subject to tax. It was now suggested that the salary be based on the National Association of Local Councils' pay scale for part-time Clerks, the top of scale LC1 and part LC2 being point 27, equating to £12.564 per hour. It was considered that the Clerk was well qualified to warrant as top of the scale rating. Most Clerks were employed on an hourly basis and the Clerk had recorded his actual working hours from October to December, which totalled 49.5. Using the above data therefore, the salary would be £12.564 x 49.5 = £2487.67, and it was recommended that the Clerk's salary be calculated on the above basis. Such a calculation would mean that further catch up occasions would not be necessary, as the hourly rate would be adjusted, if appropriate, in accordance with the NALC pay scales. In addition, the Council would have brought itself into line by organising both the salary structure and HMRC payments, clearly covering the Council for future external audit. Noting the report above, it was agreed to calculate the Clerk's salary on the basis recommended, with effect from 1st April 2018.
- (ii) Picnic Area – any setup costs would be covered by Section 137 and Poors Land Charity monies, so no recommendation was made for expenditure in the forthcoming financial year. Any major development would need to be considered at the 2019 budget meeting.
- (iii) War Memorial – an annual increase of £100 would mean that £922 would be available. Agreed.
- (iv) Community Speedwatch – noting the decision to take no further action earlier in the meeting, this provision was withdrawn.
- (v) Tree maintenance – noting the decision earlier in the meeting, agreed to include a sum of £750.
- (vi) Playing Field – 2017/18 figure of £3608, plus 2% = £3680. Agreed.

Councillor Jackson asked members to note that adoption of all the recommendations above would require a precept of £13280, less the SKDC grant (last year) of £178, which equalled £13102. The Parish Council would therefore have reduced its precept in consecutive years. There were 270.3 Band D homes, therefore the Council Tax Band D would equal £48.47.

It was agreed to precept for a total of £13280 – General Fund £7000, Burial Ground £2500, Playing Field £3680 and War Memorial £100, for the financial year 2018/19.

(b) Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils – future subscription rates

The Clerk reported that the Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils had agreed to a subscription increase based on 6p per elector, with effect from 1st April 2018. This would mean that the Council's subscription would rise from £161.22 to £221.83.

(c) Yorkshire Bank – BusinessOnline

For information, the Clerk reported that the necessary administrative procedures had now been completed, and invoices could now be paid online.

(d) Accounts paid and for payment

RESOLVED:-

That payment of the following accounts be approved and confirmed:

	£	
<i>AWA Tree Consultants (Survey of Syston tree)</i>	210.00	<i>Cheque</i>
<i>Anglian Water Business Ltd (Supply 1.8.17-30.11.17)</i>	17.26	<i>Cheque</i>
<i>Allsecure Services Ltd (Service to fire extinguishers in pavilion)</i>	93.00	<i>Online</i>

Dated

Signed

Chairman

