

AT A MEETING of the BARKSTON AND SYSTON PARISH COUNCIL held in the Village Hall, Barkston on Monday 9th January 2017, at 7.45 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Miss M.E. Nussey in the Chair

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

Also present: Councillor Mrs Rosemary Kaberry-Brown – District Council.

No members of the public attended.

2221. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor Ian Stokes and County Councillor Ray Wootten.

2222. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2016, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

2223. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

2224. 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. Picnic Area, Station Road – the Clerk reported on the likely costs associated with the acquisition of the land currently forming the picnic area, including insurance and mowing. It was also pointed out that there were a number of large holes which would need filling in before the area could be properly used, and that this would incur extra costs. After a discussion, it was agreed to defer for a decision to be taken during the budget item, later in the meeting.*
- 2. Hough Road – the Area Surveyor had advised that tree works were planned in this location, to improve visibility for the level crossing signals, and as these works would need to be carried out under a road closure, the road edge improvements could be carried out at the same time.*
- 3. Footpath, A607/turn into Syston – to be inspected by the Area Surveyor, and any relevant works to be resourced.*
- 4. Hedge, West Street – hedge trimmed back..*
- 5. School parking, St Nicholas Close – the Chairman advised that she had contacted the Head, who had again requested parents to be aware of residents in St Nicholas Close when parking*

to pick up their children from School, and not to block driveways/accesses. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

- 6. Speeding, A607 – the Area Surveyor had advised that, due to budget constraints, he could not arrange for surveys at the moment but suggested that the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership be contacted to consider enforcement action. It was pointed out by a member that a survey had in fact taken place only last week. After a discussion, it was agreed to request the Road Safety Partnership to take appropriate action.*
- 7. Pavement by War Memorial – a member said that he had been contacted by two residents in regard to cracking in the pavement by the War Memorial. He wondered if this was due to the bank slipping due to being eroded by cars. It was agreed to refer this to the Area Surveyor.*
- 8. Church Street/War Memorial – it was noted that the marker posts, an order for which had been promised at the last meeting, had not been installed. Clerk to remind the Area Surveyor.*
- 9. Main Road, Syston – Clerk to refer a pothole and uneven road surface on the stretch from the northern end of the village to the Village Hall to the Area Surveyor.*

2225. PLANNING MATTERS

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

Erection of single storey front, side and rear extensions, 58 Hough Road, Barkston – no objection – subsequently approved

Erection of an extension to existing storage building, Heath House, Heath Lane, Barkston – no objection

Siting of 9 wigwam camping pods and erection of reception building, Mill Farm Barkston – no objection

Alterations to carport and removal of conservatory – 17 The Leas, Barkston – no objection

Erection of 10 wind turbines, former RAF Fulbeck Airfield, Stragglethorpe Lane, Fulbeck (additional information) – objection continued

Development of solid replacement fuel open storage areas, Wilsford Heath Materials Recycling facility, High Dyke, Ancaster (neighbouring authority Consultation) – no objection

(b) Neighbourhood Plan – the Clerk's report following the decisions taken at the last meeting had been circulated to members, and was discussed in detail. The Clerk reminded members that it had been agreed to proceed with further community engagement as suggested by Community Lincs (CL), as long as a suitable percentage response could be agreed to take the project further.

In terms of grants, there were no others available, other than those previously referred to from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), in the sum of up to £9,000 (noting that the estimated cost of a plan was £14,000). The grant scheme was due to end in 2018, and there was no indication as to whether the scheme would be extended. It was suggested that at best the plan would cost an additional £5,000, whilst the worst case was that the Parish Council would have to fund the entire cost itself.

CL had advised further in regard to consultation, and had suggested two alternatives – either to assist the Council to design and produce its own leaflet, at relatively low cost, or to

undertake the work on behalf of the Council at a cost of £415, excluding printing and distribution. Finally, the report set out details on which nearby Parishes were proceeding with plans, and what stage they were at.

It was proposed and seconded that the survey to be produced by CL be proceeded with, and that a percentage figure be agreed for the response. Further discussion then took place, during which members made various points, including concern at the costs/grants situation; the 'worst case scenario' as mentioned above, should be included in any survey document; the reason for the proposed plan and the information presented was not understood by residents; that there should be information on the likely consequences if a NP was not produced; and that an example(s) of where a NP had/had not made a difference could be considered for inclusion.

The Council were reminded that they had not yet agreed a percentage response from the survey which would be considered valid to take the proposal forward. After a discussion, it was agreed that a 50% response of surveys distributed would be acceptable.

Before the proposal was put to the vote, it was agreed that the Clerk should circulate the document produced by CL for comment before production and circulation to residents.

On being put to the vote, the proposal to proceed with a survey to be produced by CL was agreed, noting the agreement to a 50% response of surveys, as agreed above, and to the draft document being circulated to members for comment prior to production and distribution.

2226. BURIAL GROUND

The Clerk reported that he had met Councillor Card on site and agreed that a dead tree on the boundary of the Burial Ground and a property in The Paddock was, in fact just within the Burial Ground and could be removed. There were no other matters to report.

2227. PLAYING FIELD

Councillor Kelly said that some minor works identified in the independent inspection had been rectified by the manufacturer, and that he himself had secured a fence panel. There were no other issues to report, other than that a mole infestation had been dealt with.

2228. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) BT- removal of telephone boxes – the Clerk reported on correspondence from BT, circulated to all members, in regard to the proposed closure and removal of public telephone kiosks, including the box on the A607 in Barkston. No adverse comments had been received from members, and BT had been advised accordingly.

(b) Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils – Circular 160 was received and noted. (circulated to members via email).

2229. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Financial update and Budget 2017/18

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 2017/18. Councillor Jackson drew attention to the notes on the budget document, reminding members that the LCC mowing grant had been discontinued, but that there was a transitional relief payment of 20% of the previous payment for 2017 only, amounting in the Parish Council's case to £228. Audit advice was that Councils

should retain a reserve equal to the precept, and he set out details of the effect this was likely to have on the proposed precept.

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. Members considered and made decisions as follows:

(i) two quotations had been received for mowing for 2017, on the usual schedule, from Glendale Countryside in the sum of £244.50 per cut; and from BDG Mowing Contractors in the sum of £190 per cut. It was agreed to accept the quotation from BDG Mowing Contractors.

(ii) a request had been received for a seat at the Hough Road/A607 junction, and this had had been priced at £800-£1,000 to include installation. After consideration it was agreed not to proceed with the seat.

(iii) some time ago, a commitment had been made to install a notice board at the Hough Road/Thorold gardens junction, and in addition, the board on St Nicholas Close was in need of refurbishment. A price had been obtained from a local contractor, for the construction of the boards, and installation, in the sum of £450.

(iv) it was agreed to proceed with the acquisition of the picnic area, at the estimated setup cost of £300 plus additional insurance and maintenance costs, which were minimal.

(v) in regard to the War Memorial, no prices for the risk inspection and possible repair of the top of the cross/pediment had been forthcoming. The Clerk advised that this was in hand and would be reported in due course. There were, however, sufficient funds in the War memorial account, or in Section 137, to cover likely costs.

(vi) Councillor Kelly reported on the grass cutting facility at the Playing Field. He advised the Council that the tractor and gang mowers had effectively reached the end of their useful life. The current mowers were 15 years old, and when last overhauled the cost had been £1,800. The Playing Field Committee were reluctant to spend a similar amount of money on another overhaul, and wished to look at more modern equipment. It was considered that self-propelled mowers would be the best option. Consideration had been given to contract cutting, and prices had been obtained from the contractors mentioned above, although this had been costed at about £4,600 per annum. Replacement self-propelled mowers were likely to cost in the region of £10,000. It was proposed that the request be agreed and funded by a grant of £5,000 and a loan, repayable over 3 years, of £5,000.

(vii) the Neighbourhood Plan project did not require funding in the current financial year as there was £1,000 funding currently available, which could be used for the survey agreed earlier in the meeting. Funding would, however, be required in future years if it was decided to proceed.

(viii) – the Council reviewed the Burial Ground Charges and it was agreed to increase the charge for adult interments from £95 to £100 and for headstone type memorials from £90 to £100 with immediate effect.

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 agreed as proposed, in the sum of £13,665 there would be a small saving of £0.76 on the Band D charge.

It was agreed to precept for a total of £13,665 – General Fund (£7,857), Burial Ground (£2,100), Playing Field (£3,608), War Memorial (£100) for the financial year 2017/18.

(b) Accounts paid and for payment

RESOLVED:-

(i) That payment of the following account now submitted be agreed:

*£
Allsecure Services Ltd (Fire extinguisher service) 33.60*

Dated

Signed

Chairman

