

*AT A MEETING of the BARKSTON AND SYSTON PARISH COUNCIL held in the Village Hall, Barkston on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.45pm*

*PRESENT*

*Councillor Miss M.E. Nussey in the Chair*

*Councillors A.C. Card, S.T. Elnor, Mrs S.B. Evans, J.A. Jackson, S.J. Kelly and A.J. Rowell.  
Also present: Councillor I. Stokes - District Council and Councillor R. Wootten – County Council.*

*2143. VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR FOR SYSTON*

*No nominations were received, and it was agreed to include an item on the agenda for the next meeting.*

*2144. APOLOGIES*

*An apology, accepted for the purposes of an attendance, was received from Councillor Connor, and an apology was received from District Councillor Mrs Kaberry-Brown.*

*2145. MINUTES*

*The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and approved as a correct record.*

*2146. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST*

*There were none declared.*

*MARK HEATON – AREA HIGHWAYS MANAGER – GRANTHAM*

*The Chairman introduced Mark Heaton, Area Highways Manager- Grantham, who was attending the meeting to discuss the prioritisation of highways issues which had been raised by the Council.*

*Mr Heaton outlined the constraints within which he was working, and would continue to work, there were cuts and budgets had been reduced. He reminded Members that there was a regular walkabout to establish issues requiring attention. The issue now was to find out what the prime concerns were, out of all the points raised. He was now working on a programme for the next 18 months, the priority being to maintain the network, mainly to patch and surface dress, and that would be the limit of what was in most cases possible. Other requests, such as the recently installed central refuge on the A607 would be unlikely to be met.*

*He suggested that the Parish Council should now determine its number one priority, and that would be it for 12-18 months. Unfortunately, the County Council had been forced to take on other major items, such as flooding, and he outlined how this could affect his budget, particularly where residential property was involved. This would result in other flooding issues, such as at 'The Stag' receiving a lower priority. Similarly, other non-essential schemes, such as works proposed at The Bedehouses would also receive a lower priority. He then referred to a list of works, still in draft form, and listed these for the information of Members:*

1. Drainage works on A607- next financial year.
2. Church Street, Barkston patching – end of the current financial year.
3. The Close, Barkston surfacing and sealing – next financial year.

*It was suggested that the Church Street patching should be extended to include Honington Road, up to the Playing Field. The list would be sent to County Councillors for ratification before finalisation. This would then comprise, subject to emergencies, the list of works for the periods specified.*

*After a further general question and answer session, the Chairman thanked Mark Heaton for attending and closed the session at 8.15pm.*

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

*The Chairman introduced Roger Ranson, Planning Policy Officer, South Kesteven District Council, who had attended at the Parish Council's request to advise Members of the issues around the implementation of a Neighbourhood Plan.*

*Mr Ranson told the Council that two nearby Parishes had recently had plans approved, and that this would now enable them to be more integral in the planning process. The Localism Act gave communities the right to plan for the future of the community, and a chance to guide and shape the process. He outlined the process involved and gave information on the costs and grants available. Many parishes employed specialist consultants to assist in the preparation of the more technical aspects, but it was expected that there would be a significant community involvement, and he warned that the process was very time consuming.*

*In response to questions, Mr Ranson confirmed that although no development in Barkston and Syston had been suggested in the last Local Plan, and none was suggested so far in the proposed update, Barkston/Syston was expected to remain as a Local Service Centre. He said that the Parish Council should be clear about what the public wanted, and if they were happy, then there was little point in pursuing the possibility of a plan, although Neighbourhood Plans did carry more weight.*

*He said that he would circulate information on his presentation, for the Clerk to forward to Members to consider prior to taking a final decision. The Chairman thanked Mr Ronson for attending and closed the session at 8.38pm*

### PUBLIC FORUM

*Two members of the public attended and raised issues in connection with the danger to road users caused by vehicles parked on the northern side of the Village Green, particularly when other vehicles were passing. It was suggested that as these vehicles could be causing an obstruction when parked close to the junction with the A607, the Community Police Officer be advised. The other issue raised was about flooding on the A607, near 'The Stag', and on action proposed to remedy this issue. The public forum was closed at 8.47pm.*

### 2147. 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. *Waiting restrictions - Church Street/Church corner/Honington Road – the Clerk advised the Council that the amended formal consultation had not been received yet. The Council were advised that this was expected in January.*
2. *Dyke, Minnetts Hill, Barkston – investigations were still ongoing. An order had been issued to have the gullies cleaned and jetted. Once a report had been received after this work, it was expected that if required, further works could be carried out to improve the drainage.*

*The Council were advised that the gully work had been completed.*

- 3. Path, A607 – this area of footway, opposite the Village Hall, was to be inspected and if possible the siding back work would be carried out at the same time as work further down the A607.*
- 4. Self-help and mutual aid in times of severe winter weather – the Clerk reported a letter from the County Council in relation to the above. It was suggested that parishes consider taking a 1 tonne bag of salt mix available for treating local routes not covered by the County Council winter maintenance service; devise a priority network of footways and paths that would be cleared in the event of inclement weather; consider the appointment of a ‘snow warden’ who would be a point of contact for the dissemination of information; and check the status of existing grit bins. After consideration, it was agreed to check the grit bins and advise the County Council accordingly, but otherwise to take no further action.*
- 5. Prioritisation of outstanding highways issues – it was agreed to include an item to discuss this at the meeting prior to the annual walkabout. Further discussion took place on priorities following the Area Surveyor’s presentation, and it was agreed to vary the list so that it reads as follows:
  - 1. Drainage works, A607.*
  - 2. Church Street/Honington Road patching.*
  - 3. Bedehouses, Barkston.*
  - 4. Kerbing etc., banked area by War Memorial/Church.*
  - 5. The Close, Barkston resurfacing – remove.**
- 6. Footpath sign, West Street, Barkston – the sign at the end of West Street had been hit by a vehicle and dislodged, and the Clerk was asked to request its reinstatement.*
- 7. Hole outside Barkston Garage – Clerk to refer this barriered hole to the County Council, with a request that the hole be filled and the barriers cleared.*

#### *2148. PLANNING MATTERS*

##### *(a) General*

*Decisions had been taken on planning applications as follows:*

*Alteration of listed building, Syston Park (Dolphin fountain) – approved*

*Following consultation, comments had been made on planning applications/tree works proposals, as follows:*

*Fell 2 silver birch and 2 conifer trees, West Lodge, Syston – no objection – subsequently approved*

*Single storey side extension, West Lodge, Green Lane, Syston – no objection – subsequently approved*

*Single storey extension, insertion of rooflights, installation of spiral staircase and internal alterations to a listed building, West Lodge, Syston – no objection – subsequently approved*

*Lime rich render to gable end wall, 8 West Street, Barkston – no objection*

*Fell sycamore tree, West Lodge, Syston – no objection*

*Erection of garage, reduction of shed ridge height from 3m to 2.5m, 4 Holmes Row, Barkston – no objection*

*Reduce height of a sumach tree by 4 metres, fell one horse chestnut tree and prune plum tree by 30% reducing canopy by 1.5m, The Yews Barn, Church Street, Barkston – no objection*

*(b) Application for 10 wind turbines, Fulbeck Airfield*

*The Clerk advised following the discussion at the last meeting he had, as requested, prepared the Parish Council's objection and circulated it for comment. After the end of the period allowed, the comments had been forwarded to SKDC.*

*(c) Neighbourhood Plan for Barkston and Syston*

*The Council considered the presentation made by Roger Ranson earlier in the meeting, and noted that further information was to be circulated on receipt by the Clerk. It was suggested and agreed that further consideration be deferred to the March 2016 meeting, and a representative from Foston Parish Council, (who were presently going through the process), be invited to the meeting to address queries from Members.*

**2149. BURIAL GROUND**

*The Clerk advised that signs had been erected requesting users of the Burial Ground not to dump soil or other material behind the bier shelter, and arrangements had been made to have the soil currently there removed.*

*It appeared that someone had broken in to the bier shelter, and although nothing had been taken, the lock would need replacing. Councillor Card agreed to carry out repairs.*

**2150. PLAYING FIELD – CHILDREN'S CORNER UPDATE**

*Councillor Kelly gave an update on the Children's Corner project. All equipment had been dismantled and the site cleared and grassed, an overhanging tree had been removed and it was expected that the new equipment would be installed by mid-December. A transfer of funds in the sum of £7,583 had been made to the Parish Council to enable the invoices to be paid. Members noted the situation.*

**2151. RISK INSPECTIONS**

*The six monthly risk inspection had been carried out in September, with the only issue requiring attention being the unsafe Gray headstone. Although the family had agreed that this could be laid flat, the work had not yet been carried out. Clerk to remind the memorial masons.*

**2152. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

*(a) Financial update*

*The Council received and noted the financial updates at the present date, and Councillor Jackson explained these for the information of Members. He suggested that an interim request for a VAT refund be made following payment of any invoices for work at the Children's corner.*

*Councillor Jackson reminded Members that the next meeting would be the budget Meeting, and he asked Members to advise him of any matters they wished to be considered.*

(b) Accounts paid and for payment

RESOLVED:-

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

	£
<i>Glendale Countryside Limited (Mowing-August, September and October)</i>	835.84

2153. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION BUT NOT DECISION

*It was agreed to include an item on the next agenda to enable a report to be circulated and discussed in relation to the Playing Field Charity Trustees.*

*Dated* .....

*Signed* .....

*Chairman*



