

AT A MEETING of the BARKSTON AND SYSTON PARISH COUNCIL held in the Village Hall, Barkston on Monday 11th September 2017, at 7.45pm

PRESENT

Councillor Miss M.E. Nussey in the Chair

Councillors A.C. Card, S. T. Elnor, Mrs S.B. Evans, A. Hine, J.A. Jackson, S J Kelly (from 8.53pm) and A.J. Rowell.

Also present: Councillors Mrs Kaberry-Brown and Stokes – District Council

2267. APOLOGIES

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

2268. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2017, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

2269. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

2270. 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. Fly tipping – part of the fly tipped rubbish on Frinkley Lane had been removed, but the Clerk reported that a check had revealed that about half was still there. SKDC had been contacted, and they had promised to remove the rest as soon as possible. A check that afternoon had revealed that the rubbish had still not been moved. Clerk to remind SKDC.*
- 2. Footpath, A607/turn into Syston – LCC had agreed to cut back and remove any vegetation that obscured visibility at this crossing point, as soon as possible and when there was a tree contractor employed on other work in the area.*
- 3. Accessible footpaths – the Clerk advised that of the matters raised at the last meeting, the inspection cover in Church Street had been replaced by Anglian Water and LCC would be putting together a package to repair some damaged areas. The Chairman said that she had contacted the local resident, who had now cut back the hedge to an acceptable level, and that she had been thanked for this action. The end of the path on the east side of the A607 had been cleared by Councillor Card, leaving only the vegetation opposite the Village Hall, which would be dealt with shortly.*
- 4. Footpath along River Witham – this path had now been cleared and was acceptably accessible.*
- 5. Speeding, A607 – the Neighbourhood Policing Team had advised that they could not provide a date for the next speed check in Barkston, owing to lack of resources. The request would, however, be logged. The Team had passed on the request to the Road Safety Partnership to see if mobile speed cameras or an ‘Archer’ speed survey could be considered for the area. The Parish Council, however, asked the Clerk to repeat the request for speed checks.*

6. *Church Street, Barkston – resurfacing – this work had been completed last week. However, it was pointed out that the work had not been done very well, in that potholes had not been filled prior to the surfacing being carried out, an area where a car was parked had been left and had not subsequently been attended to, and an area in front of a property had been missed. The Clerk was asked to pass the complaint to the County Council.*
7. *West Street, Barkston – double yellow lines - the County Council had advised that new Traffic Regulation Orders were not being processed owing to financial restrictions, except those requested by the Police or Road Safety Partnership. This decision was reviewed periodically.*
8. *Hedge, Council bungalows, West Street, Barkston – this had been reported several times, and at the time of the meeting had not been cut. Clerk to remind SKDC.*
9. *The Drift/Main Street, Syston – the road edge repairs had been completed.*
10. *A607/Main Street, Syston – the recently flooded area was to be examined by a drainage contractor and appropriate action would be taken. This work was scheduled to take place shortly.*
11. *BT Phone Box, A607, Barkston – this had been removed and the area made good.*
12. *Bench, St Nicholas Close, Barkston – this bench was mentioned as being in need of repair. It was noted that the bench was not the Parish Council’s responsibility.*
13. *White lining, A607 to The Drift, Syston – it was noted that white lining had been carried out in the area but that this had stopped at The Drift. Clerk to enquire if it was intended to complete this work, and when.*
14. *Footpaths – Councillor Elnor reported on discussions he had had with LCC in regard to the responsibilities of farmers/the County Council in regard to the maintenance of footpaths/stiles/gates. LCC would trim field edge paths but not those crossing fields, and would also provide gates or stiles. However, this work could also be carried out by farmers, and there was considerable confusion in regard to responsibilities. The Council noted Councillor Elnor’s report.*

2271. PLANNING MATTERS

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

Erection of 3 agricultural buildings for poultry production and associated gate house, water tank, gas tanks and storage building, following demolition of the pig unit, Barkston Heath Pig Unit, Heath Lane, Barkston (further information) – no objection

Section 73 application for the variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) of S16/0943 to allow for alterations to the design of the dwellings, 12 West Street, Barkston – no objection

Section 73 application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) and remove conditions 9 (obscure glazing) and 10 (opening lights) of planning approval S15/1096, Virginia House, Main Road, Barkston – no objection

Erection of single storey front extension, front porch and garage conversion, Mossend, 2 Hough Road, Barkston – no objection

Erection of a 3 bedroom dwelling and garage, Land to north of West Lodge, Green Lane, Syston – objection (Referred to the Committee for consideration, if not refused

under delegated powers by the officers).

- (b) South Kesteven Local Plan – the Clerk advised the Council that he had sent in the Council’s comments following the last meeting, and had received an acknowledgement. All comments sent in were being analysed and a summary report would be produced which would be the subject to further comment in due course.*

2272. PICNIC AREA – STATION ROAD, BARKSTON

The Clerk reported that he had received advice from the Land Registry in regard to the proposed acquisition of the land, and that they had suggested that as a first step, a search of the index map should be carried out to see if the land was registered. This entailed a small fee of £4. The County Council had undertaken checks in regard to their possible ownership, but these had proved to be inconclusive, as no deeds or other ownership documents could be traced. It had been suggested by the County Council that there were three options available, either LCC would retain and maintain the site, LCC would relinquish ownership and allow the Parish Council to acquire the land or no-one did anything further. LCC had in fact raised no objection to the Parish Council proceeding to acquire the land.

It was agreed to proceed with the Land Registry search, and to confirm the previous decision to acquire the land. The Clerk was also asked to enquire as to the insurance situation. Some branch damage to trees at the site’s entrance was reported, but it was agreed to take no action until the land was formally owned by the Council.

2273. BURIAL GROUND

The hedge cutting had been completed, and the family in slight breach of the burial plot agreement had been contacted, and had quickly acceded to the Parish Council’s request to re-site the ornaments.

2274. PLAYING FIELD

The Clerk reported that the annual play equipment inspection had been carried out, and only minor issues had been noted. Councillor Kelly advised that the matters referred to were very minor, and appropriate action would be taken. It was noted that checks were carried out every two months.

2275. TREE – RIVER LANE, SYSTON

The Clerk told the Council that he had received a request from a Syston resident for action to be taken in regard to a tree opposite his property which had been shedding branches, with the potential to seriously damage his property from these branches, or the tree itself falling. There was some doubt as to the tree’s safety. It had been suggested that the tree had been planted by a previous Chairman of the Parish Council, in or around May 1994, and photographic evidence to that effect was produced. The Council considered whether to insure the tree or to fell/prune the tree, and the Clerk advised that he had obtained a price for an inspection and risk report in the sum of £175. It was suggested and agreed that the Clerk request assistance from the SKDC Arboriculturalist before any further action was taken.

2276. RISK INSPECTION

The inspection had been carried out on the 7th September. No issues had been found which required attention.

2277. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Tree Charter – information received had been circulated to all Members. It was agreed to apply to plant a Tree Charter Legacy Tree, preferably a Beech, to be planted at the Burial*

Ground. Also agreed to ask if the Woodland Trust could provide any assistance in regard to the tree at Syston mentioned earlier.

- (b) Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils – invitation to attend the Annual Meeting and Conference was received and noted.*

2278. 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.

- (b) LCC Mowing Agreement*

The Clerk reminded the Council that the former agreement with the County Council in regard to highway grass cutting had ceased with effect from 2016. There was a new agreement now in force, which was based on two cuts only per year, giving a total payable to the Parish Council of £231.34.

- (c) Clerk's salary/PAYE/Payroll agreement*

Councillor Jackson reported on various issues concerning the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer's salary and the associated PAYE. He referred to guidance from the National Association of Local Councils, and to the Governance and Accountability Guide for Local Councils, in particular the advice/guidance on the employment of and payments to Clerks. Local Councils were required to register for PAYE from 2011, although this appeared not to have been done at that time by the Council. Following the recent audit, it had become apparent to the Clerk and Councillor Jackson that this issue should be looked into further.

Advice had been sought from a payroll company, and as a result the Parish Council had been registered with HMRC. However, as a result of not registering, a penalty of £100 had been applied by HMRC. This had been paid, after consultation with the Chairman, in order to avoid any further penalties. The Parish Council were now legally in order with HMRC. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Ladywell Accountancy Services' appointment be confirmed.

Councillor Jackson further suggested that it would be appropriate to reconsider the Clerk's terms of employment, as well as the salary scale, at the budget meeting in January.

- (d) Audit 2016/17*

The Clerk reported that the audit for 2016/17 had been completed satisfactorily, with no matters raised by the Auditors.

- (e) Accounts paid and for payment*

RESOLVED:-

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

	£
<i>BDG Mowing Contractors (Mowing – June)</i>	<i>190.00</i>
<i>Paul Johnson (Burial Ground hedge cutting)</i>	<i>220.00</i>
<i>Grant Thornton UK LLP (Audit Fee)</i>	<i>120.00</i>
<i>BDG Mowing Contractors (Mowing- July x 2)</i>	<i>380.00</i>
<i>HMRC (Payroll penalty)</i>	<i>100.00</i>

- (ii) That payment of the following accounts now submitted be agreed:*

	£
<i>Anglian Water (Supply 1.6.17 – 1.8.17)</i>	8.15
<i>M L Hall (half year salary)</i>	732.00
<i>HMRC (PAYE on Clerk's salary)</i>	183.00
<i>Land Registry (Index map search fee)</i>	4.00

Dated

Signed

Chairman

