

AT A MEETING of the BARKSTON AND SYSTON PARISH COUNCIL held in the Village Hall, Barkston on Monday 14th November 2016, at 7.45 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Miss M.E. Nussey in the Chair

Councillors A.C. Card, P. Connor, Mrs S.B. Evans, A. Hine, J.A. Jackson, S.J. Kelly and A.J. Rowell. Also present: Councillor Ian Stokes – District Council.

PUBLIC FORUM

Two members of the public attended. After the LIVES presentation, one matter was raised in relation to the speed of traffic through Barkston, notwithstanding the speed signs. It was suggested that a request be made for a formal speed survey to be undertaken. The Council agreed to consider this at the following Parish Council meeting.

LIVES

Chris Townson, the local co-ordinator for LIVES attended and gave a short presentation on the current situation with the Group. He said that there had been changes in the structure of the organisation, both at headquarters and local level. The former HQ contact/trainer had now moved to a paid position within the organisation. There had been uniform changes from the former green to blue, to avoid any clash with ambulance crews/paramedics. Group finances were healthy, with £1,922 in the account, thanks to previous grants from Barkston and Syston and Belton Parish Councils, and also donations and fundraising. He was not requesting a grant this year, and thanked the Council for their support.

However, there were now only 2 left out of the 5 members of the Group this time last year. Personal and business commitments had reduced this number, and he was now anxious to recruit new members. To this end, he asked Members to think of anyone who could help by joining the Group to let him know and he would then be able to pass on further details. Chris Townson thanked the Council for listening, and the Chairman thanked him on behalf of the Council for his efforts on behalf of the Group.

2212. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Elnor (accepted for the purposes of an attendance), together with District Councillor Rosemary Kaberry-Brown and County Councillor Ray Wootten.

2213. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2016, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

2214. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

2215. 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. Hole outside Barkston Garage – now infilled.*
- 2. Accessible pavements – being investigated in respect of the legal requirements and available funds.*
- 3. Picnic Area, Station Road – the Clerk reported correspondence from the Area Surveyor advising that there was no record of any LCC interest and enclosing a plan showing that the area was in fact unregistered. A general discussion ensued, during which Members considered whether or not to pursue the acquisition of the area. It was suggested, and agreed, that further consideration be deferred to the budget meeting in January, pending a report on any costs associated with ownership and maintenance. It was also agreed that the Clerk would carry out an official Land Registry search of the area, so that ownership could be confirmed without doubt. A discussion also took place in regard to any rights of access over the land, and the Chairman undertook to contact the owner of land which appeared to have an access through the picnic area.*
- 4. Proposed stopping-up orders – the County Council had advised that although they were intending to retain rights for pedestrians/cyclists and horse riders, a petition had been received against the proposals. Due to this, all further consultation plans would cease, and all current rights would be retained. The lanes would be classified as green lanes in the future, and maintained to that standard.*
- 5. Signs, A607 – this had been investigated, and the resident contacted. The sign met the LCC specification for the siting of signs on highways, and no further action was intended, as it was not intended to encourage people to walk along this verge, when there was a footpath alternative.*
- 6. Church Street/War Memorial –it was intended to issue the order for the marker posts in the near future.*
- 7. Give way sign, West Street – the sign had been restored to its correct position.*
- 8. Street naming, Syston – an email had been received from SKDC in regard to the correct naming of the road leading into the village from the A607 at the southern end. This query had arisen as a result of a request for a name change of property formerly called 'The Scroggs', and the submission of an application for two properties within the property's garden. The SKDC records showed the property as being on Church Lane, but it was considered that this road name should only relate to the short length of road from the triangle, where the Parish Council's bench was located. A plan had been sent showing the roads in question, and this was shown to the meeting. After discussion, the SKDC suggestion that the entire length of the road being named Main Street was agreed, with the road from the triangle being named Church Lane also agreed.*
- 9. Walkabout – a Member expressed dissatisfaction that many of the matters raised during the walkabout had not been implemented, and he wondered whether this was worthwhile. It was pointed out by other Members that some matters had been dealt with and others were pending funding.*
- 10. Station Road – the Clerk mentioned that he had that day received an email in respect of proposed works on Station Road between 12th and 31st December, over a period of 4 days. It was not known precisely what the works were for at this stage. Agreed that the Clerk would circulate the email to all Members for information.*
- 11. Hough Road – Clerk to request replacement of the stone haunching on the road edges just after the railway crossing.*

12. *Footpath, A607/turn into Syston – a Member mentioned visibility difficulties when crossing the A607, from the east side into Syston Main Street, due to overgrown trees to the south. It was agreed to refer this to the Area Surveyor.*
13. *Hedge, West Street – the roadside hedge at the SKDC bungalows on West Street, was overgrown, and the Clerk was asked to refer this to SKDC for attention.*
14. *School parking, St Nicholas Close – Councillor Stokes raised the issue of parking by parents of children at Barkston School in St Nicholas Close. He had requested the school to inform parents but was not sure if anything had been done. A discussion took place in relation to the disruption caused by this, and the Chairman, as a Governor, undertook to raise this with the Head Teacher.*
15. *Speeding, A607 – further to the issue raised during the public forum, it was agreed to request a formal speed survey in Barkston.*

2216. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) Decisions had been taken on planning applications as follows:

Erection of two detached dwellings and garages, Land to north of West Lodge, Main Road, Syston – objection (and also to an amended application) - refused

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

Convert existing garage to kitchen and enclose front porch, North Lodge, Minnett's Hill, Barkston – no objection – subsequently approved

An application to fell a dead tree at 12 West Street, Barkston, within the Conservation Area, had been approved.

In relation to the query raised at the last meeting about the installation of solar panels on appropriate types of development, SKDC had been contacted and replied that there was a policy (EN4), in the Core Strategy which covered this aspect. It was considered that whilst solar panels were desirable, their absence would not be a reason for refusal. The Parish Council could still, however, request panels when appropriate.

(b) Neighbourhood Plan – the Clerk reminded Members that the Community Lincs report following the Initial Awareness Raising event had been circulated. He drew attention to the conclusions, which suggested that in view of the small percentage of the community attending, further engagements would need to be undertaken to identify a good level of support in developing a Neighbourhood Plan. A suggestion was made as to how this could be carried out. A Member pointed out that the response was only some 4 or 5% of the population of the two villages, and that of those attending only 3 had indicated that they would be willing to join a group to progress the plan. This was despite an article in 'In Touch', and a flyer enclosed with the last edition and a large number of posters and banners around the villages.

A lengthy discussion ensued, during which it was proposed and seconded that:

'Due to the apathetic turnout, the Parish Council goes no further with the Neighbourhood Plan'.

The proposition was put to the vote and an equality of votes resulted. The Chairman exercised her casting vote against the proposal, which was therefore lost.

A Member suggested that the Council make early contact with SKDC, as suggested in the report, but the Clerk pointed out that this suggestion had only been made on the assumption that it was agreed to proceed with the Plan, which was not the case at present.

A suggestion was then made that the Parish Council proceed in accordance with the first suggestion made in the Community Lincs report, as long as a suitable percentage response could be agreed to take the proposal forward. The Clerk gave information on the grants available should the Council decide to proceed, which expired in 2018, but pointed out that it was very likely that the Council would also need to consider funding from within the budget.

Following further discussion, it was proposed, seconded and agreed that further consideration be deferred to the next meeting, for the Clerk to take further advice from Community Lincs in regard to further consultation, including the cost of this, identify grants which might be available, and obtain information on which nearby Parishes were proceeding with a plan and what stage they were at.

2217. BURIAL GROUND

The hedge had been cut satisfactorily. Councillor Rowell advised that the dead trees had not yet been removed, but this would be done shortly.

2218. PLAYING FIELD

Councillor Kelly said that there had been positive feedback following the refurbishment of the play equipment. Works identified as being in need of attention in the last safety inspection had either been carried out by the Playing Field Committee or under warranty.

2219. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) South Kesteven Village Services and Facilities Survey 2015 review of results – the Clerk reported for information that he had received this survey and had updated the survey.

(b) LCC Highways – the Clerk advised that LCC Highways now intended to share all communications from Parish Councils with the respective County Councillor. The Clerk said that this was what normally happened anyway on an informal basis. Members noted the correspondence.

2220. 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 gave an update on income received since the report had been prepared, and asked the Clerk to look into the non-receipt of dividends from Treasury Stock held in the name of the War Memorial Repair Fund Trust for the current financial year.

(b) Accounts paid and for payment

RESOLVED:-

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

	£
<i>Paul Stokes (Hedge cutting at Burial Ground)</i>	260.00

<i>S. Hutton Limited (Work to cricket pitch)</i>	<i>241.00</i>
<i>Glendale Countryside Ltd.(Mowing 30/9)</i>	<i>285.58</i>

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

	<i>£</i>
<i>Glendale Countryside Ltd. (Mowing 21/10)</i>	<i>285.58</i>
<i>Anglian Water (Supply 5.8.16 – 8.11.16)</i>	<i>10.82</i>

Dated

Signed

Chairman

