

AT A MEETING of the BARKSTON AND SYSTON PARISH COUNCIL held in the Village Hall, Barkston on Monday 12th November 2018, at 7.45pm

PRESENT

Councillor Miss M.E. Nussey in the Chair

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

Also present: Councillors Ian Stokes - District Council and R. Wootten – County Council.

PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public attended and raised three issues in regard to West Street, Barkston, namely the speed of traffic, the volume of traffic and on-road parking. She mentioned that speed was a significant issue, and wondered whether traffic calming could be a solution. These matters were constant problems, but had affected her in particular recently when an oil delivery tanker had been unable to access her property owing to a badly parked car. She also mentioned an issue with parking in the location of the north side of the Village Green, where drivers wishing to turn left found their access blocked by parked cars, and wondered whether consideration could be given to including double yellow lines on this piece of road, in addition to those around the Green.

Councillor Wootten, in commenting on the issues raised, reminded the Council of the Community Speedwatch Scheme, which the Council had considered previously. The Council were reminded that this had been the subject of a long discussion earlier in the year, when a decision had been made not to proceed with the Scheme. A Councillor commented that the Council had agreed that the proper approach to speeding issues was via the Police. Nevertheless, Councillor Wootten said that he would send details of the Scheme to the Clerk.

Councillor Wootten suggested further that a good approach, to show the level of concern, was for a petition to be prepared, and the resident thought that this could be done.

2348. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Kaberry-Brown (District Council).

2349. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2018, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

2350. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

2351. 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. Speeding, A607 – the Clerk advised the Council that the consultation period for the proposed Order had expired, and it would be brought into operation on 19th January 2019.*

2. *Potholes -Main Street, Syston/A607 – it was reported that the potholes had been repaired, but that some had been poorly done, and were already pulling out. Clerk to refer this to the County Council.*
3. *A607 turn into Syston – Councillor Hine reported that in his opinion visibility had now improved at this location.*
4. *Give Way sign, near Playing Field – still not repaired, Clerk to remind the County Council.*
5. *Potholes, West Street, Barkston – the pothole on West Street near The Close was now very deep and dangerous, and despite having been reported on multiple occasions had still not been repaired. Clerk to again refer this to the County Council. Councillor Wootten to inspect the site.*
6. *Footpath in front of Barkston House – the trimming requested had been done.*
7. *Gullies – Minnetts Hill/Church Street and near The Stag – these had been reported as being blocked after recent rains, mainly due to soil and grit washing down from higher land. The Clerk advised that he had already referred these sites to the County Council, and cleaning had been scheduled.*
8. *Hedge bordering Thorold gardens/A607 – residents of Thorold Gardens had expressed concern at the state of the hedge and ditch bordering the A607, and adjacent to properties to the south of the pedestrian gate. The hedge/ditch to the north was kept tidy by residents. Having been made aware of this issue, the Clerk said that he had referred it to the County Council for comment. It had been established that the hedge and ditch was in the ownership of the adjoining properties in Thorold Gardens, and not the County Council.*
9. *Minnetts Hill, Barkston – the Clerk said that he had been contacted in regard to the poor state of Minnetts Hill, the sides of which were reported to be suffering and crumbling away. The County Council had advised that it was unlikely that any large scale works would be undertaken, although efforts would be made to keep the area safe, owing to lack of budget provision.*
10. *Footpath siding back – it was mentioned that the footpath leading into Syston from the Village Hall end of Barkston had been sided back, whereas the long awaited treatment to the path opposite the Village Hall had not been done, despite many requests. Councillor Wootten commented that this work may have been done by the District team, and although he was not sure he would check.*
11. *A607 central refuge – it was mentioned that on the western side of the A607, there was little space for persons wishing to cross to wait, resulting in pedestrians having to wait close to the road. Clerk to ask if action could be taken to release more space in this area, possibly by removing some of the grass verge.*
12. *Public Forum – West Street issues – Clerk to take appropriate action in regard to the issues raised in the public forum.*

2352. PLANNING MATTERS

Decisions had been taken on planning applications as follows:

Erection of two storey detached dwelling with integral garage, Land to rear of 21 West Street, Barkston – approved

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

Change of use of garage extension to holiday let, 5 Church Street, Barkston – objection

In connection with the above application, Councillor Stokes mentioned that he had requested that it be considered by the Development Management Committee. He also said that he had looked into

the status of the path running alongside the property, currently blocked by a fence and locked/bolted gate. It was apparent that this path was a public right of way from when the land now forming St Nicholas Close was bought, and action was being taken to remove the blockages.

Single storey rear extension to form additional bedroom with en-suite, West Lodge Syston – no objection

Partial demolition of flat roof extension and erection of rear extension to form additional bedroom with ensuite to listed building, West Lodge, Syston – no objection

Erection of detached residential annexe – Greenacres, Honington Road, Barkston – no objection

Councillor Stokes advised that the application for the demolition of the existing 12 West Street, Barkston and replacement with two properties had been deferred for a meeting with the applicants, as revised plans had been requested.

2353. RISK INSPECTION REPORT

The inspection had been carried out on 17th September. There was a slightly rocking headstone in the Burial Ground, which was not dangerous, although it would be monitored. On the Village Green it was considered that a Horse Chestnut on the north side, which had one large dead stem and other deficiencies, was dying and should be removed. The tree had now been removed, at no cost to the Council. Agreed that consideration to be given to planting a replacement.

2354. BURIAL GROUND

The estimate for repair of the Bier Shelter had now been received, and it was agreed that this would be considered at the budget meeting in January, as had been agreed. In the meantime a check would be kept on the condition of the building, and urgent action taken if necessary.

8.30pm – Councillor Elnor entered the meeting.

2355. PLAYING FIELD

Councillor Kelly advised the Council that a Charity was required to have an annual report to the Trustees, and he read the report which had recently been prepared for the Playing Field.

The usual Annual Return to the Charity Commission had changed format this year, in that there was now an option to disclose charity policies. He told the Council that he had recorded that there were currently no policies, but that requirements would be reviewed before the Playing Field AGM in 2019. The financial year end date had been adjusted to reflect the date of the accounts. These accounts had been audited in May 2018, giving an income of £2842 and expenditure of £1158, which figures had been entered on the Charity Commission portal. The Parish Council approved the action taken.

2356. 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.

It was noted that the LCC contribution to mowing for 2019/20, under the Parish Agreement, would remain at £482.90.

Councillor Jackson referred to a letter in regard to the precept for 2019/20 forwarded to him by

the Clerk. The letter mentioned that Government had decided to defer the setting of referendum principles for Town and Parish Councils for three years, subject to all available steps being taken to mitigate the need for Council Tax increases, including the use of reserves. Current advice was to keep one or two years in reserve, which was the situation the Council was currently in, and which could be maintained if the precept was kept at £13,100, i.e. no increase. This advice would be followed in considering the report to be submitted to the budget meeting in January.

(b) Accounts paid and for payment

RESOLVED:-

That payment of the following accounts be approved and confirmed (all online):

	£
<i>Playmaintain Ltd (Service of playing field equipment)</i>	<i>102.00</i>
<i>HMRC Cumbernauld (Clerk's PAYE)</i>	<i>248.80</i>
<i>BDG Mowing (Mowing – September)</i>	<i>380.00</i>
<i>S Hutton Limited (Cricket pitch maintenance)</i>	<i>304.64</i>
<i>BDG Mowing (Mowing – October)</i>	<i>380.00</i>

The payment to HMRC above was a correct payment to their account, the payment reported to the last meeting being to the wrong account, and now refunded.

2357. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION BUT NOT DECISION

Councillor Jackson reminded Members that the next meeting would be the budget meeting. So far agreed for consideration were the village gateways, picnic area refurbishment and repairs to the Bier Shelter. He asked that any further requests (costed) be sent to him before Christmas, so that the budget report could be prepared in time. He suggested that it was not necessary to budget for the cost of a replacement tree for the Village Green, if one was required, as the cost could be met from balances.

A discussion took place in regard to the proposed picnic area refurbishment and in response to a query, the Clerk confirmed that all options would be costed and included in the budget report. It was considered that a height restrictor was essential and that the cost of this should be included in any calculations.

Councillor Stokes had offered the Council a portion of his ward member's grant, and it was agreed that this be accepted and used for the purchase of the picnic table.

Dated

Signed

Chairman

