

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING for the PARISHES OF BARKSTON AND SYSTON held in the Village Hall, Barkston, on Monday 11th May 2015 at 7.45pm

PRESENT

*Councillor Miss M E Nussey
Chairman of the Parish Council – in the Chair
and 5 members of the public*

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting were read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS

No matters were raised and the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.47pm.

*Date..... Signed.....
Chairman*

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING of the BARKSTON AND SYSTON PARISH COUNCIL held in the Village Hall, Barkston on Monday 11th May 2015 following the Parish Meeting

PRESENT

Councillor Miss M E Nussey in the Chair

Councillors P.C. Connor, S.T. Elnor, Mrs S.B. Evans, J.A. Jackson, S.J.Kelly (from 7.50pm) and A.J. Rowell.

PUBLIC FORUM

No matters were raised.

2103. *ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN*

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

That Councillor Miss M E Nussey be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

2104. *ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN*

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

That Councillor A C Card be elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

2105. *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.

2106. *APOLOGIES*

Apologies for absence, accepted for the purpose of an attendance, were received from Councillor A C Card.

2107. *MINUTES*

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2015, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and approved as a correct record, subject to the deletion of the word "and" on line four of the second paragraph of minute 2097.

2108. *DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST*

There were none declared.

2109. *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. Church Street/Church corner/Honington Road – the statutory consultation for the proposed waiting restrictions had commenced and the Clerk reported that he had been advised by Councillor Wootten that in view of a large number of objections which had been received, it was unlikely that the proposals would receive approval by committee. The County Council had been asked to provide details of the objectors, and on what basis the objections had been made, but under the Data Protection Act they had advised that they could not provide this information.*

After discussion, the Clerk was asked to try and establish if the objections were made on the same basis as the Council's original request, as it appeared that the proposals which were now the subject of consultation were different. It was also agreed to point out that the Council's request was made on the basis of road safety (bearing in mind the number of pedestrians in the area at school times), and access for emergency vehicles and public transport at these times. The Clerk was also asked to query the use of the Data Protection Act and which section applied in this case.

- 2. Flooding, The Stag corner and Station Road – the Area Surveyor had requested the Council's priority for this scheme and had pointed out that rainfall data proved that there was now a higher intensity and volume, which was breaching the capacity of the system, originally not designed for modern use. Following discussion, it was agreed to await the promised action, but to advise the Area Surveyor that the Council considered that action should be taken soon on road safety grounds.*
- 3. No reply had been received from the Area Surveyor's office in regard to the following issues, which had been referred on 10th March, despite two reminders:*

*Flooding, Hough Road and the garage, Barkston
Dyke, Minnetts Hill, Barkston
Accessible pedestrian pavements, Barkston
A607 resurfacing, Barkston/Syston
Church Street/Church corner, Barkston – banked stretch erosion*

The Council expressed concern at this, and requested the Clerk to again refer the issues and to insist on a response by the next meeting.

- 4. Dog waste – the new signage warning of penalties had been installed by SKDC and monitoring was taking place. An article had been placed in "In Touch". No recent complaints had been received.*
- 5. Speeding, A607 and West Street – the Clerk referred to a complaint from a local resident in regard to the above. It was noted that speeding now appeared to be being dealt with on a collaborative/regional basis by Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire, and in fact a speed check had taken place on the A607 only the previous week. In view of the regularity of checks, the Council decided to take no action in regard to this aspect. Traffic calming on West Street had been suggested but it was pointed out that this had been considered previously and had been rejected.*
- 6. Hough Road – the stone haunching at the side of the road just past the beck bridge was in need of repair/replacement.*
- 7. Prioritisation of outstanding highways issues – it was queried whether there were separate budgets for improvements and maintenance, and pointed out that it would be difficult for non-experts to determine which of any schemes should receive priority. It was agreed, after discussion, to leave a decision on this issue, pending the Area Surveyor's attendance at a meeting.*

2110. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) General

Decisions had been taken on planning applications as follows:

Erection of single storey rear extension to dwelling and external

chimney, The Willows, 32 Hough Road, Barkston – approved

Five wind turbines, Land at Hough Grange Farm, Hough on the Hill – refused

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

Reduce hornbeam by two metres, Lindisfarne, The Drift, Syston – no objection

The Clerk reported that the application for the erection of a dwelling at the rear of 12 West Street, Barkston, had been appealed. He reminded members that he had emailed them stating that as an extensive objection had been submitted at the application stage he did not intend to comment further. No objection had been received to this suggestion.

A further application had been received for the erection of six wind turbines at Thackson's Well Farm, Sewstern Lane, Long Bennington. The Clerk was asked to establish whether any comments had been made in regard to the original application, which had been refused and lost at appeal, and also to email full details to members.

(b) South Kesteven Local Plan

It was agreed to await information from the District Council and give further consideration at the next meeting.

2111. BURIAL GROUND

The Clerk reminded Members of the current situation regarding grave mounds in the Burial Ground. Currently, burial grants taken out would be subject to a condition that any mounds left following an interment would be levelled, at the Council's expense, after 12 months. However, this condition did not apply to a total of 8 plots which had mounds following interments within the last 10 years. He suggested that consideration be given to levelling, subject to consent of the plot owners (where possible), although this would cost £400. It was suggested and agreed that, as there was no budget for this work, no action be taken for the present and that further consideration be given at the budget meeting in January 2016. It was also agreed to ask Veolia to quantify the respective costs, i.e. with and without mounds.

The Elmore memorial had been made safe, as agreed, and the Blackburn memorial in the Churchyard had been repaired at the same time. The unsafe Gray memorial had not been repaired by the family, as had been suggested, and the Clerk reported on action proposed by the local memorial mason to remedy this.

Councillor Rowell reported that a large bush, probably dead, on the northern side of the Burial Ground was to be removed shortly.

2112. STANDING ORDERS/AUDIT PLAN AND APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Council reviewed the Standing Orders and Audit Plan, which had been agreed by the Council on 12th May 2014. They were both confirmed as written. It was also agreed to confirm the appointment of Mr A Anderson as Internal Auditor.

2113. NEW MODEL FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Clerk had circulated prior to the meeting a copy of the new model Financial Regulations, as provisionally accepted at the last meeting, and which now included the detail from the Council's existing regulations. A Member pointed out that in accordance with regulation 2.2, any Member verifying bank statements produced by the Responsible Financial Officer (the Clerk) should be a Member other than the Chairman or a cheque signatory. Councillor Jackson, the Member currently responsible for this activity was a cheque signatory and therefore this regulation was not complied with. In the circumstances Councillor Jackson agreed to be removed as a signatory. Following a discussion on regulation 16.1, the Council agreed the Regulations as circulated.

2114. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

It was agreed to appoint Councillors Connor and Rowell as the Council's representatives.

2115. RISK INSPECTIONS

The Clerk reported that he had obtained advice from a neighbouring Parish Council in regard to risk inspections, although this had not yet been fully assessed. Councillor Kelly also referred to a risk register which he had prepared specifically for the children's play area. He suggested, and it was agreed, that a formal inspection should take place every two months, which would be recorded electronically. This did not currently include the wider playing field or the pavilion. The Clerk reminded members that the remaining risks were managed by an inspection every six months. It was also suggested that the electrical risks in the pavilion, and their inspection, be looked into. Further consideration to be given at the next meeting.

2116. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) LCC – Community Wildlife Grant – details received to be circulated to Members.
Application to be made for the replacement of parts of the Burial Ground hedge.

(b) South Kesteven Citizens Advice Bureau – request for financial support not agreed.

(Councillor Evans left at 9.25pm).

2117. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Defibrillator

The Clerk reported that the defibrillator was now installed, but not yet operational, and the cost had been met by the Margaret Brown Trust. Councillor Jackson advised that the grant available for such provision was now £1,600, and that he was still trying to obtain a grant for Syston.

(b) Financial update

The Council received and noted the financial updates for the period ending 31st March 2015 and so far for 2015/16, and Councillor Jackson explained these for the information of Members.

(c) Accounts paid and for payment

RESOLVED:-

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

| | £ |
|---|----------------|
| <i>Community Lincs Insurance Services (Renewal)</i> | <i>1402.63</i> |
| <i>Miss M Nussey (Retirement gift – B Noyes)</i> | <i>45.00</i> |
| <i>Veolia ES (UK) Ltd (Mowing - March)</i> | <i>278.61</i> |
| <i>Wicksteed Leisure Ltd (Repairs to swings)</i> | <i>204.42</i> |
| <i>Lincs Assoc of Local Councils (Annual Sub)</i> | <i>214.84</i> |
| <i>St Nicholas PCC (Contribution – clock)</i> | <i>135.00</i> |
| <i>St Nicholas Church PCC (Contribution – In Touch)</i> | <i>220.00</i> |
| <i>G H Linnell (Repairs – Elmore memorial)</i> | <i>300.00</i> |
| <i>Neil Bellamy Electrical (Fitting defibrillator)</i> | <i>36.00</i> |

(d) Audit 2014/15

The Clerk drew attention to the statement of assurance on the Audit Commission's Annual Return, a copy of which had been circulated to Members, and explained the elements requiring consideration. Having considered the Clerk's report and Councillor Jackson's report made earlier, the Council

- (i) accepted the accounts for 2014/15 as submitted; and*
- (ii) acknowledged and agreed the statement of assurance in relation to the accounts.*

2118. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION BUT NOT DECISION

Agreed to include an item on the next agenda to consider the Playing Field Constitution and an update on the children's corner.

Dated

Signed

Chairman

