

AT A MEETING of the BARKSTON AND SYSTON PARISH COUNCIL held in the Village Hall, Barkston on Monday 9th March 2015 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, J.A. Jackson, S.J.Kelly, B.H.Noyes and A.J. Rowell.

Also present: Councillors T.J. Scott (District Council) and R.Wootten (County Council) – from 8.45pm

PUBLIC FORUM

One member of the public attended. No matters were raised.

The public forum was closed at 7.46pm.

2092. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2015, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

2093. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

2094. 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. Footpath, Honington Road – the site had been visited during the recent walkabout and there was nothing to add to the Area Surveyor’s advice that the scheme had been placed on a list of works, but due to financial resources and cuts no date could be given when the works would be undertaken.*
- 2. Barkston Gorse/Bridleway 4 - Councillor Connor reported a visit by two motorcycles last week and eight yesterday. It was agreed to continue to monitor the situation, and in particular to ensure that photographic evidence was available if possible.*
- 3. Church Street/Church corner/Honington Road – the statutory consultation letters for the proposed waiting restrictions were being typed and the formal consultation was expected to commence shortly.*
- 4. Flooding, The Stag corner and Station Road – proposals for this area were unchanged and discussion also took place during the recent walkabout with the Area Surveyor, who had advised that the budget for 2015/16 was already committed. It was noted that the river, into which the drains flowed, was much clearer recently.*
- 5. Flooding, Hough Road and the Garage – this area had also been visited during the walkabout. The Area Surveyor’s view was that the problem was not the responsibility of the County Council, and clearly rested between the garage and Environment Agency. A Member said that a local resident had suggested that sewage was involved. However, this was considered to be unlikely as the drains carried surface water only. Councillor Scott, as former owner of the site, said that the County Council had installed a manhole*

near the garage entrance and as this contributed to the problem it was their responsibility. The Chairman advised that during the discussion on site the Area Surveyor had undertaken to look into the issue again.

6. *Barkston Gorse –the Area Surveyor had issued an order to put more stone down on the road.*
7. *The Drift, Syston, trees – after checking, agreed that the correct tree had been felled.*
8. *Dyke, Minnetts Hill – the Clerk advised that he had contacted the Area Surveyor with a request to clean and jet the gullies and sump in the grass verge, and that this had been agreed. The issue of maintenance of the dyke was now with the farmer and Area Surveyor. During the walkabout, the Area Surveyor had agreed to put grips in the verge to help drainage off the road.*
9. *Walkabout – the Chairman and Vice-Chairman reported on the recent walkabout with the Area Surveyor. Drainage at The Stag and bottom of Minnetts Hill had been discussed in detail and was reported elsewhere in the minutes. It was intended to surface dress the main road in the near future, and after discussion the Clerk was asked to request that this be done with the smallest stones, to minimise noise and potential vehicle damage.*

Whilst the poor state of the road from Minnetts Hill to the Playing Field had been noted it was unlikely that this would be done in the coming financial year. All items raised had been acknowledged, but it had been suggested that the budget for the next year was already committed. A discussion took place on which of the schemes for action suggested by the Parish Council should be prioritised, but at this stage no conclusion was reached. The Clerk was asked to contact the Area Surveyor requesting appropriate action on the matters raised.
10. *Grit Bin, Minnetts Hill –now installed.*
11. *Syston bypass – trees/bushes overhanging the road now cleared.*
12. *Street light, West Street – a firm quotation in the sum of £926 plus VAT had been received following the request for a street light covering the four houses at the end of West Street. On his arrival in the meeting, Councillor Wootten advised that the proposals to reduce street lighting by 50% were at this stage only a proposal, and no decision had been taken. The Council agreed to take no action.*
13. *Accessible pedestrian pavements – the Clerk reported on an email from a local resident in relation to pedestrian accessibility and safety risks for residents in wheelchairs or mobility scooters. It was agreed to refer this to the Area Surveyor in the first instance, and also to look into funding under the Disability Acts.*
14. *Wall strikes – it was suggested, and agreed, that the Clerk advise the owner of the current situation.*
15. *Dog waste – the Chairman reported on complaints received regarding bagged dog waste which had been found along the A607 and on West Street. The Clerk reported that SKDC Environmental Protection would within a few days install new signage warning of penalties. It had also been requested that local monitoring take place with a view to prosecuting culprits. Agreed also to put an article in “In Touch”.*

2095. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) General

Decisions had been taken on planning applications as follows:

*Single storey side extension and car port, The Old Parsonage,
The Drift, Syston - approved*

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

*Change of use to residential curtilage and erection of a single
storey side extension, Barkston Heath Mushrooms, Heath Lane,
Barkston – no objection*

*Erection of single storey rear extension to dwelling and external
chimney, The Willows, 32 Hough Road, Barkston – no objection*

*The Clerk reported that the application for five wind turbines on land at Hough
Grange Farm, Hough on the Hill was to be considered at the Development Control
Committee on 17th March. SKDC had advised of the public speaking regime, but
as the Parish Council had submitted an extensive objection at the application
stage, it was considered unnecessary to repeat this at Committee.*

(b) Parish Council's application for a bus shelter

*The Clerk reported that the shelter was now installed and operational. The grant of
£1,500 had been received, and the invoice had been paid. The Chairman reported on a
letter of thanks from the local residents who had originally requested the shelter,
suggesting also that a shelter be considered on the opposite side of the road. They had
been advised that there was insufficient space in that location.*

(c) South Kesteven Local Plan

*The Chairman and Councillor Jackson reported on their attendance at a forum
organised by SKDC to advise of the process for preparing the new plan, which would run
to 2036. A document received at that meeting was circulated among the Council.*

2096. BURIAL GROUND

*Councillor Rowell reported that the dead trees had now been removed by him and
Councillor Card. No other matters were raised in relation to the Burial Ground.*

2097. TRAINING SEMINAR REPORT

*The Clerk's report on his attendance at a training seminar on internal audit, budgets and
VAT had been circulated to the Council before the meeting, highlighting the main issues
raised, in relation to strategic plans, risk, budgets, VAT, ownership of the Playing Field
and Burial Ground, Governance and Accountability, new model Financial Regulations
and external audit.*

*In regard to the strategic plan, this was still being researched, and a report would be
submitted to the May meeting. Dealing with the risks faced by the Council was an
important issue, particularly in regard to the Playing Field, where there did not appear
to be a regular and recorded risk inspection. It was suggested that possibly one of the
two Parish Council representatives on the Committee could undertake this, perhaps every
two months, and document it. Members were reminded that a 6 monthly inspection of the
other Parish Council assets was undertaken and recorded. One of the Playing Field
Committee representatives queried exactly what would need to be done, and the Clerk said*

he would take advice from nearby Councils, who he was aware already carried out such inspections.

Much discussion had taken place in regard to various issues connected to VAT, none of which impacted on the Parish Council. The external audit procedure was, as far as the Council was concerned, organised satisfactorily, although there was a new requirement to publish various additional information from this year, nearly all of which was already available and easily put on a public website, as required.

Councillor Jackson added some comments, and the Council thanked the Clerk for his report.

2098. NEW MODEL FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Clerk had circulated prior to the meeting a copy of the new model Financial Regulations which had been referred to at the recent training session. They were essentially the same as existing Regulations, but improved in terminology and other minor details. It was agreed that the details in the Council's existing Regulations be transferred into the new model and circulated to the next meeting.

2099. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) SKDC – Community Broadband – Councillor Rowell reported that as requested he had raised the community broadband project with the Village Hall Committee. There were drawbacks with the proposal given the existing heavy use by various organisations, and it was agreed to take no further action.*
- (b) SKDC – sand/sandbags stock – the Clerk reported that the sand and bags had been received and had been stored in the Bier Shelter.*
- (d) Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils Circular 153 was noted. (Circulated to Members via email).*

2100. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Defibrillator

The Clerk reported that an acknowledgement had been received to the application for the supply of the defibrillator and cabinet, and the invoice had been passed to the Margaret Brown Trustees for payment of the agreed grant. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would remind the Community Heartbeat Trust about the suggested unit for Syston, and that Councillor Jackson would contact the Margaret Brown Trustees about the grant.

(b) Financial update

The Council received and noted the financial updates as at the present date and Councillor Jackson explained these for the information of Members. It was noted that whilst the Playing Field received an annual national grant, and was usually in deficit, the accounts now showed a small credit.

(c) Accounts paid and for payment

RESOLVED:-

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

