

AT A MEETING of the BARKSTON AND SYSTON PARISH COUNCIL held in the Village Hall, Barkston on Monday 14th September 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 and A.J. Rowell.

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

LIVES

The Council received Chris Townson, a member of Barkston LIVES, who updated the Council on the Group's progress since the last report in September 2014. He told the meeting that the Group was still very active, and still had 5 members, although some had been out of action for varying periods. From January to August 2015, the Group had worked a total of 236 hours and had been on duty on 73 occasions. There had been 19 callouts, a lot outside the area, and on 11 occasions members had arrived before the ambulance. He said that there was a desperate need for more members, and asked Councillors to spread the word. Of the two main objectives, 24/7 coverage had not been achieved, although there was significant cover available. The other objective, namely self-sufficiency in financial terms had been achieved, and there was £1,700 in the Group's accounts. He was not, therefore, asking the Parish Council for a donation now. Belton Parish Council, who had made a contribution, would be asked to make a second one. He thanked fundraisers and locations who supported the collecting tins. In concluding, Mr Townson mentioned the recently installed defibrillator in Barkston and made a plea for a unit to be installed at Syston. It was suggested that in order to publicise the Group more, an article be written for "In Touch" and the Parish Council's website, and Chris Townson agreed to do this. The session closed at 7.58pm

PUBLIC FORUM

Two members of the public attended and raised issues in connection with the proposed waiting restrictions on Church Street, Barkston. The residents queried the value of the lines, and considered that the only effect would be to push the traffic problem elsewhere within the area. The proposals would benefit buses but no-one else, and it was suggested that the buses could be re-routed. The Chair pointed out that the re-routing was unlikely, owing to resistance by the bus companies and the extreme inconvenience which would be caused for local residents in the middle of the village. Points were also raised in regard to speeding in the area. The residents were assured that their comments would be considered during the discussion later in the meeting.

The public forum was closed at 8.07pm.

2131. 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.

2132. APOLOGIES

An apology was received from District Councillor Mrs Kaberry-Brown.

2133. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2015, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

2134. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

2135. 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. Waiting restrictions - Church Street/Church corner/Honington Road – the Clerk reminded Members that following the last meeting he had prepared a response to the County Council and circulated it for comment. No adverse comments had been received and the response had therefore been sent. The County Council had now advised that they were looking into all responses and would be reconsulting with a modified proposal which would take into account most of the comments received. Comments made in the public forum were noted, and it was agreed to reiterate the previously expressed views, and to await the formal consultation.*
- 2. Flooding, The Stag corner and Station Road – the Area Surveyor had advised that the proposed drainage scheme had had its initial design. Funding was awaited, which was expected in the next financial year.*
- 3. Flooding, Hough Road and the garage, Barkston –investigations still ongoing.*
- 4. Dyke, Minnetts Hill, Barkston – investigations were still ongoing. The Clerk reported on a contact from Councillor Jackson following heavy rain earlier in the month, when he and a local resident had cleared a substantial amount of debris from the junction with Church Street. A request had been made, following this, for the gulley tanker to attend and clean and jet the gullies, and this had been agreed by the Area Surveyor.*
- 5. Accessible pedestrian pavements, Barkston – currently awaiting design and funding. No date could be given for this although it could be some time as resources were being concentrated on carriageway.*
- 6. A607 resurfacing, Barkston/Syston –work completed, but lines and centre studs still to be replaced.*
- 7. Church Street/Church corner, Barkston – banked stretch erosion – the Area Surveyor had noted that this problem had become worse over the last few months, so he would see what could be done to remove the problem. Any future waiting restrictions would hopefully help to control it to some degree, but in the meantime it was intended to see if any other measures could be introduced.*
- 8. Uneven roads/potholes – Church Street and Honington Road were to have substantial areas structurally patched and then surface dressed. Funding for this was awaited, although this might be forthcoming later in the year. The pothole on Station Road had been repaired.*
- 9. Prioritisation of outstanding highways issues – the Area Surveyor had agreed to attend the next meeting but had asked for an indication of the specific issues to be discussed, as many had been raised during the walkabout. Following discussion, it was agreed to advise the*

Area Surveyor that the Council would wish to discuss the issue of prioritisation of issues, as had been mentioned on many occasions in the recent past.

10. *Path, A607 – the Clerk was asked to repeat the request for siding back of the path along the A607 from The Stag southwards to the crossover at the junction with the road to Syston, which had been initially made some time ago but not carried out.*

2136. PLANNING MATTERS

(a) General

Decisions had been taken on planning applications as follows:

Erection of a detached dwelling with associated shared access and hard and soft landscaping, Virginia House, Main Road, Barkston – approved

Solar Farm and associated infrastructure, Highfield Farm, West Willoughby – dismissed on appeal (neighbouring authority consultation)

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

Re-point and replacement guttering to listed building, Manor Farm, 3 West Street, Barkston - no objection – subsequently approved

It was noted that Mr Dick Baines had appealed against the refusal of his application for a single wind turbine at Bellevue Farm, Carlton Scroop, which the Parish Council had been consulted on as a neighbouring authority, and on which they had recommended refusal.

(b) Application for 10 wind turbines, Fulbeck Airfield

The Clerk advised that an application had been received for the above development, and he reminded Members that details had been emailed together with an email from reVOLT and an email from VETO, a Group set up to oppose the proposals. It was agreed to continue to object to such proposals in the area, with the Clerk to prepare the objection and circulate it to Members for any comment before submitting it to the District Council..

(c) Neighbourhood Plan for Barkston and Syston

Councillor Evans had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda to enable the Council to consider whether or not to commence the process necessary to prepare a Plan. She expressed the view that there might be a more effective impact on comments made by the Parish Council if there was a Neighbourhood Plan in existence. Following a general discussion it was suggested that as there was insufficient information to enable a decision to be made at this meeting, consideration be deferred to a future meeting. In the meantime, the Clerk to request a representative from SKDC Planning Policy to attend and make a presentation on the facts.

2137. BURIAL GROUND

The Clerk reminded Members that as agreed at the last meeting he had written to the Gray family who had replied stating that they would not repair the unsafe memorial, and agreeing that it could be laid flat. A local Memorial Mason had offered to lay the stone safely and would carry out the work shortly.

A quotation had been received for the hedge cutting, in the sum of £500, and the work had

in fact been completed.

It was mentioned that there was a considerable amount of soil dumped behind the Bier Shelter and the Clerk was asked to find out who had dumped it, and to arrange for its removal.

2138. PLAYING FIELD – CHILDREN’S CORNER UPDATE

Councillor Kelly gave an outline of costings for the children’s corner refurbishment and displayed an artist’s impression of how the area would look. The total cost was in the region of £22,000 which would be covered by the budgeted amount from the Council (£10,000, made up of a £5,000 allocation from reserves and a £5,000 budget), with the balance from the Playing Field reserves. It was hoped to make a start in October with site clearance. The Council noted the situation and thanked Councillor Kelly for the considerable work he had carried out to bring the proposals to their present state.

2139. RISK INSPECTIONS

The Clerk reported that following an investigation into the interval for inspection of the fire extinguishers at the pavilion, it had been established that there were in fact no extinguishers present. This had been remedied by the purchase of two appropriate extinguishers, which had been recently installed. The risk inspection document could now be completed.

It was noted that the six monthly risk inspection would be carried out next month.

2140. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) South Kesteven District Council – in regard to election costs, filling of casual vacancies and completion and submission of declaration of interests forms was noted.*
- (b) Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils Circular 155 was noted (circulated to Members via email).*
- (c) Lincolnshire NHS – Health at Home 2015 – noted. Details to be circulated to Members.*

2141. 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) Audit 2014/15

The Clerk reported that the audit for 2014/15 had been completed satisfactorily, with no matters raised by the Auditors, save for a note that the Council Tax Support Grant had been incorrectly located in the return. The correct figures were noted and this did not affect the Auditor’s opinion.

(c) Charity Account/S137 Expenditure

No applications were received, but it was agreed to note consideration of a defibrillator for Syston at the Budget meeting in January 2016.

(b) Accounts paid and for payment

RESOLVED:-

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

	£
<i>Anglian Water (Supply 7.5.15-5.8.15)</i>	<i>6.91</i>
<i>Grant Thornton UK LLP (Audit fee)</i>	<i>120.00</i>
<i>Glendale Countryside (Mowing June and July)</i>	<i>835.84</i>
<i>South Kesteven District Council (Election fee)</i>	<i>124.00</i>

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

	£
<i>Allsecure Services Ltd (Fire extinguishers-pavilion)</i>	<i>109.20</i>
<i>M L Hall (half year salary)</i>	<i>884.00</i>
<i>A Wishart-Johnston (Burial Ground hedge)</i>	<i>500.00</i>

2142. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION BUT NOT DECISION

It was agreed to include an item on a future agenda to consider recent changes to planning regulations for extensions, and to request that a member of the SKDC Development Management team attend.

Dated

Signed

Chairman

