

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING of the BARKSTON AND SYSTON PARISH COUNCIL held in the Village Hall, Barkston on Monday 9th May 2016, following the Parish Meeting

PRESENT

Councillor Miss M.E. Nussey in the Chair

Councillors A.C. Card, P. Connor, S.T. Elnor (from 8.06pm), Mrs S.B. Evans, A. Hine, J.A. Jackson, S.J. Kelly and A.J. Rowell.

Also present: Councillor R. Wootten – County Council.

2177. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

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

2178. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:

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

2179. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillors Ian Stokes and Rosemary Kaberry-Brown.

2180. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2016, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

2181. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

2182. REVIEW OF POLICIES

The Council reviewed the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment and Audit Plan. No changes were proposed, or considered necessary, and the Council confirmed them as written. It was agreed to continue the appointment of Mr A Anderson as Internal Auditor. Clerk to discuss an appropriate remuneration with Mr Anderson.

2183. ROADS AND FOOTPATHS

(a) 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 - consultation on the proposals would take place in the near future.

2. *Prioritisation of outstanding highways issues – bank adjoining War Memorial – the Area Surveyor suggested that waiting restrictions should remove this issue in the future, but in the meantime he was arranging for some marker posts to be installed to protect the area.*
3. *Hole outside Barkston Garage –on a request from the garage, the hole was to be filled in and the barriers removed, as they were obscuring a sign on the fence to the rear.*
4. *Syston by-pass – this had not been actioned, and would be chased up.*
5. *Church Street/Honington Road – a pothole order for Church Street and Honington Road was pending. The Area Surveyor advised also that there was a major patching scheme arranged for later this financial year following which the roads would be surface dressed in the next year. No start date could be given yet, but the Parish Council would be advised, and there would be notices on site, together with a possible leaflet drop to residents. It was suggested that a request should be made for the worst holes to be filled sooner.*
6. *Drainage, A607 near The Stag – a major scheme was being designed for this area, for which funds had been allocated, to take place later this financial year. This would involve installing more gullies, large diameter pipes and simplifying the flow of water to the outfall.*
7. *Marston Road – an order was already pending to infill the holes on the road in the near future. It was noted that some work had already been done, but some large holes remained.*
8. *Barkston Gorse –an inspection and appropriate works would be arranged when resources became available.*
9. *Hough Road –this would be looked at in conjunction with works to cut back vegetation around the railway warning signs.*
10. *Footpath opposite Village Hall – Clerk to request that this be sided back, as had been agreed last year.*
11. *Road edge markers – a request had been received from some residents of St Nicholas Close for permission to install stone edge markers around the grassed areas at the junction with Church Street, to prevent parking. The Clerk advised that he did not think that the County Council would allow this, but he would check.*
12. *Sign opposite end of Hough Road, A607 – this sign had been demolished and although it had been reported, nothing had been done. Clerk to bring this to the attention of the Area Surveyor.*
13. *‘Slippery surface’ signs, A607 – some signs had appeared along the A607 from a point opposite The Paddock. Clerk to refer to the Area Surveyor.*
14. *Accessible pavements – reference was made to difficulties with accessing all parts of the village by residents in wheelchairs/mobility scooters. This issue had been raised before, and the Clerk was asked to repeat the reference to the Area Surveyor, with a request that the promised investigation be expedited. Councillor Wootten also indicated that he would support this request. In addition, Clerk to look into whether the County Council were legally obliged to take action to make pavements accessible.*
15. *Picnic Area, Station Road – it was reported that there was a large amount of rubbish and an old road sign on the edge of the area, and the Clerk was asked to refer this to the Area Surveyor.*
16. *Street lighting – the Clerk reminded Members that he had circulated a letter in regard to the County Council’s proposals for street lighting transformation. There were proposals for the reduction of costs by switching off certain lights, although as yet there were no changes*

proposed for either Barkston or Syston.

(b) Area Surveyor's walkabout – no date fixed as yet. Clerk to remind the Area Surveyor.

2184. PLANNING MATTERS

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

Proposed bungalow and garage, Little Witham, The Drift, Syston – objection

(b) Neighbourhood Plan – the Council received a report on the attendance, by the Chairman, two Members and the Clerk at a 'Neighbourhood Planning Roadshow' on the 17th March. They reported in some detail about the day, and told the Council that the principal point made was that the Plan, if it was to progress, must be from the community, not only the Parish Council. It was essential that the public and other Community stakeholders be involved, and that a comprehensive and inclusive consultation process had been undertaken. The Clerk advised that Community Lincs, the organisers of the Roadshow, could assist in the early steps of raising community awareness, and had access to grant funding via an organisation called Action for Communities in Rural England (ACRE) who would provide funds of £1215. This money would be held by Community Lincs, who would, using this money, help set up a plan of action for this pre-plan work and community awareness.

Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed to proceed with the first stage, i.e. community engagement and consultation, the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements with Community Lincs.

2185. BURIAL GROUND

There had been minor problems caused and complaints made about the standard and frequency of mowing, which had been resolved, otherwise there were no issues to report.

2186. PLAYING FIELD

Councillor Kelly reported that the Children's Corner play area had been opened on 16th April. Although regular inspections would be made, and recorded in accordance with the risk inspection, he suggested that a professional safety inspection on a yearly basis, was essential. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact neighbouring Parish Councils who already had similar inspections with a view to obtaining a quotation for Barkston. Councillor Kelly also reported that he had compiled an Annual Trustees report which would be submitted to the Playing Field AGM and then to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

2187. CORRESPONDENCE

Annual Report from Councillor Wootten – was received and noted. (circulated to Members via email). Thanks were expressed to Councillor Wootten for his attendance at meetings, and action on matters raised by the Council.

2188. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Financial update

The Council received and noted the financial updates for the period ending 31st March 2016, and so far for 2016/17, and Councillor Jackson explained these for the information

of Members.

Councillor Jackson handed over a cheque for £1,000, being the settlement from Barkston Charities.

(b) Annual Audit for 2015/2016

The Clerk drew attention to the Annual Governance Statement for 2015/2016, and the Accounting Statements for 2015/2016, copies of which had been circulated to Members. He explained the elements requiring consideration, and Members also took into account Councillor Jackson's financial update report at (a) above. Having considered both reports, the Council

- (i) acknowledged and agreed the Annual Governance Statement for 2015/2016 as circulated;
- (ii) acknowledged and agreed the Accounting Statements for 2015/2016 as circulated.

(c) Insurance renewal

The Clerk told the Council that the policy with Community Lincs Insurance Services was due for renewal on 1st June 2016. This policy was currently in the last year of a five year long term agreement, which meant that the annual premium was lower than the standard annual premium, and remained at that level for the full 5 year term, subject only to increases in insurance premium tax and index linking on the sums assured.

The premium requested for 2016/2017 was £1,397.53. However, if a new long term agreement was accepted, the premium would be £1,257.77. It was agreed to accept a long term agreement.

(d) Accounts paid and for payment

RESOLVED:-

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

	£
Community Lincs Insurance (Insurance renewal)	1257.77
St Nicholas Church Parochial Council (In Touch)	224.00
Barkston PCC (Clock)	138.00
Community Heartbeat Trust (Syston defibrillator and two service agreements)	2726.40

2189. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION BUT NOT DECISION

None raised.

Dated

Signed

Chairman

