

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING of the BARKSTON AND SYSTON PARISH COUNCIL held in the Village Hall, Barkston on Monday 14th May 2018, following the Parish Meeting

PRESENT

Councillor Miss M.E. Nussey in the Chair

Councillors A.C. Card, P.C.Connor, S.T.Elnor, Mrs S.B.Evans (from 8.10pm), A. Hine, J.A. Jackson and S.J.Kelly.

2312. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

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

Councillor Miss Nussey signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman.

2313. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

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

2314. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rowell (accepted for the purposes of an attendance), and Councillors Mrs R Kaberry-Brown and I Stokes (District Council), and Councillor Wootten (County Council).

2315. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2018, a copy of which had been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

2316. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none declared.

2317. REVIEW OF POLICIES

The Council reviewed the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment and Audit Plan. The only change made had been to paragraph 6.10 of the Financial Regulations, in regard to online banking, which had been agreed at the Council's meeting on 6th November 2017. No other changes were proposed or considered necessary and the Council therefore confirmed the listed policies subject only to the change mentioned to the Financial Regulations, paragraph 6.10.

Mr A Anderson had agreed to continue as Internal Auditor, and his appointment was confirmed.

2318. 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. Community Speedwatch Scheme – information circulated to members for information, as requested at the previous meeting.*
- 2. Fly tipping – completely cleared.*
- 3. The Clerk reported that, although the following matters had been referred to the Area Surveyor, there had not been a reply, and he intended to remind the Area Surveyor of the outstanding matters together with any other matters raised at the meeting:*

*Church Street, Barkston – resurfacing;
Grass verges, Main Street, Syston;
Church Street/War memorial area, Barkston;
Honington Road, in front of Bedehouses, Barkston;
Main Street, Syston/A607;
River Lane, Syston.*

- 4. Speeding, A607 – the Clerk reported on an email (circulated to members) from the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership, following a speed survey between Manthorpe and Barkston. The survey equipment had been sited between Manthorpe and Belton, and between Belton and Barkston, to give an overview of speeds either side of the junctions at Belton. Results from the surveys had been circulated to members, along with the email. Up to the end of 2017 there had been 13 personal injury collisions accounting for 19 casualties, 3 of which were in the killed or seriously injured category. Highway Engineers were now investigating the possibility of reducing these by means of a Traffic Regulation Order, and in the meantime would be enforcing limits by means of speed cameras.*
- 5. Bridleway No. 4 – the County Council had been advised of the contact details for the farmers concerned, but nothing had been heard. Clerk to remind the Countryside Officer.*
- 6. St Nicholas Close, Barkston – nameplate now re-fixed.*
- 7. Main Street, Syston/A607 – this pothole was now considered to be very dangerous and the Clerk was asked to again report this. The Chairman and other Councillors advised that they had reported the pothole, and it was suggested that local residents be encouraged to contact LCC.*
- 8. Village Gateway scheme – the Clerk reported information from the Area Surveyor in regard to the query on village gateways. It was agreed that further details, including prices, would be obtained and considered at the next meeting.*
- 9. Potholes, Minnetts Hill/Church Street, Barkston – to be reported to the Area Surveyor.*
- 10. Central refuge, A607 – the Vice-Chairman advised that he had reported a damaged sign at the above site, and it had been repaired the next day.*
- 11. The Close, Barkston – a deep pothole at this location had been reported by Councillor Kelly, but the Clerk was asked to remind the Area Surveyor.*
- 12. Stepping stones – the access to the stepping stones over the river on the path near Mill Farm had been reported as dangerous. However, the Countryside Officer had inspected and intended to make the area safe.*
- 13. A607 turn into Syston – it was reported that this area was still obscured by overhanging trees, causing a danger to pedestrians, whose view of traffic was obscured. Clerk to report this to the Area Surveyor.*

2319. PLANNING MATTERS

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

Proposed conversion of an existing outbuilding to form annexe, including extension to connect to existing dwelling, Firs Farmhouse, Church Street, Barkston – planning and listed building consent – no objection

Proposed extension of existing industrial building to provide additional manufacturing and storage space, Autocraft Industries Ltd., Green Lane, Belton – neighbouring authority consultation – no objection – subsequently approved

Demolition of existing dwelling and the erection of one replacement dwelling and one additional dwelling, two detached garages and new vehicular access, 12 West Street, Barkston – objection

The Clerk advised that the application in regard to 12 West Street, Barkston, had been placed on the agenda for consideration following a request from a member, but it had been decided to adhere to the usual policy of consideration by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and nearest member, as there had been no other requests. Following discussion at the meeting, it was agreed that the Clerk would establish the exact format of the policy from records and place an item on the agenda for the next meeting.

2320. PICNIC AREA – STATION ROAD, BARKSTON

The Clerk reported that, as part of the recent risk inspection, he had visited the site along with Councillors Card and Rowell for the purpose of obtaining a quote for work to make the site usable. A quotation had been requested, but not yet received, for levelling and resurfacing the main part of the area, together with fixing the picnic table and rubbish bin to concrete pads to prevent theft/vandalism. In order to properly surface the site, and make a usable parking area, it had been suggested that trees should be removed, and a quotation had been received for this in the sum of £300, to also include the trimming of scrub bushes on the A607 opposite the village hall, to provide better visibility. This quotation was considered and accepted.

A price for mowing, in the sum of £10, had already been agreed. It was considered that a replacement picnic table would be needed, as the existing unit was damaged. A plastic unit was available for £494, plus VAT. Although cheaper wooden units were available, it was considered that the plastic unit would offer better value for money in the long term. Two other issues considered, firstly an amendment to the noticeboard and secondly a height restrictor, both of which were longer term proposals. Agreed to await quotations and reconsider at the next meeting.

The link with NCS, discussed at the last meeting, would not now take place, as there was no accommodation available in the village to meet the NCS requirements.

2321. BURIAL GROUND

The bush growing on a grave had not yet been removed, but this work was scheduled to take place shortly.

During the recent risk inspection, it had been noticed that the bier shelter was in need of some maintenance work, mainly to the woodwork. It was agreed that the Clerk arrange for a quotation for repairs and report to the next meeting.

2322. PLAYING FIELD

Councillor Kelly reported that the recent risk/safety inspection of the children's play area had been carried out, and that there was nothing to cause concern.

It was agreed that Councillors Connor and Rowell be re-appointed as the Parish Council's representatives on the Playing Field Committee.

Councillor Kelly also reported on a recent break in at the garage on the playing field, when damage had been caused to one of the doors and a strimmer had been stolen. The insurance claim had been agreed, and a cheque would shortly be sent to the Parish Council. The replacement strimmer had not yet been bought, but repairs had been carried out and it was agreed to pay the bill of £314.59.

2323. BARKSTON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

It was agreed to re-appoint Councillors Card and Jackson as the Council's representatives on the Foundation.

2324. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) National Association of Local Councils – the Clerk advised that there would most likely be no need to appoint a Data Protection Officer, as the Government was proposing an amendment to its own bill to exempt Parish Councils and Meetings. There were other issues on which guidance was still being sought, and as the situation was not clear, it was agreed to postpone discussion to the next meeting.

(b) Lincolnshire Rivers Trust invasive species project – publicity had been given to this project to encourage local residents to let the Trust know if they spotted any of the species mentioned.

2325. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Financial update

The Council received and noted the financial updates for the period ending 31st March 2018, and so far for 2018/19, and Councillor Jackson explained these for the information of members.

The Council noted that a cheque for £1,000 from the Poors Land Charity was shortly to be received.

(b) Annual Audit for 2017/2018

The Clerk drew attention to the new audit regime, whereby a Council could certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review (as in the last several years), if the higher of the Council's income or expenditure did not exceed £25,000. The Council fell within these limits, and the Clerk therefore recommended that the Council certify itself as exempt. The appropriate form had been circulated to members prior to the meeting to help discussion.

Also circulated to members were the Annual Governance Statement for 2017/2018, and the Accounting Statements for 2017/2018. The Clerk explained the elements requiring consideration, and members also took into account the Annual Internal Audit report and Councillor Jackson's report at (a) above. Having considered the reports and circulated documents, the Council

(i) agreed to certify the Parish Council as exempt from a limited assurance review;

(ii) acknowledged and agreed the Annual Governance Statement for 2017/2018 as circulated; and

(iii) acknowledged and agreed the Accounting Statements for 2017/2018 as circulated.

(b) Accounts paid and for payment

RESOLVED:-

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

	<i>£</i>
<i>Mr M L Hall (Expenses)</i>	<i>732.00</i>
<i>Glasdon UK Limited (Dog waste bags)</i>	<i>38.26</i>
<i>LALC (Annual subscription)</i>	<i>265.03</i>
<i>Barkston PCC (Contribution to clock)</i>	<i>143.00</i>
<i>St Nicholas Church PC (In Touch)</i>	<i>232.00</i>
<i>BDG Mowing (Mowing – April)</i>	<i>380.00</i>
<i>Simon M Williams (Repairs at Playing Field)</i>	<i>314.59 (Cheque)</i>
<i>Community Lincs Insurance Services (Renewal)</i>	<i>1500.72</i>

The last payment above was agreed at the meeting as it was over the Clerk's permitted limit of £500.

Dated

Signed

Chairman

