

EAST COWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held in the Village Hall

on Monday 10th January 2022 at 7.30 pm

2201.01 Present

Councillors: E. Simpson (ES)(Chairman); J.Green (JG); A.Smith (AS); N.Smith (NS), P.Stephenson (PS); T Wild (TW)

In Attendance

County Councillor A.Wilkinson (AW); District Councillor S.Watson (SW); Clerk: J.Kilsby (JK); Flood Warden B.Denley (BD); 1 Member of the Public.

Apologies for Absence

Not Applicable

2201.02 Disclosure of Interests

None.

2201.03 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council (PC) on 8th November 2021

It was resolved that the minutes are approved and the Chairman duly signed them in order to verify approval.

2201.04 Chairman's Formal Announcements

None.

2201.05 Police Report

The contents of the written reports from the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) were noted

2201.06 Finance

a) Councillors **received and approved** statements of account for the current year to 2 January 2022 and agreed the balances on the PC's bank accounts which had been verified by NS as follows:

Community (Current) Account:£10047.49

Less unpresented cheques £ 222.34

Premium (Deposit) Account: £ 2988.39

Total: £12813.54

b) **It was resolved that** the payments by cheque listed below be ratified:

Invoice Date	Description	£	Authority
December*	J.Kilsby- Clerk's Wages	£ 115.84	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)
18.11.21*	Hall Rent	£ 99.50	Local Government Act 1972, s111(1)
	HM Land Registry	£ 7.00	S137 Local Government Act 1972

And it was further resolved that the following cheque be signed

Invoice Date	Description	£	Authority
January	J.Kilsby- Clerk's Wages	£ 115.84	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)

Chairman signed.....E.Simpson.....14th March 2022

c) ES reported that the application for grant funding from the Prince's Countryside Fund had been refused and an application submitted instead to Hambleton District Council (HDC) for funding from its Make a Difference Fund but that a decision is unlikely to be received until the end of March..

2201.07 Asset Inspections

ES reported that the steel feet which were awaited for installation in the Play Area are ready for collection and it was resolved that these be stored until the weather allows them to be fitted.

NS confirmed that he will forward the monthly inspection reports for the Play Area to JK and it was resolved that the No Entry Sign on the gate near to the Community Shop can now be removed and noted that the tread on the elevated walkway is starting to show signs of wear.

PS confirmed that there has been no further work in the Millennium Wood (MW) as a consequence of the weather.

JG reported that all grit bins are full but that the hedge is growing over that near to the school. AW confirmed that she ought to be able to help confirm whether or not this bin is the responsibility of the PC or North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and will send JK a list indicating the bins serviced by NYCC.

AS agreed to submit inspection reports for the benches (excluding those in the Play Area and MW).

TW confirmed that the defibrillator has been inspected weekly and that the record is in the cabinet but that he is experiencing difficulty logging the checks online with Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS). **It was resolved that** ES will pass the relevant telephone number to TW so that he can speak to YAS to resolve the impasse.

It was resolved that TW should organise for the outsourcing of the cleaning of the glass bus shelter on a biannual basis.

2201.08 Neglected Communal Oil Tank

ES confirmed that the result of the Land Registry search (Minute 2109.11) is presently awaited. **It was resolved that** following its receipt no further action be taken.

2201.09 Pathkeeper Scheme

Further to Minute 2111.11 ES reported that 3 members of the public have volunteered and there are potentially 3 more who may do so. It was suggested that if there are sufficient volunteers they may be able to administer the scheme themselves and simply report to the PC

2201.10 Queen's Jubilee

It was confirmed that the committee referred to at 2111.12 continues to work on co-ordinating a programme of events for the Queen's Jubilee weekend

2201.11 Raising the Parish Council's Profile

It was reported that the initiative for a village Facebook page (Minute 2111.14) is still being pursued but is not likely to be fully operational until mid-February

2201.12 Resilience Plan

It was resolved that the plan be adopted and that AS deliver copies to SW and NYCC and the consents to JK and that a copy be printed for safekeeping in the Village Hall

2201.13 Parish Portal

It was confirmed that access to the Parish Portal is now live and that councillors should register on the portal to seek access.

2201.14 Community Speed Watch

ES referred to her report appended to the agenda and confirmed that in addition to the 7 volunteers already trained there are 2 more to date and that 3 deployments have now taken place.

2201.15 First Aid Training

It was resolved that the proposed first aid training be deferred for the time being in light of the heightened risk from Covid 19.

2201.16 Website Accessibility Check and Data Protection Review

Pursuant to Minute 2111.20 JK confirmed that she had run WAVE and no further defects with the website had been identified and AS confirmed that there had been no data protection breaches and that the PC's procedures remained compliant.

2201.17 Clerk's Appraisal

ES confirmed that the Clerk's annual appraisal had been completed and **it was resolved that** the review of the Clerk's position on the pay scale be listed for consideration at the next meeting.

2201.18 Planning Applications

18.1) In relation to planning application number 21/02043/FUL (Bungalow Farm), **it was confirmed that** the application had been granted

18.2) In relation to correspondence arising from Minute 2109.26 b) (Manor House Farm) **it was resolved that** a meeting be requested with the Planning Department at HDC and that ES and PS attend.

2201.19 Public Participation

BD advised that there had been a flood alert on 30th November but he checked and the Wiske was benign. Also Yorkshire Water Authority have checked the containment tank and are satisfied as to its condition and that the apparent dips in the vicinity of the tank on the ground are the responsibility of NYCC. However, no further action is required concerning the dipping as they have been filled by a volunteer.

The damage of a public right of way sign that has already been reported to NYCC and was caused by a hedge cutter was raised.

SW indicated that the emerging Local Plan should receive its final approval in February and that in the meantime HDC has invited the withdrawal of the planning application in relation to land off Birkby Lane.

AW provided an update for NYCC (see report appended)

The subsidence on Raby Lane was mentioned and ES will try out the Parish Portal to report this again.

2201.20 Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was resolved that the next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 14th March 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

2201.21 Any Other Business

None save to express thanks to the Community Shop, The Beeswing and Brian Robinson Machinery Limited for the village Christmas tree.

2201.22 Meeting Closed

There being no further business, ES closed the meeting at 8.10 pm.

Report – NYCC

PC UPDATE JANUARY 2022

We are still dealing with the pandemic, a range of staffing issues some of which are linked to Covid-19, service pressures in many areas. Omicron variant. Surge has now certainly reached North Yorkshire and the infection rates in the county are very high.

We currently have around 10% of the workforce on sick leave, the majority of whom have Covid-19, particularly in adult social care. We are still providing all services but it may be that we need to prioritise if the situation gets worse in the weeks to come.

Peak of the surge towards the end of January and therefore we need to be flexible and adaptable to a potential worsening situation in the weeks ahead. We know that there are pressures in the NHS and some very acute pressures being faced in the ambulance service. We will of course play our part in looking out for other partners where we can.

Richard Flinton, who chairs NY Local Resilience Fund said: “We believe putting our workforce on an emergency footing in this way is vital to ensuring our partners in the NHS can function, enabling patients to be discharged from hospital into care settings as needed and freeing up beds for people waiting to be admitted. These emergency plans will only be used if needed but will hopefully provide sufficient volunteers to get us through the Omicron wave which may see as much as a 40% reduction in available care staff due to illness or self-isolation.” (The council is providing training and support as needed and will match new duties to normal working patterns.)

The NHS is redoubling its effort to remind people that vaccination is an evergreen offer. (See the links below.) The vaccination remains available to everyone over 12. Boosters are available to people aged 18 and over and 16 and 17-year-olds who are at high risk from COVID-19, together with frontline health and care workers, three months on from their second vaccine dose. We are hugely grateful to our NHS and pharmacy colleagues and the scores of volunteers who gave up their time over the holiday period, as well as the thousands who came forward for their vaccination.

Both walk-in and bookable booster vaccines are available and local information can be found at: <https://northyorkshireccg.nhs.uk/covid-19/getting-your-covid-booster-jab-in-north-yorkshire/>

People aged 16 to 18 can have the second dose of their vaccination from 12 weeks after their first dose and can attend the vaccination session as advertised here; [Getting your COVID booster jab in North Yorkshire - NHS North Yorkshire CCG](#)

The National Booking Service is also available at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/and> The national picture on walk-in availability is at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/find-a-walk-in-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-site/>

Please remember that the vaccination is an evergreen offer, so if you have changed your mind about being vaccinated you can come forward at any time. Details of where to get you vaccination are here: [Getting your COVID booster jab in North Yorkshire - NHS North Yorkshire CCG](#) or <https://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/campaigns/book-your-covid-19-vaccine-and-booster-appointment/>

This will be the last full year of the County Council as we move towards the implantation of a new unitary council in April 2023. NYCC are very much in the thick of **budget setting preparations** and I will give you more details around this in the weeks to come.

Local government reorganisation. The early preparation work has gone well, all of the workstreams that we need to have in place as part of this enormous project are up and running, the timescales are short with a large amount of work to do.

Reboot North Yorkshire – recycling your unwanted devices

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Reboot North Yorkshire is a collaborative project involving a wide range of partners working together across the county. It provides recycled IT equipment and internet access to help residents stay connected. The scheme takes laptops, smart phone, tablets and iPads no longer needed by their owners and refurbishes them before they're distributed to those in need. These devices can support people to access vital services, help children do their school work and make sure people of all ages can stay in touch with friends and family. If you got a technology upgrade for Christmas and have a device that can be donated to Reboot North Yorkshire, you can find your nearest drop off point and more information about the scheme at www.rebootny.co.uk

Your services, your say: give your views on our budget for next year

As part of our annual budget consultation we're inviting you to have your say on our council plan priorities, setting council tax for next year and our longer term plans. Take part by Monday 17 January to make sure your comments are included when the budget is discussed at the full council meeting at the end of January. Visit NYCC website to have your say: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/our-challenge-your-services-your-say-budget-consultation>

Also this month, NYCC are looking at how we deliver sexual health services in our county. Read about it and tell us what you think about the proposed agreement by filling in the online survey at www.northyorks.gov.uk/sexualhealth before 3 February 2022.

From Monday 10 Jan, we are also asking for feedback on proposals in our Bus Service Improvement Plan. Buses play a vital role in supporting rural communities and helping residents to remain independent. Efficient bus services also enable and encourage us to leave our cars at home in favour of more sustainable transport, which reduces congestion, improves air quality, and helps us to keep fit. Take part in the consultation at www.northyorks.gov.uk/bsip

Make Care Matter – we need your help!

Do you know someone who could work as a care professional? No direct experience required – anybody with empathy, who enjoys solving problems for people and getting things done to help people lead as fulfilling lives as possible, will thrive in this role. Never has the need for people to work in care been so great. Jobs in adult social care can offer great flexibility to fit into your life, varied hours, locations and contract types. These can change and flex as your life changes too. In addition to an hourly pay rate, there are other allowances such as shift allowances, expenses, company pensions and enhanced annual leave. Make a difference on your doorstep - applying is easy, just visit www.makecarematter.co.uk for more information.

Avian Influenza – “Stop The Spread” Defra webinars

Due to the current avian influenza ('Bird Flu') outbreak, maintaining effective biosecurity has never been more critical. If you keep birds, find out what you can do to keep them free of the disease by attending one Defra's webinars. For further information including dates and times visit: <http://nyccintranet.northyorks.gov.uk/news/avian-influenza-stop-spread-webinars>

Check out our new weather station cameras before you travel

NYCC new weather station cameras are now available to view on the NYCC website: www.northyorks.gov.uk/road-cameras-and-weather-conditions . This allows those who live, work or travel across North Yorkshire's highway

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network to make informed travel choices by viewing the cameras as part of their journey planning, supplemented by the additional information available on our gritting page: www.northyorks.gov.uk/road-gritting .

North Yorkshire’s gritting fleet. NYCC used about 50,000 tonnes of salt last year, and all of it came from Boulby Mine, one mile west of Staithes on the east coast.

Last year 10,200 treatments of the highway network in North Yorkshire, enough miles to travel around the world 22 times.

NY Highways - the company’s first winter. A strong team of drivers and a young fleet of 80 vehicles, including 18 new replacement gritters added ahead of this winter. NYCC spends between £6m and £10m each winter on gritting, depending on the severity of the weather. The fleet is on call 24 hours a day and is complemented by more than 100 farm contractors, who can be called in to help to clear roads. In addition, there are about 8,000 grit heaps and bins around the county.

Information about when and where gritting takes place, grit bins can be found at <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/winter-service>

Cllr. Annabel Wilkinson. Swale Division. North Yorkshire

Young People’s Champion