

EAST COWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held in the Village Hall

on Monday 14th March 2022 at 7.30 pm

2203.01 Present

Councillors: E. Simpson (ES)(Chairman); J.Green (JG); N.Smith (NS).

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

Councillors A.Smith (AS) and P.Stephenson.

2203.02 Disclosure of Interests

None.

2203.03 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council (PC) on 10th January 2022

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

2203.04 Chairman's Formal Announcements

None.

2203.05 Police Report

The contents of the written report from the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) were noted. JK indicated that a further report had been received from the PCSO that day which stated that there had been 2 incidents of anti-social behaviour in the village in the last month but there was no indication as to the facts concerning such.

2203.06 Finance

a) Councillors **received and approved** statements of account for the current year to 7 March 2022 and agreed the balances on the PC's bank accounts which had been verified by NS as follows:

Community (Current) Account: £9699.31

Premium (Deposit) Account: £ 2988.46

Total: £12687.77

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

Invoice Date	Description	£	Authority
21 st January 2022	PG Window Cleaning Services for glass bus shelter	10.00	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1954 s4

And it was further resolved that the following cheque be signed

Invoice Date	Description	£	Authority
15.01.22	Reimburse E Simpson HMLR office copy entries HM Land Registry	3.00	S137 Local Government Act 1972
February	J.Kilsby- Clerk's Wages	115.84	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)
March	J.Kilsby- Clerk's Wages	115.84	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)
From 1 April 2021	J.Kilsby- Clerk's Wages arrears	24.32	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)

Chairman signed.....E.Simpson.....9th May 2022

- c) **It was resolved that** the grass-cutting contract with CE&CM Walker Limited be renewed on the terms proposed in its quotation for the 2022 grass-cutting season
- d) JK confirmed that the application to reclaim VAT for the period 1st February 2021 to 30th November 2021 had been submitted and acknowledged.

2203.07 Asset Inspections

It was resolved that any outstanding inspections due before the end of the current terms of office be undertaken and that reports (including those outstanding) be submitted to the clerk as follows:

- For pots from JG
- For benches from AS
- For bus shelters from ES
- For play area from NS

2203.08 Neglected Communal Oil Tank

ES confirmed that the result of the Land Registry search (Minute 2201.08) confirmed that ownership of the land on which the tank is buried lies with Dewco Oil Services Limited, a company that has been dissolved and JK confirmed that interested members of the public had been advised of the position.

2203.09 Pathkeeper Scheme

Further to Minute 2201.09 ES reported that members of the public are to administer the scheme themselves and will update the PC periodically.

2203.10 Queen's Jubilee

It was confirmed that the committee referred to at Minute 2111.12 is proposing 3 days of celebrations. It was further acknowledged that whilst the PC has put funds aside for this purpose a resolution pursuant to s137 Local Government Act 1972 would be required before expenditure is incurred.

2203.11 Raising the Parish Council's Profile

ES reported that reliable administrators are currently being sought for the village Facebook page initiative (Minute 2111.14).

2203.12 Resilience Plan

NS indicated it was his understanding that AS has submitted the plan to North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and the insertion of a map by it is awaited. The insurance position of volunteers was discussed in light of advice received from the PC's insurers. SW indicated that as plan lead he would be acting as a co-ordinator for others and did not expect to be insured for the role. In relation to the position of Flood Warden, **it was resolved that** ES and BD should meet to discuss a risk assessment and that a formal appointment of a flood warden beyond the context of the Resilience Plan be undertaken at the meeting of the newly constituted PC in May when other roles were being filled.

2203.13 Parish Portal

It was confirmed that the Parish Portal is now operational and that ES had recently used it to report a damaged Give Way sign.

2203.14 Elections

In an effort to ensure that the PC will be quorate following the elections in May **it was resolved that** all councillors will endeavour to invite others to stand.

Chairman signed.....E.Simpson.....9th May 2022

2203.15 Annual Parish Meeting

It was resolved that this should take place on 9th May 2022 and that details be promulgated via the Parish Magazine (NS to action), the website (JK to action) and Facebook (ES to liaise).

2203.16 Employee Payscale

It was resolved that from 1st April 2022 JK should move from Level 9 to Level 11 on the Clerk's Payscale.

2203.17 Planning Applications

17.1) In relation to planning application number 21/02338/FUL (Unit 5 Dalton Gate), **it was resolved that** the planning department at Hambleton District Council (HDC) be advised of the PC's observations to include change from potato wholesales to aggregate distribution; the size, time and direction of the lorries used; the impact on the verges; the risks at the bends and issues for other road users; the nuisance element for local residents; if granted, the need for warning signage.

17.2) ES reported on the meeting (as Minute 2201.18) with the Planning Department at HDC, its preliminary response and its apparent failure to grasp the points being made or to understand the situation correctly. **It was resolved that** ES should now indicate a wish by the PC to elevate matters and to copy SW into her communication.

2203.18 Public Participation

BD advised that there had been no flooding issues as a result of recent storms.

SW reported that HDC is to deliver improvements and signage for the public toilets in the Town Hall at Northallerton and that the Local Plan has now been adopted.

AW and SW reported on the steps being taken for the transfer of services to the single unitary authority.

AW provided an update for NYCC (see report appended)

2203.19 Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was resolved that the next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 9th May 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall and in the event that it looks as though the PC may be inquorate then an extraordinary meeting will need to be called before the elections on 5th May 2022.

2203.20 Any Other Business

ES gave details of an email she had received suggesting that the defibrillator may have been used; that she had reported a broken sign post near the cemetery (in addition to the Give Way sign at Minute 2203.13) and had also attended a Branch Meeting and 2 Councillors' Discussion Forums organised by Yorkshire Local Councils Associations.

ES also advised that a member of the public had requested that the hedge around the play area be cut back and that she would attempt to organise this and envisaged the restarting of the Tuesday morning volunteer group to help maintain the amenities provided by the PC shortly.

2203.21 Meeting Closed

There being no further business, ES closed the meeting at 8.45 pm