

EAST COWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held in the Village Hall

on Monday 14th November 2022 at 7.30pm

2211.01 Present

Councillors: E. Simpson (ES)(Chairman), J Green (JG), J. Shields (JS), A.Wragg (AWr)
In Attendance

County Councillor A. Wilkinson (AW); District Councillor S.Watson; Clerk: J.Kilsby (JK); 2 members of the public

Apologies for Absence

Councillor T.Cramond (TC))

2211.02 Disclosure of Interests

None.

2211.03 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council (PC) on 26th September 2022

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on 26th September 2022 are approved and the Chairman duly signed them in order to verify approval.

2211.04 Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

In light of the notice of resignation received, Hambleton District Council (HDC) is being asked to prepare the appropriate notice of the casual vacancy **and it was resolved that** JG would take over responsibility for the inspection of grit-bins, planters and benches.

2211.05 Police Report

The Clerk reported receipt of a Police Report shortly before the meeting in which there is reference to one offence only (fraud) in the Parish in the preceding 2 month period as well as the arrest of suspects in connection with the theft of quad bikes within the county.

2211.06 Financial Accounts

a) Councillors **received and approved** statements of account for the current year to 8 November 2022 and which JG confirmed she had verified as well as the figures presented to the PC at its last meeting (Minute 2211.05) It was accordingly noted that the balances on the PC's bank accounts are as follows:

Community (Current) Account:£ 6837.21

Less unrepresented cheques £ 137.84

Premium (Deposit) Account: £ 9677.00

Total: £16376.37

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

Invoice Date	Description	£	Authority
03.10.22	CE&CM Walker grasscutting -	254.40	Highways Act 1980, s96 and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
23.09.22	Sam Turner (reimburse Cllr Simpson)	9.17	Public Health Act 1875 s 164; Local Govt Act 1972 Sched 14 para 27; Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s19;
25/29.09.22	HMLR fees(reimburse Cllr Simpson)	6.00	Local Government Act 1972, s111(1) section 89 (2) (b) Localism Act 2011
-	Clerk's Wages - October	122.67	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)

Chairman signed.....E Simpson.....9th January 2023

It was further resolved that the payments by cheque listed below be authorised:

Invoice Date	Description	£	Authority
1.11.22	CE&CM Walker - grasscutting	127.20	Highways Act 1980, s96 and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
	Clerk's wages November and arrears following pay award	207.98	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)
21.10.22	Paddock Farm winter bedding (reimburse Cllr Simpson)	29.70	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)

c) It was noted that PKF Littlejohn LLP remains the external auditor under the central appointment arrangements and that Parish Councillors continue to explore a number of options for the appointment of an internal auditor.

d) **It was resolved that** if the lights for the village Christmas tree fail to operate when the tree is erected that the funds budgeted for this purpose be applied in the purchase of new lights (s3 Parish Councils Act 1957 and s145 Local Government Act 1972)

2211.07 Budget

It was resolved that the draft budget presented by JK be approved with the addition of £250 (£200 to the reserve for repairs and £50 for plants). **It was further resolved that** the Parish Precept for 2023/24 be set at £7,256.

2211.08 Asset Inspections

It was resolved that JG will organise the breaking up of the grit in the bins and that ES and JG will monitor the levels of grit in the bins in the event of a cold spell. **It was further resolved that** if the bins need to be topped up then expenditure pursuant to section 137 Local Government Act 1972 be authorised in accordance with the budgeted provision. It was noted that further inspections in accordance with the schedule would be due by 31st December 2022.

2211.09 Make a Difference Grant Funding

It was noted that the completion of groundwork, hindered by recent weather, is awaited together with the Street Licence which is of relevance only to proposed planters. **It was resolved that** ES should proceed to place orders in accordance with the quotations obtained and sums budgeted **and that** pending receipt of the grant funding and the relevant VAT reclaim, the PC's power of virement be used to transfer the necessary funds from the reserve for unexpected expenses and in anticipation that they will be reinstated upon receipt of the said grant and VAT reclaim

2211.10 Parish Portal

It was confirmed that ES had recently attended a workshop organised by the Highways Department of North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and in light of that and the response received from D Flowers (Minute 2209.09) she will again seek a resolution from NYCC of the problems being encountered.

2211.11 Community Assets

It was resolved that AWr will respond to queries raised by HDC (providing a copy to JK) with a view to securing the nomination of the Beeswing.

2211.12 Request Concerning a Memorial Bench

It was resolved that the PC consent to the placement of a plaque on the bench overlooking the green in consideration for the purchase a new bench as offered subject

Chairman signed.....E Simpson.....9th January 2023

to its suitability and that ES should continue to liaise. **It was further resolved that** planters could be moved to make the benches look more attractive.

2211.13 Recruitment of a New Parish Clerk

In addition to advertising the position within the village and on the website **it was resolved that** ES would ask HDC to add the vacancy to its list of available positions but that no steps yet be taken concerning paid advertisements and in the event of a dearth of applicants that councillors should consider approaching individuals perceived to hold the appropriate skills.

2211.14 Email Communications

It was resolved that JK should send JS details to enable him to access the generic outlook account held by the PC.

2211.15 Planning applications

- a) It was reported that application numbers 22/02063/FUL (Dragonstone, Raby Lane), 22/01906/FUL and 2201907 FUL (Manor House Farm) have both been granted.
- b) **It was resolved that** the PC had no observations in relation to application numbers 220227/FUL and 220228/LBC (Old Vicarage)
- c) ES gave a summary of a presentation by a prospective developer for the Bungalow Farm site of its proposals for drainage provision. **It was resolved that** she should write to thank its representatives for their time and to indicate that subject to necessary approval and adoption of the scheme by the relevant authorities it is anticipated that the PC will be in a position to support the proposed drainage provision.

2211.16 Public Participation

The blind corner under the railway bridge at Birkby and village drainage were discussed further.

2211.17 Date and time of the next meeting

It was resolved that the next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 9th January 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

2211.18 Any Other Business

In circumstances where AW had left the meeting early promising to forward in writing an update from NYCC including a link to a survey on devolution **it was resolved that JK** should post the update on the website upon receipt.

ES reminded councillors about the Parish Liaison meeting on devolution on 28th/30th November as well as other training available and outlined the content of the workshop she had attended (as Minute 2211.10 above) pursuant to which she was sending photographs of the culvert issue on Raby Lane.

2211.19 Meeting Closed

There being no further business, ES closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.