**East Cottingwith Parish Council**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 12th November 2015 in the village hall at 8pm**

**Present**: Peter Rhodes (Chair), Steve Ashton, Clare Cornmell, Dave Griffith, Julie Harrison, Neil Hobbs; Noel Joy, Clerk; and one member of the general public, John Barlow.

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Duncan Morter.

2. **Declarations of interest**:

Peter Rhodes declared an interest in the planning application for White House Farm

Clare Cornmell declared a potential interest in discussions on Jubilee Wood concerning insurance

3. **Public participation**

John Barlow mentioned two points concerning Jubilee Wood: these are detailed at the head of Minute 9c

4. The **minutes** of the meeting held on 10th September 2015 were signed as a correct record

5. The **confidential Minute 8** of the meeting held on 10th September 2015 was signed as a correct record, and the signed agreement attached

6. **Matters arising** not on the agenda

It was confirmed that the holly tree in the cemetery had been cut back

It was reported that no cars had been seen on the towpath

7. **Finance matters**

The report to 31st October was received. It was noted (after taking into account the grant to the village hall) that the end of year balance would be in the region of £9-10,000.

It was agreed that the grant of £750 should be paid to the village hall.

It was agreed that the precept for 2016/17 be provisionally set at around £5,000 (a reduction from £7,500 in 2015/16). This would be subject to any identified increased commitments, and finalised at the January meeting.

It was agreed that the remaining funds likely to be available in 2016/17 (c£9-10,000) should be retained at a suitable level, but could be used for the benefit of the parish at the discretion of the Parish Council.

It was agreed that the availability of grants for benefits to the community should in future be circulated via the website to all the community groups identified there, for those groups to apply for at their discretion.

It was agreed to provide no funding for the North and East Yorkshire British Red Cross Fire and Emergency Support vehicle.

8. **Christmas arrangements**

It was agreed that the Christmas tree lights should be switched on on 11th December. The tree would be erected on 6th December.

9. **Developments**

a) **Defibrillator**: The defibrillator was now installed, and a training session arranged for 14th November. Minor damage to the casing had been reported.

b) **Website**: The website was now operational and had been given publicity throughout the parish.

c) **Jubilee Wood**

John Barlow raised the following two points:

The Council’s final resolution should describe the purpose of the development, including the provision of open access;

The Council would recognise that this development had been made possible through a donation.

It was noted that the land had now become available to the Council, and the Council expressed its thanks to Austin Fozard.

A site meeting had been held on 25th October: a report from Judi Griffith was received.

It was confirmed that the extra costs of insurance would be at worst minimal; and that the question of insurance etc. for Ecopa would be treated separately and considered at the next meeting.

**\*For a more detailed report on the discussion which followed, please see the attached addendum prepared by Steve Ashton.**

10. **Roads and paths**

A letter from Cllr Burton had been received, about the state of roads, and the status of Back Lane north. The Council expressed their disappointment about the continued lack of progress on these matters; and agreed that two points of detail in the letter – the ownership of Back Lane north and privacy signs – were incorrect and required correction.

Repairs to the gate and stile giving access to the Ings were still being pursued.

11. Parish **Transport Needs** Assessment: it was agreed that no further action be taken on this matter.

12. **Escaping stock**: this was recognised as a problem, but was a matter between the owners of affected properties and the farmer responsible.

13. **Transparency Code**: it was confirmed that the Council already complied with virtually all the requirements, with the exception of two areas where publication was regarded as personally or commercially sensitive.

14. **Fracking**: it was agreed to ask Duncan Morter to carry out some research on this matter, for example obtaining the views of Ryedale District Council (who have some knowledge) and East Riding of Yorkshire Council, and reporting to a future meeting.

15. **Wolds Weighton Liaison Group**: it was noted that a meeting was to take place on 28th January.

16. **Other correspondence** received since last meeting: a list was noted.

17. **Planning matters**:

Councillors were familiar with ERYC’s public access arrangements; it was agreed to accept the offer of a projector for viewing plans.

a) **Grange Farm** 15/03065/PLF

There was no objection to this application.

b) **Forest Farm** 15/03216/PLF

This application was opposed. Detailed reasons are recorded on the public access site.

c) **White House Farm, Storwood** 15/03195/PLF

Peter Rhodes withdrew from the meeting, and Neil Hobbs took the chair.

This application was approved, subject to two provisos which are recorded on the public access site.

18. Date of next meeting: **14th January 2016**.