**East Cottingwith Parish Council**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 9th July 2015 in the village hall at 8pm**

**Present:** Dave Griffith (in the chair), Steve Ashton, Clare Cornmell, Duncan Morter; Noel Joy, Clerk; and 4 members of the general public.

1**. Apologies for absence** were received from Julie Harrison and Neil Hobbs.

2. Declarations of interest: none.

3. The **minutes** of the meeting held on **12th May 2015** were signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising not itemised on this meeting’s agenda: none.

5. **Unsightly areas of land:** correspondence between Neil Hobbs and ERYC’s enforcement officer had been circulated. There had been minimal progress. However, a further email had been received, dated 26th June, indicating that the owner of the Middleton Farm site would remove the fencing and put up a warning sign.

This was still considered inadequate, particularly as no progress at all had been made at the site near Sycamore Bungalow: this site has a specific significance as it was highlighted in the village conservation plan as being of paramount importance in linking the village to the open countryside.

It was agreed that Neil should approach Councillor Rudd for his assistance.

6. **Defibrillator**: Julie Harrison has arranged for the defibrillator to be installed at the bus shelter on 28th July. She will then arrange training. The Council thanked her for her work.

It was confirmed that no work would now be carried out at the village hall; and that Geoff Saunders and his committee be thanked for their cooperation.

The ERYC grant would be claimed as soon as installation was complete.

7**. Asset Register.** The asset register was approved as circulated. Clare Cornmell said a detailed inventory of the play equipment was available if required.

8. **Back Lane (South) Drainage and Knotweed.** No progress was possible on the drainage problem until the Japanese knotweed had been eradicated. It appeared to have spread as far as 3 St Mary’s Close and the adjacent field. It had been reported to ERYC and was being dealt with on Back Lane. Landowners had been informed: it is their responsibility to deal with knotweed on their land.

9. **Village Taskforce: Highways.** The taskforce had visited on 2nd July. The state of the highways in and around the village, including Langrickgate, was raised as a matter of concern. The state of the village highway was outside the remit of the ERYC representative, who intended to refer the matter to the highways department.

Reference was again made to the drain adjacent to the playing field: this would also be referred again to the highways and drainage departments.

A meeting on rural highways had been held on 30th June, and two further comments had been sent: on the need for more passing places and the care of verges; and on cleaning verges after drain clearance, specifically on General Lane..

It had also been reiterated that this was a non-spray village, and the village taskforce was aware of this.

10**. Website:** the website was now being built and prepared. A headline image had been chosen. The website address will be eastcottingwith.org.uk.

11. **Planning application: Storwood Kennels** (ref 15/01541/VAR): this application had been supported by Councillors since the last meeting: this was now minuted and confirmed.

12. **Grant application: improvements to pond:** availability of grants of up to £1,000 had become available in June at extremely short notice: an application for £750 to improve the pond in an appropriate manner had been submitted by Ecopa. (see also Minute 13).

13. **Availability of land rented by Mr Fozard.** This land would now become available in September 2015, with expiry of the lease. It was agreed to write to Mr Fozard requesting an understanding that he intended to terminate his tenancy in September 2015.

The site would now be available for development as a Jubilee Wood from proceeds, of c£1,000, from sales of the East Cottingwith and Storwood Jubilee Book

This scheme and the scheme referred to in Minute 12 were not incompatible, and both could proceed, depending on the availability of funds. Which area would provide the more appropriate seating could be negotiated later.

14. **Gates on Back Lane (North):** progress on resolving this issue were still being delayed by ERYC: it was agreed to seek Councillor Burton’s assistance.

It was observed that access was yet again being obstructed by the persistent closure of the smaller gate.

15. **River management:** Steve Ashton reported on his attendance at a meeting on 24th June. Discussions had been mainly about the Hull area, but some general information and publications were available from Steve, who was also willing to attend future meetings on behalf of the Council.

16. **Income and Expenditure:** a statement for the first quarter of 2015/16 had been circulated and was received.

17. **Procedural review.** It was agreed that, despite the ubiquity of the internet – all correspondence with ERYC was now on line, for instance – **policy decisions** would be taken, as they always have been, by quorate committee meetings; **executive action** proceeding from these decisions will be taken without delay at any time.

18. **Other correspondence received:** a list had been circulated: all were available from the Clerk, either copies or on line. Two items were highlighted:

* A letter from the three recently elected Wolds Weighton Conservative Group Councillors (Councillors Burton, Rudd and Stathers) offering support and assistance; which had been acknowledged with thanks.
* Some recently unpaid electricity bills from npower, with reminder and disconnection notices, in the sum of £562.19, which had been sent to the wrong address. The matter had been taken up with npower and the bills were to be reissued.

19. **Any other business**:

* **Planning Application, Derwent House** (ref 15/02043/TCA): this application, received on 7th July, was supported, subject to the recommendations of the conservation officer
* **Ball Hall Lane:** concern had been expressed about the condition of Ball Hall Lane between Paradise Lakes and the B1228; the state of the hedge at Paradise Lakes; and the cleanliness of the road (see Minute 9)
* **Ings Access:** concern was expressed about the dilapidated state of the gate and the stile. It was agreed that this be referred to the Environment Agency.

20. **Public Participation:** matters raised included:

* **Defibrillator**: it was confirmed that training would be provided by Yorkshire Ambulance Service, although it was designed to be operated without the need for training (see Minute 6).
* **Cemetery**: a holly tree at the cemetery was overgrown and preventing access to a grave. Julie Harrison would action this – any funding required was approved.
* **Back Lane (North):** Joan Burnett had a 1911 plan available showing ownership of land in that area. (see Minute 14).
* **Footpaths**: Joan Burnett reported that some consideration was being given to the establishment of official walkways, which could affect this locality. This is linked to the proposed Pilgrimage of Grace project to link Numberholme with Aughton.

In particular, it was agreed that consideration needed to be given to **how, and at what point** **in the meeting, public participation was managed**: this would be placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

21. **Next meeting: 10th September 2015.**