**EAST COTTINGWITH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held remotely by Zoom videoconferencing at**

**8.00pm on Thursday 14th January 2021**

**Note: Due to the Coronavirus pandemic emergency, and Government advice on holding public meetings, members of the public and the press were given direct access to the meeting and the opportunity to take part.**

**Present:** Councillors P. Rhodes (Chairman), N.Hobbs (Vice-Chairman),D. Griffith, S. Ashton,

 C. Cornmell, C. Stevens

**In Attendance:** D. Cornmell (Parish Clerk), Ward Councillor L. Hammond

**Members of the Public**: None

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P. Shervington.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

1. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present.

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST ORDINARY MEETING AND EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS**

Proposed by Councillor Ashton, seconded by the Vice-Chairman, and agreed that the minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting, held, remotely, on 12th November 2020, and the Extraordinary Meetings held, remotely, on 25th November and 17th December 2020, be accepted as a true record.

1. **ONGOING ITEM**
2. **Coronavirus: Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting**

The Clerk advised that, due to the present emergency, the Annual Parish Meeting need not be held until May. The Annual Meeting of the parish council to be arranged at some future date, with the present Chairman and Vice-Chairman remaining in office until then.

**Action:** **Clerk**

1. **Hagg Bridge**

The Chairman welcomed Ward Councillor Leo Hammond to the meeting and went on to give an update, following the news that there was to be yet a further delay in re-opening the bridge until the 11th March. Despite previous assurances from the county council, East Cottingwith got to know about this via social media and another parish council. Councillor Hammond apologised for this and suggested that this was due to the fact that the county council’s database appeared to show the bridge being in Sutton upon Derwent parish. Also, he had been informed that an earlier date of 6th March was applicable but this had been put back due to the unprecedented rise in water levels. Answering questions from Councillors Ashton and Stevens, he indicated that some remedial treatment of the defective concrete had taken place but could not be completed due to the rise in the water level. An assurance was given that he would speak with Highways and obtain a more detailed summary of the work being undertaken. The Vice-Chairman observed that re-alignment of the vehicle restraint system seemed to have taken place and that the recently installed traffic lights were in operation when he had visited the bridge. The Chairman thanked Councillor Hammond for his report but referred to the fact that the rise in the water level at the bridge occurred every year. Increasing frustration was being felt in the parish at being side-lined by the county council and the continuing delay in completing work on the bridge. Before leaving the meeting, Councillor Hammond made mention of his efforts in trying to establish a grant scheme for the smaller parishes in his Ward. Whilst not paying direct compensation in respect of Hagg Bridge, it was hoped that this would be some kind of help for the communities that had been affected by the closure.

1. **Jubilee Wood**

Councillor Griffith reported that some saplings had been planted and that efforts were being made to source others. No progress had been made with regard to the purchase of a seat due to the pandemic.

**Action: Councillor Griffith**

1. **Storwood Notice Board**

The Chairman confirmed that he had delivered the notice board to Councillor Shervington, in readiness for fixing to the bus shelter.

**Action: Councillor Shervington**

1. **Electricity Contracts**

The meeting heard that the three contracts with Npower were terminated on 31st December 2020. The two un-metered accounts being transferred to ERYC and a new contract had been taken out with Eon, in respect of the metered account. Considerable savings would be made in the long term as a result.

1. **Footpath Signs**

The Clerk confirmed that ERYC had been notified about the missing signs and that an assurance had been given that the matter would be attended to.

**Action: Clerk**

1. **Pot Holes**

The previously reported potholes in Green Lane, Swan Garth and Canal Lane had been filled on the day of the meeting. ERYC had been notified about the cracks in the road surface in Postern Lane but it was not known what action had been taken.

**Action: Clerk**

1. **SIGNAGE**

This item was deferred to the next meeting, due to the absence of Councillor Shervington.

**Action: Councillor Shervington**

1. **ANNUAL REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE POLICY**

Consideration was given to the annual review of policy documents appertaining to the good governance of the Council.

**Resolved** – that the policy documents remain relevant.

1. **QUARTERLY RISK ASSESSMENT**

Consideration was given to the quarterly review of risks faced by the Council.

**Resolved –** that the current risk assessment be accepted.

**Action:** **Chairman/Clerk**

1. **FINANCE**
2. Bank reconciliation

Balance at 1/4/2020 £ 4,478.28

+ Receipts to date £ 9,751.00

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 £ 14,229.28

Current Account Balance at 14/1/2021 £ 6,535.53

1. Payments

Payments made since last meeting.

22/12/20 D.J.Cornmell – Clerk’s Salary £ 286.24

22/12/20 HMRC -P.A.Y.E £ 71.60

**TOTAL £ 357.84**

1. Receipts

NIL

1. Financial Report

The Clerk/RFO presented an up-to-date account of the Council’s finances. Termination of the electricity accounts with Npower would result in additional expenditure falling within the current financial period. Additionally, replacing batteries and pads on the defibrillator and providing a grant to the Village Hall Committee would have an impact on this year’s accounts. As a result, monies available to offset next year’s financial requirements, were somewhat limited.

Projected spending for next year would result in an increase of £1,800 in the parish precept. Savings would have to be made to maintain the precept at its present level.

 Councillors gave due consideration to the Clerk/RFO’s report, when it was agreed that an increase in the precept should be sought. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman pointing to the fact that the Council had taken on extra responsibilities and that the precept was low compared with some other parishes.

1. Parish Precept

**Resolved –** after due consideration of the Financial Report, the parish precept be set at £8,800.00.

**Action: Clerk/RFO**

1. Three-year Financial Forecast

The Clerk/RFO, presented a forecast of expenditure for the next three financial years, as required by the Council’s Financial Regulations.

**Action: Clerk/RFO**

1. Donation: Village Hall Committee

It was confirmed that the decision taken at the last Ordinary Meeting, to make a donation of £1,300.00, to the Village Hall Committee, in furtherance of its grant application, should be paid.

**Action: Clerk/RFO**

1. **PLANNING**
2. Permissions

The following permission was noted:

(i)20/02596/PLF Erection of two storey extension to rear and single storey extension to rear and side following demolition of existing single storey projection and porch: Ings Cottage, Postern Lane, Storwood YO42 4TG

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**

A list of correspondence, received since the last Ordinary Meeting, was noted.

In respect of a communication from Full Sutton, inviting the parish council to join a petition against building a new prison, it was decided not to take part.

1. **MEMBERS REPORTS**

Mention was made of a late communication, seeking the assistance of the parish council in making a grant towards the purchase of laptops for Melbourne school.

The Vice-Chairman referred to the possibility of monies being made available from the Towns Land Trust, for children in the parish. Councillor Stevens agreed to progress the matter.

**Action: Councillor Stevens**

There was general agreement that this year’s Christmas tree, whilst being small, was perfectly formed, and was an improvement on some previous years. The Vice-Chairman indicated that there would be a need to purchase extra lights in the event of a larger tree being obtained.

Councillor Griffith, again, praised the actions of a local senior citizen who had taken it upon himself to do a substantial amount of litter picking. It was hoped others would follow his example but it was accepted that the present pandemic prevented any form of an organised event.

1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

8.00pm,Thursday 11th March 2021

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.