**EAST COTTINGWITH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held in St Mary’s Church, East Cottingwith**

**at 8.00 pm on Thursday 11th November 2021**

**Note: Due to the Coronavirus pandemic emergency, Government advice on holding public meetings and following a Risk Assessment; members of the public and the press had been advised of the safety procedure to be adopted when attending the meeting.**

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

C. Cornmell, P. Shervington, C. Stevens

**In Attendance:** D. Cornmell (Parish Clerk)

**Members of the Public**: 3

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

1. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Two representatives from the Village Hall Committee were present with regard to item 5(g) H.M. The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2022. The Chairman agreed to bring this forward for discussion. The Clerk outlined the programme of events which had been circulated from Buckingham Palace, which included the lighting of the beacon on Thursday 2nd June and a suggested Big Jubilee Lunch on Sunday 5th June. Councillors agreed that the beacon should be lit as suggested, with the possibility of including a piper in the ceremony. The Secretary of the Village Hall Committee indicated that the committee would be happy to go along with whatever was agreed but were not able to take the lead on organising any of the events.

It was acknowledged that it would be good to arrange a Jubilee Lunch. An offer had been received from a parishioner, who was willing to assist with the celebrations, if there was sufficient interest from others within the parish. It was agreed that the parishioner concerned be thanked and asked to take the matter forward. The representatives from the Village Hall Committee left the meeting.

**Action: Clerk**

A member of the public, who had previously raised her concerns about recent work carried out on the embankment of the River Derwent, wished to raise the matter again. The Chairman agreed to bring forward item 5(a) Groundworks: River Derwent. Members were fortunate in having had sight of a comprehensive briefing paper, prepared by the parishioner concerned, prior to the meeting. The Clerk indicated that he had contacted the Environment Agency and Natural England and requested that a representative from each attend the meeting. Both had declined but had submitted written responses, which were read to the meeting. The parishioner concerned expressed her dismay at what had been received and questioned some of the points which had been put forward. Flooding was a natural process at times of high-water levels on the river but both agencies had failed to provide a satisfactory explanation as to how water was got away from the Ings. The Vice-Chairman suggested that a further approach be made to both agencies seeking clarification.

**Action: Clerk**

The parishioner wished to raise another issue which was on the agenda. The Chairman agreed that the item, 5(d) Pot Holes, be brought forward. She expressed her concern about the state of the sides of the road which had eroded away and would only get worse if nothing wasn’t done about it. Councillor Griffith referred to the ‘village walk abouts’ with a representative from the county council. Each time that this had been pointed out, the representative had indicated that it was up to Highways to deal with the matter. Ward Councillor Hammond had been repeatedly asked to take the matter up with Highways. It was noted that Green Lane was to be closed in the near future in order to carry out repairs, although the extent of the work was not known. The reported cracks in Postern Lane had still not been attended to. Councillor Hammond to again be contacted about the matter.

**Action: Clerk**

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Proposed by Councillor Cornmell, seconded by Councillor Ashton and agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting, held on 9th September, 2021, be accepted as a true record.

1. **ONGOING ITEMS**
2. Groundworks: River Derwent

Dealt with under public participation.

1. Jubilee Wood

Councillor Griffith provided an update on matters relating to the wood. Letters of appreciation to three parishioners, who had provided assistance, were signed by the Chairman. Councillor Shervington reported that he had made an approach to the county council about drainage issues in the vicinity of the wood, with little success.

A representative was unable to attend a site meeting. Councillor Shervington was hoping to speak to local land owners about the matter, obtain details of any field drains and try and convene a site meeting in January/February when flooding was at its worst.

**Action: Councillor Shervington**

The remaining member of the public left the meeting.

1. Notice Board

Councillor Shervington confirmed that he had spoken with the parishioner who was to carry out refurbishment on the existing notice board and was waiting for the work to be carried out. The second notice board had yet to be advertised for sale.

**Action: Councillor Shervington**

1. Potholes

Dealt with under public participation.

1. Land Registry

The Vice-Chairman reported that he was awaiting the outcome of a complaint he had lodged, with regard to failure on the part of Land Registry, to deal with the registration of land owned by the Towns Land Trust.

**Action: Vice-Chairman**

1. Broadband

The Vice-Chairman provided an update on the proposed fast fibre rollout programme, following consultation with KCOM. Work on East Cottingwith’s scheme is likely to start in the New Year. There was good news and bad news. KCOM are able to make use of existing ducting to deliver fast fibre to East Cottingwith but not Storwood. KCOM are trying to develop a business plan to cater for outlying properties in Melbourne and it maybe that outlying areas in the parish could be included. It was emphasised that there is no commitment on the part of householders to sign up with KCOM and no regard should be taken of the company’s advertised prices as various discounts are likely to be offered.

**Action: Vice-Chairman**

1. H.M. The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2022

Dealt with under public participation.

1. Planning Applications/East Riding of Yorkshire Council’s relationship with town and parish councils

Consideration was given to a proposal from Newbald Parish Council, to join with them and other town and parish councils, in a written submission to East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC). The submission would indicate the concern which is felt at the lack of notice given to objections to planning applications. In addition, the frustration which is felt in not being able to have direct contact with officers, either verbally or by email. A lengthy debate took place on the merits or otherwise of this approach. It was agreed to join in the submission, subject to having sight of the content beforehand. In addition, it was felt to be necessary to compile a separate submission, citing recent examples where objections to two recent objections to planning applications were ignored.

**Action: Clerk**

1. Siting of caravan: Land off Langrickgate Lane

Action taken by ERYC confirmed that the caravan was not used for residential purposes and would be removed in the near future.

1. **CHRISTMAS TREE**

It was agreed to seek a new supplier for this year’s tree, which would hopefully be delivered in early December. Lighting of the tree to take place on 10th December.

**Action: Chairman**

1. **PLAY AREA INSPECTION**

Councillor Cornmell reported on the recent safety inspection of the play area. No major items of concern were identified. A number of pieces of equipment were in need of attention and steps would be taken to obtain quotations for some of the work. Other work would be carried out locally in order to reduce the cost involved. An offer of help from Councillor Shervington was gratefully accepted. Councillor Cornmell indicated that, due to the demise of East Cottingwith Outdoor Play Association, the remaining funds would be donated to the parish council.

**Action: Councillors Cornmell and Shervington**

1. **HAGG BRIDGE: SPEED RESTRICTION**

The meeting considered a submission from a parishioner in Storwood, seeking the parish council’s support for the re-introduction of a speed limit at the bridge.

Following discussion, it was felt that the introduction of a ‘one-way system’, controlled by traffic lights, was sufficient, without the need to impose a speed limit.

**Action: Clerk**

1. **SITING OF CARAVAN: LAND OFF BALLHALL LANE STORWOOD**

The Chairman drew attention to the siting of a substantial residential caravan on agricultural land, off Ballhall Lane, and questioned whether planning permission had been obtained. It was agreed to take the matter up with ERYC.

**Action: Clerk**

1. **CEMETERY**

A consultation paper, circulated by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), relating to proposed limitations on burials where groundwater was an issue, was considered. It was agreed that no action was needed at this time.

1. **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Clerk referred to a revised Code of Conduct, adopted by ERYC, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. **Resolved –** that the revised Code be adopted by the parish council.

**Action: Clerk and all Councillors**

1. **INSURANCE**

Consideration was given to two quotations for insurance cover which had been obtained. **Resolved –** that the quotation provided by BHIB Councils Insurance Ltd, for a three-year policy, be accepted with effect from 1st January 2022.

**Action: Clerk**

1. **ELECTRICITY**

Consideration was given to a quotation to provide electricity to the metered supply at the bus shelter. **Resolved** – that the quotation for a two-year Fixed Business contract with Eon Next be accepted with effect from 1st January 2022.

**Action: Clerk**

1. **FINANCE**
2. Bank Reconciliation

Balance as at 1/4/2021 £2,758.11

+ Receipts to date £9,794.27

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£12,552.38

-Payments to date £ 4,501.82

Current Account Balance at 11/11/2021 £ 8,050.56

1. Payments

Proposed by the Vice-Chairman seconded by Councillor Ashton and **resolved** that the following payments be made:

ROSPA – Play Area Inspection £115.80

G. Fillingham – Grass-cutting £768.00

D. Cornmell- Clerk’s Salary £294.84

HMRC- PAYE £ 73.80

EonNext – Electricity. £ 13.42

ERYC- Street Lights/Electricity £711.88

EonNext – Electricity £ 13.99

D. Cornmell- Clerk’s Expenses. £ 53.46

**TOTAL £2,045.19**

1. Receipts

**NIL**

1. Financial Report

The Clerk/RFO, presented an update on the Council’s finances for the current financial period, a projected spend at the end of that period and a three- year financial forecast.

It was agreed to give further consideration to this item at the next meeting when a decision would be made on the parish precept for 2022/2023.

**Action. Clerk/RFO**

1. Bank Closure

It was reported that the Pocklington Branch of Barclays Bank was to close in January. Whilst the Council banked with Barclays, the closure would have little effect in the management of the Council’s finances.

1. **PLANNING**
2. Application

The following application, considered and supported prior to the meeting, was noted:

1. 21/03913/TCA- EAST COTTINGWITH CONSERVATION AREA – Fell 3 no. conifer trees: The Old Post Office, Langrickgate Lane, East Cottingwith

YO42 4TH

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

1. **MEMBER’S REPORTS**

There were no reports.

1. **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM IN CLOSED SESSION -PERFORMANCE/SALARY REVIEW: CLERK/ RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

Standing Orders were suspended and the Council went into closed session to consider this item.

The Clerk/RFO left the meeting and did not return.

**Resolved –** that the pay scale be increased by 5%, with effect from 1st April 2022.

**Action: Chairman/Clerk/RFO**

1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

8pm, Thursday 13th January 2022

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm