**EAST COTTINGWITH PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**at 8.00 pm on Thursday 10th March 2022**

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

C. Stevens

**In Attendance:** Ward Councillors M. Stathers , L. Hammond,D. Cornmell (Parish Clerk)

**Members of the Public**: Two

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Cornmell and P. Shervington.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

1. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Two members of the public were present, one of whom wished to comment on devolution and possibly other items on the agenda as they appeared.

1. **DEVOLUTION**

The Chairman welcomed Ward Councillors Mike Stathers and Leo Hammond and invited them to address the meeting. Councillor Stathers thanked the Council for the opportunity to provide details of proposals for devolution in the East Riding and indicated that this was the first of a number of presentations to be made to town and parish councils within Wolds Weighton Ward. He went on to summarise the Government’s proposals for ‘levelling up’, touching upon the recent White Paper and what East Riding Council had previously put forward, for a proposed Mayoral Combined Authority deal, which had been rejected. What was on offer now was a proposed County deal, which included a joint working arrangement with Hull City Council, to deliver certain services, whilst both authorities would remain autonomous. He indicated that the Leaders of both East Riding and Hull were in favour of this, although opinion amongst councillors in the East Riding was evenly split, with some still having a preference for a Mayoral deal. The Wolds Weighton Ward Councillors were anxious to receive the views of town and parish councils before further consideration was given to this subject. Councillor Hammond went on to give a detailed presentation, referring to material previously circulated prior to the meeting. Questions were then taken from Councillors and the members of the public. Councillor Stathers requested the parish council reflect upon what was being proposed and indicate a view in due course. The Chairman thanked both Councillors Stathers and Hammond for their attendance and confirmed that the parish council would respond as requested.

1. **EAST RIDING COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

The Chairman made mention of the recently announced review of parish boundaries, being carried out by East Riding Council, and enquired if it was part of the proposals for devolution. Councillor Hammond confirmed that this was not part of devolution and was an exercise to regularise parish boundaries where recent housing development was at odds with existing boundaries. Some parish councils within the county were unable to fill existing vacancies and, therefore, there may be a case for merger. This was not the case in East Cottingwith.

Councillors Stathers and Hammond left the meeting.

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Griffith and agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting, held on 13th January 2022, and an Extraordinary Meeting held on 17th February 2022, be accepted as a true record.

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

The Clerk confirmed that, following the January meeting, he had contacted the Environment Agency and sought an assurance that barbed wire, placed around the recent groundworks, would be removed. Notification had been received that the member of staff dealing with this matter was on long-term leave and a response could not be provided at the present time.

So far as dog fouling was concerned, ERYC’s Dog Warden had been alerted of the problem.

1. Jubilee Wood

Councillor Griffith provided an update on matters relating to the wood. New trees had been planted but the recent wet spell had resulted in the wood being affected again. In the absence of Councillor Shervington, no further information was to hand about the drainage situation.

**Action: Councillor Shervington**

1. Notice Board

In the absence of Councillor Shervington, this item was deferred to a later meeting.

**Action: Councillor Shervington**

1. Road conditions – Postern Lane/Hag Lane

It was reported that some work had been carried out in Postern Lane, in order to repair cracks in the road surface. The Clerk confirmed that he had again contacted Highways to alert them of the situation in Hag Lane.

**Action: Clerk**

1. Broadband

The Vice-Chairman updated the meeting on work being carried out by KCOM to install fast fibre broadband:-

1. KCOM expect to start taking orders from mid-July with the first appointments for installation taking place in late July/early August.
2. From mid-April KCOM will start to bring the fibre down from Melbourne to East Cottingwith which will entail temporary traffic lights along Langrickgate from time to time.

**Action: Vice-Chairman**

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

It was reported that the parishioner who had agreed to help set-up arrangements had circulated details within the parish and made use of social media, publicising the event. Councillor Stevens confirmed that she had expressed an interest in helping and had supplied the parishioner concerned with details of the funding that was available. The Chairman thanked Councillor Stevens and felt that it would be useful for the parishioner leading on this to be invited to the May meeting.

**Action: Clerk**

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

Consideration was given to a draft letter, compiled by Newbald Parish Council, outlining a number of issues of concern to town and parish councils and seeking the co-operation of ERYC in resolving matters. It was agreed that East Cottingwith should be added to the list of town and parish councils in support of what was being put forward.

**Action: Clerk**

1. Siting of caravan: Land off Langrickgate Lane

Confirmation had been received from ERYC that the Enforcement Officer had been in touch with the land owner about the reported light seen in the caravan and the fact that, despite an earlier promise, the caravan had not been removed. An assurance had been given that the caravan was not being occupied and that a solar powered light, which was in situ, would be removed. It had been intimated that a planning application was likely to be submitted in the near future.

1. Repairs to Play Area

In the absence of Councillor Cornmell, the Clerk reported that quotations were being sought to repair/replace equipment in the Play Area. The remaining monies held by the former East Cottingwith Outdoor Play Association had been donated to the parish council.

**Action: Councillor Cornmell**

1. **PENSIONS**

The Clerk confirmed that, on behalf of the Vice-Chairman (the nominated person), the statutory three-yearly re-declaration had been submitted to the Pensions Regulator. As the Council’s sole employee, and being of state pension age, the parish council had no obligation for any pension provision.

1. **ASSET REGISTER**

Consideration was given to the assets owned by the parish council. It was agreed that the recent acquisitions of the bench seat and owl box should be added to the Asset Register.

**Action: Clerk**

1. **FINANCE**
2. Bank Reconciliation

Balance as at 1/4/2021 £2,758.11

+ Receipts to date £10,716.94

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£13,475.05

-Payments to date £ 7,700.93

Current Account Balance at 10/3/2022 £ 5,774.12

1. Payments

The following payment made by Direct Debit was noted:

9/2/22 Eon Next – Electricity £ 41.62

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

ERYC- Play Area lease £ 92.00

D.Cornmell- Clerk’s Salary £294.84

D. Cornmell- Clerk’s Expenses £ 20.88

HMRC -PAYE £ 73.80

**TOTAL £481.52**

1. Receipts

East Cottingwith Outdoor Play Assoc.- Donation £757.67

1. Financial Report

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

**COMMERCIALLY SENSITIVE ITEM IN CLOSED SESSION**

The members of the public left the meeting.

Standing Orders were suspended and the meeting went into closed session to consider the following commercially sensitive item.

1. Grass-cutting Contract

The Clerk/RFO confirmed that tender documents had been sent to four contractors, with an invitation to bid for the three-yearly Grass-cutting Contract. Only one had replied. A sealed bid from George Fillingham was opened. **Resolved** – that the contract for the financial periods 2022-23; 2023-24; 2024-25 be awarded to George Fillingham.

**Action: Clerk/RFO**

Standing Orders were reinstated and the Council returned to open session.

1. **PLANNING**
2. Permissions

The following permissions were noted:

(i)22/00271/TCA-East Cottingwith Conservation Area- Crown reduce 3 no. Maple trees- crown reduce in height by 2m and lateral spread by 1m all round to remove all over hanging branches from adjacent properties, Brewers Barn and 1 St Marys Close, create more-light and remove lower branches from over the public footpath on Back Lane: 2 St Marys Close, East Cottingwith YO42 4TZ

(ii)22/00274/TCA-East Cottingwith Conservation Area-Crown reduce 1 no. Holly Tree (T1) to 4.5 metres due to the tree blocking light in kitchen window: Wayside, Ings Lane, East Cottingwith YO42 4TW

(iii))22/00307/TCA-East Cottingwith Conservation Area-Crown reduce 1 no. Pear tree (T1) by 3-4.5 metres in height; Crown reduce 1 no. Silver Birch tree (T2) by 25%; Crown reduce 1 no. Cherry tree (T3) by 25%;Crown reduce 1 no. Quince tree (T4); Tree works are due to the height and spread of the trees inhibiting light in garden and encroaching on neighbouring property: Sleights Cottage, Ings Lane, East Cottingwith YO42 4TW

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

1. **MEMBER’S REPORTS**

Following the earlier presentation on devolution, Members agreed that the issue was of such importance that it should feature as an agenda item at the Annual Parish Meeting in May. Councillor Ashton agreed to publicise some of the material provided on the Council’s website and via social media.

**Action: Clerk/Councillor Ashton**

The Vice-Chairman reflected upon the Towns Land Trust’s efforts to register land with HM Land Registry. Despite numerous attempts to progress the application, and after a formal complaint had been made and upheld, it had been decided to abandon the process.

1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

8.00pm, Thursday 24th March 2022:-

Extraordinary Meeting(planning application)

8.00pm, Thursday 12th May 2022:-

Annual Parish Meeting

Annual Meeting

Ordinary Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.15pm.