**East Cottingwith Parish Council**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 12th July 2018 in the village hall at 8pm**

**Present**: Neil Hobbs (in the Chair), Steve Ashton, Clare Cornmell, Julie Harrison; Noel Joy (Clerk)

1. **Apologies** for absence were received from Dave Griffith, Duncan Morter, and Peter Rhodes
2. There were no declarations of interest
3. The minutes of the meeting held on **10th May 2018** were signed as a correct record
4. Matters arising:
	1. **Hedging on Ball Hall Lane** (minute 6a). It was agreed to ask Peter Rhodes if the work had now been carried out satisfactorily.
	2. **Back Lane Pathway and Gates** (minute 6c). The definitive pathway came into force on 11th June: the Council now had the authority to remove the gates. The Council thanked ERYC officers for all their work, and supported their view that the whole route should be signed as a public footpath.

The Council was aware that the complete removal of the gates was its agreed policy and had been since 2007; and that the gates had been erected by Mr Fozard without permission and across land which was not his. Residents were concerned that this matter should now be resolved.

After discussion, and taking into account emails submitted by Peter Rhodes and Dave Griffith, it was agreed that Neil Hobbs should write to Mr Fozard asking him to remove the gates by the end of July; a special meeting would then be held in early August to decide on future action in the light of Mr Fozard’s response.

Further discussion centred on the need to remove the posts, and the expense involved in removing them undamaged (the lowest quote was in the sum of £250). There could be other ways of resolving this, which would be considered.

* 1. **Sewage Pipe** (minute 6d). Work had now been authorised. An ecological survey was being carried out because of the presence of newts in or near the pond,
	2. **Phone Box** (minute 6e). The phone had still not been removed, although it was not working. Clare Cornmell had obtained quotations, and it was agreed to proceed on the basis of the lowest, which was in the sum of £750. Noel Joy agreed to contact BT to see if work could start before the removal of the phone

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* 1. **Debris near Hagg Bridge** (minute 15). Steve Ashton agreed to check whether the removal of the debris had been carried out.
	2. **World War One centenary** (minute 16). Neil Hobbs agreed to contact Brenda Gorwood to see if the Council could offer any assistance.
	3. **Knotweed** (minute 18). ERYC officers had confirmed that the knotweed on Back Lane South appeared to have been eradicated.

**5.** The minutes of the special meeting held on **7th June 2018** were signed as a correct record.

**6**. Other Planning Matters:

1. **Boundary Farm** 18/01412/PLF: the Council’s response on 29th May was confirmed
2. **Dunvegan** 18/02022/TCA: there was no objection to this application

1. **VAT overpayment**: it was noted that HMRC had reimbursed VAT payments twice. A letter had been sent requesting advice as to how best to repay it
2. **Data Protection Registration**: on the advice of ERYC’s head of of the legal departments, an email had been sent to the Information Commissioner’s Office requesting guidance on whether this Council should register.
3. **Overgrown footpath**, Langrickgate Lane to Green Lane. An official request had been sent to ERYC for the restoration of this footpath.
4. A list of other correspondence received during May and June 2018 was noted
5. Any other business: there were some problems with the **hypericum bush** at the triangle – Neil Hobbs agreed to discuss this with Win Saunders.
6. Date of next scheduled meeting: **13th September 2018.**