

EAST COWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 14th September 2026 at 7.30pm

2609.01

Present

Councillors: E Simpson (ES) (Chairman), J Shields (JS), J Willis (JWi), Clerk: J Walker (JW), 5 Members of the Public

Apologies for Absence

Councillor A Wilkinson (AW), A Wragg (AWr), J Green (JG)

2609.02

Disclosure of Interests

None

2609.03

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council (PC) held on 13th July 2026

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2026 are approved, and the Chairman duly signed them in order to verify approval

2609.04

Chairman's Formal Announcements

None

2609.05

Police Report

Cllr Shields provided Councillors with a verbal report :

- a) Nothing local
- b) Police are appealing for information regarding the whereabouts of a vehicle with registration WR10 ETK a black FIAT PANDA.
- c) Two women have been arrested and bailed following a theft in Superdrug, Northallerton
- d) Police are reminding people to stay vigilant following reports of bogus police officers and courier fraud attempts
- e) North Yorkshire Police would like to remind residents to take steps to help protect themselves, their homes, and their property from crime
- f) A burglary occurred in the East Harlsey area overnight, between 4:00pm 09/09 and 9:30am 10/09. A quantity of Milwaukee tools were stolen

2609.06

Financial Accounts

- a) It was resolved that the payments below be authorized/noted

Invoice Date	Description	£	Authority
11/09/2026	Clerk's wages – Sep	172.20	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)
10/08/2026	C E & C M Walker – Grass-cutting	333.60	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
25/08/2026	Chris Ward – Grass-cutting Play Area	70.00	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
33/08/2026	Purple Creative – Final	246.18	Local Government Act 1972, s137

Chairman signed.....19th October 2026

	Payment		
04/09/2026	Purple Creative – Domain Renewal	28.80	Local Government Act 1972, s137
04/09/2026	Purple Creative – Microsoft Development	101.51	Local Government Act 1972, s137
Estimate	Stell Fence Repair Materials	75.00	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
Estimate	New Caps for Springer	20.00	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
Estimate	Aggregate & Concrete for New Bench	150.00	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)

- b) Councillors considered and formally signed-off of the final website costs (Including ongoing) & the contributions to be charged to other user groups. Resolved the Clerk will issue invoices

2609.07

Planning Applications

- Councillors considered the latest update from the Principal Planning Officer & Development Management, regarding East Cowton Solar Farm (ZB25/01134/FUL), forwarded by Cllr AW and in particular, considered action to be taken in preparation for the Strategic Planning Meeting. It's inclusion at the meeting on Tuesday 13th October 2026 has not been confirmed. It was further noted the latest comments from ECPC (from July 2026) do not appear on the planning website. It was resolved the Clerk should request this is remedied and copy Cllr Wilkinson on the email. ES advised once the committee date is published, an objector wishing to speak should register their intentions as soon as possible.
- 26/04811/FUL - Construction of Agricultural Managers Accommodation, White House Farm, Great Smeaton – Councillors considered the application and had no concerns, resolved the Clerk should respond as such
- 26/04796/FUL - Demolish Existing Agricultural Building and Construct Two Agricultural Workers Dwellings, White House Farm, Great Smeaton – Councillors considered the application and had no concerns, resolved the Clerk should respond as such
- Councillors considered the recent update regarding the North Yorkshire Local Plan – Fourth Public Release of 'Call for Sites' Submissions (sites submitted up to and including 22nd June 2026). It was resolved as there is no change from the previous report, no further consideration is required

2609.08

Speeding Concerns

Councillors discussed the issues in the village and it was resolved the topic should be on the October agenda for discussion again. ECPC need to prove that speeding is an issue and ES had costed a 7 day VAS provision at £110 plus VAT. It was resolved that this should go ahead and that the Clerk would order it

2609.09

Parish Councillor Vacancy

Councillors considered how best to promote the vacant position beyond posters. It was resolved that the vacancy should be advertised on the new website. It was further noted that nominations will be open in May and we need to ensure there are 6 Councillors

2609.10

Chairman signed.....19th October 2026

Millennium Wood

ES advised that 3 contractors have been contacted to assess the safety of the trees in the area but none have visited. JWi advised she has a contact who may be able to assist and would follow it up and feed back

2609.11

Parking Issues

- a) Noted that the cycling group parking on Raby Lane have suspended their club for the winter. This will be monitored again next year. Clerk to contact the cycling club in spring to remind them to park considerately and ensure their social media displays accurate parking information
- b) Councillors considered issues with inconsiderate parking around the village and it was resolved that as none is illegal there is little that can be escalated

2609.12

Tree Policy

Councillors considered the need to obtain an updated tree survey and to consider action regarding potential risk of Ash Die Back on routes into the village. ES agreed to contact NYCC for advice as there is no legal requirement for landowners to deal with the issue. It was resolved this should be deferred to a future meeting once more facts have been gathered

2609.13

Parking Issues

The Clerk has received 3 items of correspondence

- a) Issue regarding waste contamination from defunct fuel tanks on Conyers – awaiting feedback from the environmental agency
- b) Complaint regarding inconsiderate parking opposite The Beeswing – the resident has been advised that as no laws have been broken there can be no intervention
- c) Further complaint regarding the increase of dog fouling around the village. Re-siting and provision of new dog bins is ongoing

2609.14

Public Participation

- a) Noted that the junction from Birkby Lane onto the A167 has become dangerous by hedging blocking views – It was resolved the Clerk would ensure this is rectified
- b) Councillors were asked if the various establishments in the village are prepared for the introduction of Martin's Law. It was advised that is unlikely there will be an event with the minimum number of delegates attending so should not be an issue

2609.15

Date and time if the next meeting

19th October 2026 at 19:30 was agreed. This is delayed by one week due to holidays

2609.16

Any Other Business

None

2609.17

Meeting Closed

There being no further business, ES closed the meeting at 21:00

Chairman signed.....19th October 2026