

EAST COWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 14th April 2025 at 7.30pm

2504.01

Present

Councillors: E Simpson (ES) (Chairman), J Green (JG), A Wragg (AWr), J Shields (JS), Councillor Wilkinson (AW), Clerk: J Walker (JW)

In Attendance

4 Members of the public

Apologies for Absence

H Robinson (HR) approved due to illness

2504.02

Disclosure of Interests

None

2504.03

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council (PC) held on 10th March 2025

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th March are approved, and the Chairman duly signed them in order to verify approval

2504.04

Chairman's Formal Announcements

None

2504.05

Police Report

Cllr Shields provided Councillors with a verbal report :

- a) Reports of local theft from a dwelling and criminal damage – no further information available
- b) An appeal has been received for witnesses of a theft from Barkers' store
- c) A 24-year-old from Thirsk has been charged for possession of class A & B drugs
- d) A scam has been highlighted with individuals purporting to be ex-offenders selling products door to door. They are not genuine. They have been observed looking through windows and if observed they should be reported to trading standards
- e) Scams claiming iCloud storage is full are evident, the link should not be accessed
- f) A man who stabbed a shop keeper in Zetland Street, Northallerton has been jailed for life

Chairman signed.....12th May 2025

2504.06

Financial Accounts

- a) It was **resolved** that the payments below be authorised as regular payments

Invoice Date	Description	£	Authority
11/04/2025	Clerk's wages – Mar	164.28	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)
01/05/2025	YLCA Subscription 2025/26	242.00	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)
06/04/2025	WGS Garden & Grounds	70.00	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
09/04/2025	Village Hall Rent	100.75	Local Government Act 1972, s111(1)

- b) ES requested that the Clerk circulate the finance policy to all councillors.
- c) The Clerk summarised items of expenditure that should be considered for allocation in 2025/26. Feedback required by Monday 21.04.25.
- d) ES circulated images and prices of benches and dog litter bins for councillors to consider for purchase. ES requested that councillors revert with their comments by 30.04.25

2504.07

Northern Powergrid Update

ES advised that Northern Powergrid would not be attending the meeting as they had made an error and the issues raised regarding their services affect Great Smeaton and not East Cowton. The Chair asked the Clerk to respond to ask if new poles in East Cowton are required due to the new housing development.

2504.08

Planning Applications

- a) ES gave a verbal update to provide feedback following the public information event held on 11th March 25 by PS Renewables, being at the pre-application stage prior to submitting a planning application to NYC in early May for a solar farm at Cross Rein Bank Solar Farm. Attended by ES and JG – ES advised that this application is less invasive than other solar farm plans and less visible, concerns around site traffic were highlighted and traffic lights will be sited adjacent to the railway bridge during construction stage. The developers were pleased they had 39 visitors.
- b) ZB25/00536/MBN - Conversion of former Agricultural Building into 1 dwelling, Station Farm East Cowton – after discussion it was resolved the Clerk would respond and report no objections or concerns
- c) ZB25/00573/FUL - Construction of Agricultural Building to Cover Existing Silage Clamp (Building 3), White House Farm Great Smeaton – after discussion it was resolved the Clerk would respond and report no objections or concerns

2504.09

Vacancy Parish Councillor

As there have been no applications It was resolved that councillors would canvas residents to try and fill the vacant position by co-option

Chairman signed.....12th May 2025

2504.10

Temporary Relocation of Village Shop

Councillors considered the continued delay in the works to the village hall cladding and resolved that the temporary licence to relocate the village shop should be extended to the end of May. It was further resolved the Clerk would facilitate that and ask that the barrier tapes in the play area be replaced as they have been damaged in strong winds

2504.11

Parking Update

ES advised that photographs have been collected showing illegal parking and have been sent to Highways highlighting the potentially dangerous situation at the Birkby Road junction. As yet no response has been received, their commitment is to reply within 20 days.

2504.12

Proposed New Boundaries – North Yorkshire

Councillors discussed the proposals and it was resolved that East Cowton does not appear to be impacted by the proposed changes although Cllr Wilkinson agreed to research this further on our behalf and try to obtain a better map of the wider plans

2504.13

Public Participation

- a) Noted a change to bin collection days. Councillor Wilkinson confirmed that going forward there will be no collections on Mondays or Saturdays across the County. She advised that a consultation is open and visible on the website
- b) Noted that an unmarked police car has been seen patrolling in the village
- c) Roadchef who are behind the Pallet Hill development have committed to biodiversity by proposing to create a wildlife conservation site near Pepper Arden. They will provide funding that will cover 30 years of activity
- d) On 28th March a lorry and trailer were seen driving in a manner that could potentially damage the attenuation tank at the entrance to Whitehead Farm. The driver was abusive and the incident has been reported to the company who own the vehicle
- e) Noted that the new broadband pole on Birkby Lane is extremely large when compared to others around the village
- f) A question regards the proposal for the future of the Grammar School site in Northallerton was raised. Cllr Wilkinson confirmed that the Department of Education are managing the project to place it in trust

2504.14

Date & Time of Next Meeting

12th May 2025 at 19:30 was agreed

2504.15

Any Other Business

- a) AWR, having examined several PC websites, is of the opinion that most utilise the NALC Template for their Standing Orders
- b) Issues are still being experienced with the website, JS advised that some updates have been actioned but not many other options are now available. JS pointed out that traffic to the site is very low. AWR would make enquiries with a local media firm, Purple Creative Studios of Richmond, to discuss our requirements and proposed costs. JS agreed to research the offering by Aubergine. Both will present their findings to the next meeting. JS advised that councillors should consider a succession plan for the IT Officer role
- c) ES confirmed that contact has been made with Hodgsons who manage the village bus service regards the future road closures. Once Highways have confirmed the dates an update of new routes and timetables will be issued

Chairman signed.....12th May 2025

- d) ES reported that works at Magna Rise are now well underway and that she has conducted a site visit and found it in good order
- e) AW advised that the Feast programme to support low-income families is open and transport may be available for those who have none

2504.16

Meeting Closed

There being no further business, ES closed the meeting at 20:30

Chairman signed.....12th May 2025