

EAST COWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 9th September 2024 at 7.30pm

2409.01

Present

Councillors: E Simpson (ES) (Chairman), A Wragg (AWr), T Cramond (TC), J Shields (JS), H Robinson (HR), Clerk: J Walker (JW)

In Attendance

2 members of the public

Apologies for Absence

J Green (JG), Cllr Wilkinson (AW)

2409.02

Disclosure of Interests

None.

2409.03

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council (PC) held on 10th June 2024

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th June should be amended for payment authorities and passed to the Chairman for signature

2409.04

Chairman's Formal Announcements

None

2409.05

Police Report

Cllr Shields provided Councillors with a verbal report :

- a) One incidence of theft and violence reported in East Cowton
- b) There has been commendations awarded to four young persons in Northallerton who detained a drunk driver until the Police arrived
- c) Reported 3 cannabis farms have been identified in the area, two with 100 plants and one with 60
- d) Reported a multi-force operation (Galileo) has seen a clampdown on poachers. Two men have been caught and had their vehicle confiscated and crushed
- e) New online scam promoting online event tickets
- f) Reminder email to be sent by JS to the PCSO regarding CCTV in the village
- g) Cllr Wragg reported on behalf of residents that a speeding tractor almost run them off the road in the 30mph zone. Resolved JS would report this to the PCSO
- h) Reports of pavement parking reported to PCSO and is a particular issue on the Birkby Road junction where on occasions a caravan, van and car are being parked. Resolved the Clerk will write to the homeowners and advise of the complaints and ask for their co-operation going forward

2409.06

Chairman signed.....9th September 2024

Financial Accounts

- a) It was **resolved** that the payments below be authorized, 6 regular payments and 3 estimates

Invoice Date	Description	£	Authority
11/09/2024	Clerk's wages – Aug/Sep	313.44	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)
01/08/2024	CE & CM Walker Grass Cutting	290.40	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
17/06/2024	A J Whitfield (Internal Audit)	100.00	The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015
08/08/2024	WGS Garden & Grounds – Grass Cutting Play Area	140.00	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
13/08/2024	PG Window Cleaning – Bus Shelter	10.00	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
31/08/2024	CE & CM Walker Grass Cutting	435.60	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
31/08/2024	Village Sign Birkby Lane	175.00 (Est)	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
31/08/2024	Pigeon Spikes Play Area	40.00 (Est)	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
31/08/2024	Requisites For Play Area – postcrete & rails	60.00 (Est)	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)

2409.07

Planning Applications

- b) ZB24/01070/FUL Conversion of the barn to a residential dwelling Part OS Field 8381 Land North of Raby Lane East – ES advised there has been no further updates on this application

2409.08

Bench replacement/Refurbishment Plan

Cllr Robinson advised that the bench opposite the brick bus shelter needs to be replaced and that an expensive quote had been received, Cllr Robinson also confirmed she is liaising with Lisa Wilson from NYCC Council Communities Team who has confirmed there is some funding available for such projects, It was resolved that Cllr Robinson will investigate this further and contact two local builders in the hope of obtaining a cheaper quote

2409.09

Ash Die Back

Cllr Robinson advised that it is estimated that in two years 50% of trees will be subject to ash die back. The trees are likely to become brittle and unsafe as a result. It was resolved that ECPC will monitor the situation and report trees that become dangerous as required

2409.10

Community WhatsApp Group

Cllr Shields has investigated this communications option but advised that it is open to anyone in the group being able to post messages. It was resolved JS will investigate a Facebook page where only administrators can post and report back at the October meeting

2409.11

Health & Safety

TC notified the group that annual asset inspections on the dog waste bins is complete and report submitted.

Chairman signed.....9th September 2024

Annual inspections and their owners were allocated as follows:

- a) Pots and Tubs - TBC
- b) Notice boards - TBC
- c) Salt bins – HR
- d) Benches – HR
- e) Laptop – Clerk
- f) Bus shelters half yearly – TBC
- g) Defibrillator - TC

It was resolved that the Clerk should be notified in the event any changes that are required and asset inspections should be emailed to the Clerk.

2409.12

Policy Reviews

- a) Grievance and Disciplinary – it was **resolved** that due to size of ECPC the document in place is adequate and no changes are required
- b) Records Management – Cllr Wragg advised that amendments should be made that documents should be kept in a secure place within the Clerk’s house. It should be noted the property is alarmed.
- c) Complaints Policy – it was **resolved** the wording regarding complaint response times be amended to 20 days as recommended by NALC and that the policy should be reviewed every two years

(Agreed the Clerk will circulate amended policies to Cllr Shields to upload on the website)

- d) It was **resolved** that policies for ICO Publication Scheme, Freedom of Information and Standing Orders be circulated to Cllr Wragg for review

2409.13

CCTV Options

Cllr Shields reported that he had not received a response from the PCSO

2409.14

Resilience Plan

- a) ES informed the meeting that the resilience plan had been followed following the fall of an electricity pole on the village green. ES confirmed all existing poles have been checked and pose no risk
- b) ES advised she had received correspondence noting that vulnerable people in the parish have been offered supplies and wanted to record her thanks to the Resilience Officer
- c) ES and HR to meet again to discuss the resilience plan and report back any concerns/issues

2409.15

Public Participation

Noted that the hedge overhanging the play area needs to be cut back

2409.16

Date & Time of Next Meeting

14th October 2024 was agreed

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2409.17

Any Other Business

- a) ES & AWR will empty the planters and plant bulbs and pansies
- b) ES advised that she will meet the Path-Keeper/Co-Ordinator before the winter months to walk the paths and highlight remedial work required
- c) ES notified councillors that some remedial work has been carried out on potholes around the parish and that the damage on Raby Lane due to flooding will be assessed after the water fully subsides
- d) Clerk has been advised Raby Lane will be closed 9-13th September for repairs
- e) ES advised correspondence from Councillor Wilkinson that confirmed the 15 dwellings on Birkby Lane was too small a project to be considered by the main planning committee and would keep ECPC informed of any further developments
- f) ES has escalated two complaints regarding hedging being removed on Raby Lane and was advised no contravention to the guidance. Since then, hedge roots have been removed and that is now in contravention of the Hedgerow Act 1997. It is estimated a formal planning application will be submitted for a single dwelling on the site in the next 2-3 weeks when the contravention will be reviewed in conjunction with the application
- g) ES agreed to put together an appeal for volunteers to tidy parts of the village and place it in the village newsletter. It was **resolved** the Clerk be notified of the names so consent forms can be circulated and signed for H&S and insurance purposes
- h) YLCA meeting to be held on 16th October and Cllrs Green and Wragg will attend
- i) Cllr Shields advised that he has a fix to resolve the upload of documents to the website, documents will be posted as PDF. It was resolved that although a short-term fix the process will be adopted

2409.18

Meeting Closed

There being no further business, ES closed the meeting at 20:50