

11th March 2024

EAST COWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 11th March 2024 at 7.30pm

2403.01

Present

Councillors: E Simpson (ES) (Chairman), J Green (JG), J. Shields (JS), A.Wragg (AWr), H Robinson (HR), County Councillor A Wilkinson (AW), T Cramond (TC)

Clerk: J Walker (JW)

In Attendance

4 members of the public

Apologies for Absence

None all present

2403.02

Disclosure of Interests

None.

2403.03

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council (PC) held on 12th February 2024

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th February are approved, and the Chairman duly signed them in order to verify approval.

2403.04

Chairman's Formal Announcements

None

2403.05

Police Report

- a) JS confirmed that new scams in the area include TV Licence, Tupperware competition, banking and Job application Spoofing Vacancy scams have been noted
- b) JS notified that NY are taking part in a driver's clampdown on use of mobiles
- c) JS notified an increase in keyless car thefts. Councillor Cramond suggested that the use of Faraday pouches acts as a deterrent
- d) Police have closed a cannabis farm in Harrogate
- e) A caravan has been stolen from Thirsk and an 11 year old boy was caught driving the car towing it in the M1
- f) TC advised councillors that she has observed car lights driving around Golden Acres in the early hours of the morning. JS asked for dates and approximate times in order to check CCTV – TC to provide

Chairman signed.....8th April 2024

2403.06

Financial Accounts

a) It was **resolved** that the payments below be authorised:

Invoice Date	Description	£	Authority
11/03/2024	Clerk's wages - March	156.72	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)
01/08/2024	Clerk's Wages – Back Pay	84.00	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)
12/02/2024	Village Hall Rent	104.75	Local Government Act 1972, s111(1)

2403.07

Planning Applications

- a) Proposal for a 28MW solar farm on land at Frigidale Mill, Northallerton, DL6 2NE ("East Cowton Solar Farm") – ES provided a verbal update. Green Nation (solar farm developers) have been taking comments from the public on board, particularly those living closest to the site. They plan to return to the village in April to notify any changes to the scheme to appease concerns. For information Councillor Robinson shared a leaflet regarding another proposed solar site in Brompton-On-Swale
- b) Dwellings Birkby Lane ZB24/00105/OUT. Outline application with some matters reserved (considering access) for the construction of 15 dwellings OS Field 4109 East Cowton North Yorkshire – ES provided a verbal update. Councillor Wilkinson has been asked for support with the planning committee to ensure the scheme cannot simply be approved if it now meets affordable housing quotas. AW has referred input when it is called to the Planning Committee, the size and proportion of the development is material given the approval already given for the development at Bungalow Farm. AW confirmed that Peter Jones (Team Leader Planning) is speaking to the Chair of the Planning Committee to address the cumulative impact and to air ECPC views again. Peter Jones will notify AW of the outcome. ES confirmed Highways have been contacted to request a site visit to look at the poor state of the roads into the village. This cannot take place due to adverse weather and the current workload. AW and ES will take photos and log the issues to engage with Deborah Flowers regarding Highways protocols. ES asked a member of the public in attendance to assist with this. JS notified the meeting that one large pothole has been filled with tarmac which has all degenerated again. Resolved that the Clerk would report this to Highways copying AW
- c) To consider reserved Matters application for 68 no. dwellings regarding appearance, landscaping, layout and scale to previously approved application 19/01779/OUT. Resolved that following an extension to the deadline for feedback there would be no further comments submitted. Noted that the deadline for plots 69 & 70 have been extended to end of March

2403.08

Dog Litter Bins

TC will undertake another audit of the bins when the weather improves. Resolved the results of this will be discussed at the May meeting

2403.09

Benches

Councillor Robinson provided a plan of benches and comments on their condition. HR shared a draft letter to invite local businesses to sponsor benches and ES asked for clarification of what 'gestures' from sponsors covers. Resolved that any donors will be publicly acknowledged and details provided to JS to post on the website, further resolved that an update will be provided in the June meeting

Chairman signed.....8th April 2024

2403.10

Millenium Wood

ES and JG carried out a site visit on Saturday 24th February. Suggested some trees be removed to open the canopy and attract more wildlife. 3 Tree Surgeons have been contacted and awaiting response. Resolved that trees removed will be used as a barrier and no additional bench will be placed on the site to deter littering. Clerk to add an update on this project at the May meeting

2403.11

Dog Fouling

Following the higher incidences ES contacted the Dog Warden and he has visited the village putting up more notices and speaking to known offenders. He offered more bins but resolved there is no need. He advised that due to his patch increasing he cannot visit as often. TC suggested a notice be placed in the village magazine highlighting the issue. AWR suggested the older children in the school be invited to design a poster – resolved ES would take this action. JS will put posters on the website and ECPC notice board

2403.12

Local Resilience Plan

Resolved that ES & HR will meet within two weeks of this meeting for an update and plan for the way forward

2403.13

Speed Watch

ES advised this has not been carried out since September and that more volunteers are needed, they would be trained how to follow road safety. ES advised ECPC can request a speed report which is free if not provided in the last 3 years. Resolved JS will speak with the PCSO at his visit on 15th March. This would provide good evidence for Area 2 for planning applications. JS will submit item for the Parish magazine and poster for notice board/website seeking volunteers

2403.14

Public Participation

- a) Noted there are still issues with accessing minutes on the website – appears to be a sporadic issue. TC advised she is having problems with a VPN line and similar issues could be affecting the website
- b) Suggestion notes should be placed in holiday lets notifying that dog detritus should be picked up and disposed of and pointing out the potential fine
- c) Suggestion that as benches are replaced they should be made of long-lasting composite materials
- d) Noted that the school buses regularly break the speed limits and that buses should carry a tachograph that could be examined

2403.15

Date of Next Meeting

8th April 2024 at 7:30pm is proposed

2403.16

Any Other Business

- a) A planning application for adaptation of garages on Wycliffe Road was received too late to be discussed at this meeting and will be deferred to the April meeting. Resolved the Clerk will ask for an extension to the deadline for feedback which falls before the date of 8th April

Chairman signed.....8th April 2024

- b) HR raised the subject of ash die back and ES confirmed this issue is known and that Highways do not survey trees and rely on reports by residents. Resolved that HR will investigate the issue with the Woodland Trust and bring her findings back to the June meeting

2403.17

Meeting Closed

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

Chairman signed.....8th April 2024