

EAST COWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 9th June 2025 at 7.30pm

2506.01

Present

Councillors: E Simpson (ES) (Chairman), J Green (JG), J Shields (JS) Clerk: J Walker (JW)

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Wilkinson (AW), A Wragg (AWr)

2506.02

Disclosure of Interests

None

2506.03

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council (PC) held on 12th May 2025

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the annual and ordinary meetings held on 12th May 2025 are approved, and the Chairman duly signed them in order to verify approval

2506.04

Chairman's Formal Announcements

None

2506.05

Police Report

Cllr Shields provided Councillors with a verbal report :

- a) Nothing local to report
- b) A new scam identified where malware is loaded onto computers and mobile phones to track activity and use the information for the purpose of blackmail
- c) A recent knife moratorium has taken 17,000 knives out of circulation
- d) Cold callers offering sales and services are using this as a front for distraction burglaries – it was resolved that JS would request “no cold caller” stickers for the café and shop

2506.06

Financial Accounts

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

Invoice Date	Description	£	Authority
11/06/2025	Clerk's wages – Jun	164.28	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)
05/05/2025	WGS Garden & Grounds	70.00	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
02/06/2025	C E & C M Walker - Grasscutting	312.00	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
04/06/2025	Security Glue from Tool Station – reimburse ES	13.00	Local Government Act 1972, Section 111(1)
04/06/2025	Summer Plants from	120.98	Local Government Act 1972, Section 111(1)

Chairman signed.....14th July 2025

	Paddock Farm – reimburse ES		
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- b) The Clerk provided a proposed budget for 2025/26 that was considered by Councillors, it was resolved that the budget be agreed. The Clerk also provided a summary of savings that qualify to be moved to the reserve fund to be used for the purpose of bench procurement. Councillors considered the proposal and it was resolved that the Clerk be authorised to transfer the sum of £2,653 to the premium account

2506.07

Asset Inspections

Councillors considered the allocation of asset inspections and it was resolved that responsibilities be allocated as follows:

- a) Playground Safety – ES
- b) Dog Waste Bins – JW
- c) Grit Bins & Flower Pots – JG
- d) Bus Shelters – JS

It was further resolved that all inspections should be completed and submitted to the Clerk by 23rd June 2025

2506.08

Planning Applications

- a) ZB25/01005/FUL - Change of use of Traditional Former Agricultural Buildings to a Residential Dwelling, Manor House Farm East Cowton Northallerton North Yorkshire – Councillors considered the application and it was resolved that although there were no major issues the Clerk should advise NYCC that there is an expectation that all planning constraints for a previous application will be met. It was noted that noise has always been an issue from the location caused by power generation
- b) ZB25/00887/FUL - Installation of a solar farm at Cross Rein Bank with associated works, Land at E432397 N500603 East Cowton North Yorkshire – Councillors considered the application and discussed potential hazards. It was resolved that the Clerk should provide their feedback to NYCC

2506.09

Insurance

The Clerk advised The current policy expires 1st July 2025, there is no increase to the proposed policy renewal amount of £378 as the precept remains at £7,500 or less.

Councillors considered the policy renewal and it was resolved that the policy should be renewed with Zurich and payment to be made by 1st July

2506.10

Update of PC Website

JS and JG advised that only the village hall and church had expressed an interest a joint project. Councillors discussed the options available:

- a) Basic website designed by Aubergine
- b) Village hub

ES advised that there is a grant scheme that would provide funds of up to £1,000 and asked if Councillors would be happy to go ahead if the funding covered set up costs. It was resolved that ES and AWr would complete the grant application. ES advised further funding may be available via Cllr Wilkinson. ES enquired whether members of the public would benefit from a village hub and they agreed it would be a positive thing

Chairman signed.....14th July 2025

2506.11

Vacancy Parish Councillors

- a) The Clerk advised there have been no applications for the position of Parish Councillor
- b) The Clerk informed Councillors that the two vacancies can be filled by co-option. ES asked Councillors if they could try to encourage interested parties

2506.12

Public Participation

- a) A member of the public has spent time with the site manager at Bungalow Farm due to concerns over surface water drainage
- b) On the Great Smeaton road a large distribution post has been placed, the concern is that the solar farms may be more advanced than expected. ES advised that this is not connected to the solar power sites as planning permission has not yet been granted
- c) Noted it is good to see the village shop back in situ and work is about to start to prepare the play area for children in the summer
- d) There is a notice board in the Jubilee Garden that shows local walks, however some of the routes have damaged stiles and poor general upkeep. ES advised the path-keeper is struggling to source material and would appreciate a volunteer to assist. The fact that landowners are responsible for upkeep is leading to the current issues

2506.13

Date & Time of Next Meeting

The 23rd June for the purpose of signing off the year-end accounts and 14th July 2025 at 7:30pm for the next ordinary meeting of the PC were agreed

2506.14

Any Other Business

- a) ES advised that parish council have been contacted to advise that a new library van is being procured and asking if East Cowton would like to be added to its route for one hour per month. It was resolved that the Clerk should contact Library Services and confirm the village would like to be included

2506.15

Meeting Closed

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

Chairman signed.....14th July 2025