

EAST COWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 8th July 2024 at 7.30pm

2407.01

Present

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

In Attendance

4 members of the public

Apologies for Absence

H Robinson (HR) – Due to work commitments approved

2407.02

Disclosure of Interests

None.

2407.03

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council (PC) held on 11th March 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, It was **further resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th June are approved, and the Chairman duly signed them in order to verify approval.

2407.04

Chairman's Formal Announcements

None

2407.05

Police Report

Cllr Shields provided Councillors with a verbal report :

- a) There have been reports of 3 vehicle thefts
- b) A mountain bike was stolen close to the time an intruder was seen trying to break into vehicles
- c) There has been a stabbing in Zetland Street in Northallerton and a 57-year old man has been arrested in connection with the assault
- d) Two cars have been stolen using keys taken from houses
- e) Rogue traders are operating in the area offering gutter cleaning and gardening services
- f) Police are carrying out drug/drink testing and 103 drivers have been tested since 1st July
- g) There has been a suggestion that a Community WhatsApp group be set up to keep the public up so speed with incidents – resolved that Cllr Shields would look at feasibility and report back to the September meeting
- h) Provision of CCTV in the village to be investigated – resolved that Cllr Shields would look at options and report back to the September meeting

Chairman signed.....9th September 2024

2407.06

Financial Accounts

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

Invoice Date	Description	£	Authority
11/07/2024	Clerk's wages - July	156.72	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)
01/07/2024	CE & CM Walker Grass Cutting	290.40	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
09/06/2024	WGS Garden Services	140.00	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
21/11/2023	PG Window Cleaning Services	10.00	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
Various	Reimbursement ES Multiplay	171.38	Local Government Act 1972, s137

- b) Accounting Statements – it was **resolved** the accounting statements show a true record

2407.07

Planning Applications

- a) 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 that there is nothing new to report regarding this application and the development will remain with delegated officers as it too small a site for automatic submission to Committee level. County Councillor Wilkinson is still supporting the parish council interests in this matter. Noted that Cllrs Green and Wragg had attended the recent YLCA meeting and most parishes are experiencing the same issues with planning services. A Parish Liaison Officer has been appointed and it was resolved the Clerk would obtain contact details and invite the post-holder to the September meeting
- b) Verbal update of the outcome regarding plans for application ZB24/00351/OUT Outline Planning Application with some matters reserved (Considering Access, Appearance, Layout and Scale) for demolition of existing garage and construction of a 2-bedroom apartment – ES advised that this proposed development has been declined due to over-development
- c) ZB24/01271/FUL Single storey rear extension 3 Wycliffe Road East Cowton Northallerton North Yorkshire – ES invited comments from Councillors and no comments or objections were noted
- d) ZB24/01070/FUL Conversion of the barn to a residential dwelling Part OS Field 8381 Land North of Raby Lane East Cowton – The applicant was present and offered to answer any questions:
1. JG noted that the planning notices are not present at the site. The applicant confirmed they had been posted
 2. AW asked how old the barn was. The applicant confirmed it is 6 years old and the development would not be visible from the highway
 3. JG asked for a description of the site access. The applicant confirmed the proposal would see the removal of both existing gates and a new recessed entrance would be made
 4. ES passed on her observations:
 - The supporting statement confirms the isolated position of the barn. It is outside village limits and has no footpath access to the village. Parish

Chairman signed.....9th September 2024

Council would not want to see a precedent for continued development outside of existing village boundaries.

- In 2023 permission was granted for a new (additional) agricultural storage building. It was cited that the proposed building is required at this location to support the successful running of the farm. It is now claimed the building is redundant/unused
- Foul sewage to be disposed by a treatment plant
- The surface water will flow into existing water course. Council would prefer to see it directed as a soak away or small SUDS containment before entering the water course to prevent flooding in the road as evidenced in the past
- If approval is given Council expects suitable prevention of mud deposits on the highway during construction works

- e) Proposal for a 28MW solar farm on land at Frigidale Mill, Northallerton, DL6 2NE ("East Cowton Solar Farm") – ES has received no further updates on this proposal, **resolved** the Clerk will obtain an update for the September meeting

2407.08

Bench replacement/Refurbishment Plan

Deferred to September meeting

2407.09

Ash Die Back

Deferred to September meeting

2407.10

Village Hall Evacuation

Councillors agree to a proposal to place an evacuation point sign being located by the picnic bench and that evacuation would be via the play area through a suitable gate – final designs to be submitted. **Resolved** the Clerk would notify the village hall committee.

2407.11

Village Hall Risk Assessment

ES extended thanks to Cllr Shields' wife who had drafted the assessment document.

Resolved the wording 'Secretary' be changed to 'Clerk' and the remainder of the document was approved.

2407.12

ECPC Website

Councillor Shields advised recent problems had been due to issues with the host platform not Weebly. JS has a workaround to upload files to the site and recommended if this continues to work we should keep the existing system.

Councillor Shields has reviewed the Aubergine website option for Parish Councils suggested by YLGA and costs would be:

1st year - £299 + VAT = £358.80 (this would include setting up the new site and domain)

2nd year - £199 + VAT = £238.90

It was resolved that we carry on using Weebly and if issues continue the topic will be revisited.

Chairman signed.....9th September 2024

2407.13

Policies and Procedures

Review dates confirmed for policies on Grievance & Disciplinary (03.02.20), Records Management (09.11.20) and Complaints Policy (01.11.22). ES asked if a Councillor would volunteer to review the latest documents and Alison Wragg agreed to do this

2407.14

Public Participation

- a) Noted the sign at the entrance to St Mary's Close needs replacing
- b) Noted that chevrons around the village outskirts are missing or not visible
- c) Resilience Plan – update to be provided by Cllr Robinson in the September meeting
- d) Two cars have been stolen using keys taken from houses

2407.15

Date & Time of Next Meeting

9th September 2024 was agreed

2407.16

Any Other Business

- a) JG Commented that following the YLCA meeting the Parish Charter should be reviewed in line with the expectations of NYCC. New financial regulations have been published, resolved the Clerk would check. A new good councillor guide has been published. The meeting is under review due to lack of attendance – only 7 from 72 councils were at the meeting. Noted there is a multi-topic training day being held on 18th July
- b) JS advised the meeting the road to North Cowton has been marked up in preparation for road repairs
- c) ES has spoken to Yorkshire Water regarding the flooding on Raby Lane who initially responded there was no fault. They have been observed working at the site and plan to install a washout valve to the drain and inspect by camera – booked 10.07.24
- d) ES advised that remedial work to village signs is the parish council's responsibility
- e) It was resolved the parish council need to obtain a map showing ownership/responsibility for maintenance of footpaths around the village and report on the parish portal – ES & AWr
- f) Noted that grass cutting at the junctions of Raby Lane, North Cowton, Birkby Lane and Birkby Bridge are not the responsibility of NYCC, need to identify landowners and their responsibility - ES
- g) ES advised we await a response regarding the proposed bench to be placed outside the school – Cllr Robinson to pursue

2407.17

Meeting Closed

There being no further business, ES closed the meeting at 20:40

Chairman signed.....9th September 2024