

8th January 2024

EAST COWTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

2401.01

Present

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

In Attendance

2 members of the public

Apologies for Absence

None all Councillors in attendance

2401.02

Disclosure of Interests

None.

2401.03

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council (PC) on 13th November and 11th December 2023

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on 13th November and 11th December 2023 are approved, and the Chairman duly signed them in order to verify approval.

2401.04

Chairman's Formal Announcements

None

2401.05

Co-option of a Parish Councillor

It was resolved that Hannah Robinson sign the declaration of acceptance of position of parish councillor to enable her participation in the meeting. Duly signed. It was further resolved the Clerk should notify the relevant parties of Hannah's acceptance of office.

2401.06

Police Report

- a) JS confirmed that for the period covered by their last report, there were no recorded incidents for East Cowton
- b) JS notified he had spoken to Jason Snowdon (PCSO) to ask for advice on pavement parking issues in the village but had not received a reply. Resolved this will be carried forward to discuss at the next meeting.

Chairman signed.....12th February 2024

2401.07

Financial Accounts

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

Invoice Date	Description	£	Authority
07/08/2023	Clerk Introductory Training	50.00	Local Government Act 1972 s112(2)
11/12/2023	Clerk's wages - December	144.72	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)
11/01/2023	Clerk's wages - January	144.72	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)
21/12/2023	Playscheme Ltd	2,959.20	Open Spaces Act 1906, Public Health Act 1875 s164
08/01/2024	Paddock Farm – Advance on account	150.00	Open Spaces Act 1906, Public Health Act 1875 s164

*Denotes items authorised by RFO for payment prior to meeting to meet contractual payment date

b) Considered training required for councillors and at present there is only a requirement for HR to attend 'Off To A Flying Start' an introduction for new councillors

2401.08

Planning Applications

a) Modifications to previously approved application numbered ZB23/02257/MRC music venue at Cockleberry Farm. Modification of conditions 5 (Music) and 8 (Number of events and Capacity). No update on this applications so resolved to carry this item forward as no decision has yet been made. Councillor Wilkinson advised that if there are any concerns once the outcome has been published they should be notified to her

2401.09

Councillors Roles and Responsibilities

Resolved that councillors roles for 2024/25 be allocated as per the list below: JS to update the website to amend the responsibility for managing the operation of the defibrillator to TC.

- a) Chairman: responsible for public spaces and representative to Yorkshire Local Councils Associations
- b) Clerk/RFO: responsible for payroll
- c) Vice Chairman: responsible for finance, grants and funding
- d) JS: responsible for publicity, IT, police liaison/crime prevention
- e) AW: responsible for community well-being and sustainability and is also a representative to Yorkshire Local Councils Associations
- f) TC: responsible for Environmental matters including litter and dog fouling, bus shelters, operation of the defibrillator and related grants and funding. Parish council's planning lead and assists with grants and funding
- g) HR: responsible for the upkeep and filling of grit bins and liaison for sponsorship of benches within the parish

2401.10

Local Resilience Plan

- a) This will be discussed at the February meeting. Resolved that the clerk would contact Councillor Watson to confirm if the plan is up to date, when it was last tested and enquire about flood risk management.

2401.11

Play Area

Chairman signed.....12th February 2024

- a) ES confirmed that the new equipment has now been installed, 2 balance beams, 6 rather than 5 stepping stones and a springer. The work on the multiplay will be completed within two weeks.

2401.12

Public

- a) Councillor Wilkinson advised the North Yorkshire website is updated with consultations. There will be a budget seminar held on Wednesday 10th January. Advised also that there is now a stronger communities team and there may be grants available for wildlife areas. Resolved ES to investigate.
- b) Question raised regards progress of proposed new properties on Birkby Lane. ES confirmed the planning application had been turned down as the plan could not deliver the appropriate quota of affordable housing.
- c) The building of 2 steel constructions on the dairy farm on Great Smeaton road with plans for a third was raised and an enquiry as to whether this requires planning permission. ES agreed to check the planning site and whether permissions are required.
- d) It was also noted as a concern that there is a possibility the local bus companies may withdraw their services due to the surface conditions and potholes on Smeaton Road. ES to follow this up.

2401.13

Date And Time Of Next Meeting

Proposed the next meeting will be held on 12th February 2024.

2401.14

Any Other Business

- a) HR confirmed that Alistair Wilkin will contact JS to discuss the Farmwatch scheme and provide any relevant feedback.
- b) JS advised there are some issues with the new website. Weebly have been acquired by Square and uploads now require verification by a code to a mobile phone number. Although a personal phone can be used it was deemed this is not ideal.
- c) ES updated councillors on the ongoing issues with the bank. Barclays have now updated the account to one suitable for parish councils without confirming the change and the address for statements has not yet been amended to the clerk's address. ES has submitted a complaint and the bank have offered £50 by way of compensation. It was resolved this offer is accepted.
- d) JS advised Chris Ward Gardening Services will visit the play area on 12th January 2024 with a view to providing hedge cutting services twice per year and using a small mower to cut the grass. Proposed this element of grass cutting will then be removed from the existing contractor's services.

2401.15

Meeting Closed

There being no further business, ES closed the meeting at 20:25

Chairman signed.....12th February 2024