

EAST COWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 8th September 2025 at 7.30pm

2509.01

Present

Councillors: E Simpson (ES) (Chairman), J Green (JG), J Shields (JS), Councillor Wilkinson (AW); Clerk: J Walker (JW), 23 Members of the Public

Apologies for Absence

A Wragg (Awr)

2509.02

Disclosure of Interests

None

2509.03

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council (PC) held on 14th July 2025

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2025 are approved, and the Chairman duly signed them in order to verify approval

2509.04

Chairman's Formal Announcements

None

2509.05

Planning Applications

ZB25/01134/FUL- The installation of ground mounted solar photovoltaic array with associated infrastructure, security fence, CCTV, cable route, landscaping, and onsite biodiversity net gain, Land East of Frigidale Wood Great Smeaton North Yorkshire – ES notified the meeting that although Green Nation had requested a place on the agenda they had confirmed they would not be sending a representative. Councillors and members of the public expressed disappointment as it has been some time since a delegate from the company has attended in person and there are still many concerns. Councillor Wilkinson confirmed that she will be visiting all the proposed solar sites before the end of September and advised she fully supports a request to extend the deadline for feedback due to the consolidated impact of several such projects in close proximity. ES opened the floor for discussion and after much debate it was resolved that ES would contact NYCC Planning Department to pass on concerns over the short deadline for response to the application and to seek an extension

2509.06

Police Report

Cllr Shields provided Councillors with a verbal report :

- a) Nothing local
- b) An Alsatian-type dog had to be put down by a police firearms officer in Bedale after it bit a man and a police officer on their legs while running out of control

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- c) Officers in North Yorkshire have made 129 arrests during the month of July as part of the summer drink and drug drive campaign
- d) Police are urging parents and young people to be on their guard if they're come across "jobs" offering hundreds of pounds for liking or sharing social media posts. In the past six months we have received around 40 reports of "job" scams linked to Tik Tok and Telegram offering "jobs" to unsuspecting users – the youngest was aged 15

2509.07

Financial Accounts

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

Invoice Date	Description	£	Authority
11/09/2025	Clerk's wages – Sep	164.28	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)
04/08/2025	C E & C M Walker - Grasscutting	156.00	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
01/09/2025	C E & C M Walker - Grasscutting	312.00	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
09/08/2025	WGS Garden & Grounds – Grasscutting – Play Area	105.00	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
31/07/2025	PG Window Cleaning – Bus Shelter	12.00	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
09/08/2025	Postcrete/Fence Post – Reimburse ES	116.03	Local Government Act 1972, Section 111(1)
22/08/2025	Fence Rails & Hardware – Reimburse ES	57.14	Local Government Act 1972, Section 111(1)

2509.08

Grant For Website Development

ES provided a verbal update and confirmed that ECPC had received a grant of £1,000 on 03.09.25 towards the cost of setting up a new community based website, additional funding may be required. AW confirmed there may be further funding available in the locality budget. It was resolved the Clerk would create a new reserve for the project

2509.09

Rural Services

AWr provided a written update that was read out by the Clerk:

- a) Feature on Dental Deserts which is much more prevalent in rural areas
- b) A Rural Racism Project conducted by Leicester University, documenting overt and subtle hostility to ethnic minorities and conscious and unconscious bias - and Affordable Housing
- c) Rural areas still suffer from poor public transport, second home ownership, rural businesses needing staff who can't afford to either live locally or commute to work
- d) There is YLCA branch meeting in Northallerton Town Hall on 24th September
- e) The consultation on Boundary changes closes on 13th October
- f) There is full day training session on Martyn's Law, combating terrorism offered via the Council, on 17th October

2509.10

Chair's Updates

- a) Benches - ES provided a verbal update and confirmed that 3 benches for the main street and 2 benches and a seat for the play area have been procured. The seats in

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the main street require new concrete bases and ES has asked the developers at Bungalow Farm to assist if possible

- b) Dog Waste Bins – ES advised that some bins are in a poor state needing to be replaced and that an additional bin would be useful at the entrance to the cricket field. It was resolved that ES would contact NYCC to see what support may be available
- c) Play Area – ES confirmed that remedial works have been carried out in the play area supported by volunteers

2509.11

Parish Councillor Co-option

ES confirmed that at the date of the meeting there had been no applications

2509.12

Public Participation

- a) There has been a resilience forum set up covering areas such as flooding/terrorism and it was agreed the group would contact the Clerk with a view to presenting at a future meeting
- b) Issues regarding the delays and disruption caused in laying fibre and electric feeds through Boynton Road were highlighted. A question was asked if the roads and pavements were to be properly cleaned. ES advised this is the Contractor's responsibility and also confirmed that the delays were caused by 240V cables having to be kept separate
- c) Noted the increase in traffic lights around the village. Cllr Wilkinson confirmed that all changes to traffic flow need to have a licence to avoid high fines due to new legislation
- d) Noted an issue with over-hanging trees and ES advised that neighbours should be approached and asked to deal with the problem and if it persists the parish council can report it

2509.13

Date and time if the next meeting

13th October 2025 at 19:30 was agreed

2509.14

Meeting Closed

There being no further business, ES closed the meeting at 20:55

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