

EAST COWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 10th November 2025 at 7.30pm

2511.01

Present

Councillors: E Simpson (ES) (Chairman), J Green (JG), A Wragg (Awr), J Shields (JS), Clerk: J Walker (JW), 3 Members of the Public

Apologies for Absence

Councillor A Wilkinson (AW)

2511.02

Disclosure of Interests

None

2511.03

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council (PC) held on 13th October 2025

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2025 are approved, and the Chairman duly signed them in order to verify approval

2511.04

Chairman's Formal Announcements

None

2511.05

Planning Applications

- a) ZB25/00887/FUL - Installation of a solar farm with associated works, Land at E432397 N500603 East Cowton North Yorkshire – comments to be submitted by 13.11.25 – ES summarised the transport statement that has been submitted. Councillors discussed the issues regarding public footpath right of way, 3-way traffic control in close proximity to the railway bridge, state of the proposed entry road to take heavy lorries and whether the alternative entrance has full approval. It was resolved the Clerk would draft a reply to Planners and circulate to Councillors prior to submission by the deadline
- b) ZB25/01775/FUL - Householder Application for Planning Permission for works or extension to a dwelling: Proposed extension works and new pitched roof over existing garage/extension area. New render to external walls and windows to be re-painted, 1 Wycliffe Road East Cowton Northallerton North Yorkshire – comments submitted by the deadline of 04.11.25 – Councillors had no comments regards this application and the Clerk replied to this effect by the deadline
- c) ZB25/01738/FUL - Construction of a steel portal framed agricultural livestock building 12.95m by 45.41m, White House Farm Great Smeaton Northallerton North Yorkshire - comments submitted by the deadline of 04.11.25 - Councillors had no comments regards this application and the Clerk replied to this effect by the deadline

Chairman signed.....12th January 2026

2511.06

Police Report

Cllr Shields provided Councillors with a verbal report :

- a) Nothing local
- b) Police are appealing for witnesses in relation to a serious RTC at approx 1.15pm on Dolly Lane, Yafforth on Friday 24th October.
- c) Between Friday 7th and Saturday 8th November, NY Police arrested 8 individuals on suspicion of committing burglary. NY Police have provided top tips to help try and prevent such crimes and these are listed on their website. Members of public are also encouraged to register with NYP Community Messaging to receive updates and newsletters.
- d) Scam making the rounds with a call from a 'police officer' stating a person has been arrested in possession of a clone of your bank card and that a 'courier' would be sent to their home to collect the original card to assist in the investigation. Recipients are being told not to engage or part with any information and just hang up
- e) Police ask parents to be aware on the run up to Christmas that eScooters are legal to own but are not legal to ride in public areas

2511.07

Financial Accounts

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

Invoice Date	Description	£	Authority
11/11/2025	Clerk's wages – Nov	172.20	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)
11/11/2025	Clerk's Wages – Back Pay	47.52	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)
01/11/2025	C E & C M Walker - Grasscutting	156.00	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
15/11/2025	WGS Gardening Services – Hedge Cutting Play Area - Estimate	100.00	Highways Act 1980, s115B and Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)
10/11/2025	Contingency Fund for Contribution to Village Website	500.00	Local Government Act 1972, s137

2511.08

Budget For 2025/26

The Clerk/RFO had previously circulated the final budget assumptions for 2025/26 for Councillors' consideration. The rationale was shared and after discussion and a proposal from the Clerk/RFO, it was resolved that the precept claim for 2026/27 will remain at the same level as the current year, £7500. Submission will be completed by the Clerk/RFO by 31.12.25. It was also resolved that as most of the current year spend has been completed the Clerk will submit the VAT return

Chairman signed.....12th January 2026

2511.09

Waste Bins

AWr advised that there had been no confirmation that East Cowton has been approved for the new dog waste bin trial so the proposal for the wider requirements will be deferred. It was resolved that this will be added to the January 2026 agenda.

2511.10

Community Website

JS provided a verbal update to advise that Purple Creative have provided their first proposal which has been shared by all interested groups. Clarification is still required on what the events schedule delivers. It was resolved that the parish council will remit the full amount due for the website design and reclaim the relevant amounts from other groups

2511.11

Chair's Updates

- a) Main street drainage - ES provided a verbal update on the proposed road closure on the main street for drainage works. Although waiting for final confirmation it is likely the road closure will commence on 19.01.26 for at least six weeks and all service providers affected will be notified. ES also advised that Birkby Lane will be closed for 5 days for drainage work at the entrance to Magna Rise. There are also planned road closures at the railway bridge in Croft. It was resolved that the Clerk will display a schedule of the closures at Croft on the notice board. Commented that Millers Lane is not suitable for increased traffic flow and it was likely Raby Lane will bear the brunt
- b) Mobile Library – ES confirmed that although slightly delayed, the mobile library service will commence on Tuesday 20.01.26 outside the village hall for one hour at 15:15 and then every four weeks thereafter

2511.12

Parish Councillor Co-option

ES confirmed there have been no applications for the vacancies

2511.13

Public Participation

- a) It was noted that pedestrian access on Raby Lane has been improved by the provision of a bridge(please can we change to 'access to the PROW on Raby Lane has been improved by the replacement of the damaged footbridge')
- b) A question was raised whether there has been any further progress regarding the proposed solar farm at Frigidale wood. ES confirmed that although Green Nation had committed to provide feedback on outstanding issues it had not been received by this meeting date. ES has been corresponding with Carlton Husthwaite Parish Council who have undertaken similar objections. They have provided useful information and have advised keeping up the pressure. Noted that PCs are joining support group Solar Alliance who can provide advice and support and for PC's also to be aware of the recent changes to tidy up grid applications (Gate 1 & 2 applications). ES agreed to keep chasing a response on the cumulative effect of all solar farm applications in the area
- c) JS advised that the potholes on the road to North Cowton have been patched but are not effective and likely to lift under the traffic flow
- d) The Clerk has received a further complaint from a resident opposite the pub regarding inconsiderate parking. The Licensee has agreed to assist where possible if complaints are made directly to her

2511.14**Date and time if the next meeting**

12th January 2026 at 19:30 was agreed

2511.15 Any Other Business

- a) Noted that Ian Nesbitt has left the NYCC planning team and his role will be covered by John Worthington and Fiona Hunter
- b) Confirmed that a donation has been received by way of a memorial to fund the purchase of one of the new benches for the green
- c) ES advised that the speed testing kit has been loaned to Brompton PC
- d) ES advised there are two volunteers who have agreed to fix the benches in the play area
- e) ES advised that as the land outside the school is not PC's responsibility so the bench siting proposed in that area will be managed between Brian Robinson Machinery and the school
- f) Clerk to check the shop licence renewal dates and bring the findings to the January meeting

2511.15**Meeting Closed**

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

Chairman signed.....12th January 2026