

EAST COWTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

2503.01

Present

Councillors: E Simpson (ES) (Chairman), J Green (JG), A Wragg (AWr), J Shields (JS), H Robinson (HR)

Clerk: J Walker (JW)

In Attendance

2 Members of the public

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Wilkinson (AW)

2503.02

Disclosure of Interests

None

2503.03

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council (PC) held on 10th February 2025

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th February are approved, and the Chairman duly signed them in order to verify approval

2503.04

Chairman's Formal Announcements

None

2503.05

Police Report

Cllr Shields provided Councillors with a verbal report :

- a) A scam trying to sell loft insulation has been highlighted
- b) A scam relating to Boots online Medicare has been noted
- c) From 29.01.25 Blocks will be placed on calls not from the UK
- d) On 25.02.25 a Merlo telehandler was stolen from Brian Robinson Machinery and used in an attempted theft from an ATM in Northallerton. Police are requesting any information from the public regarding the four men involved
- e) The Police website will shortly be offering live webchat

Chairman signed.....14th April 2025

2503.06

Financial Accounts

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

Invoice Date	Description	£	Authority
11/03/2025	Clerk's wages – Mar	164.28	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)
10/03/2025	Reimburse ES for searches regarding title of land in the communal play area	28.00	Local Government Act 1972, Section 137

- b) Councillors **considered** the Clerk's request to authorise the transfer of funds from the current account to the premium bank account to ensure the balance reflects the reserves at the year end. It was **resolved** this action be approved

2503.07

Planning Applications

- a) Cross Rein Bank Solar Farm – ES advised there would be a public information event at 14:30 on 11.03.25. Councillors are invited to attend from 13:30
- b) Proposal for a 28MW solar farm on land at Frigidale Mill, Northallerton, DL6 2NE ("East Cowton Solar Farm") – ES advised that the developers Green Nation will be moving towards a formal planning application in early May

2503.08

Vacancy Parish Councillor

As there have been no applications It was **resolved** that the Clerk will notify the elections team and ask that ECPC be allowed to co-opt a councillor as an election is not required

2503.09

Temporary Relocation of Village Shop

Councillors considered an application by the community shop to relocate it approximately 1.5m West to facilitate scaffolding being erected around the village hall. It was **resolved** that the temporary variation be covered by a permit to be issued by the Clerk. It was further **resolved** that the Clerk pass on Councillors disappointment that works commenced prior to it being discussed in the March meeting

2503.10

Development At Magna Rise

ES provided a verbal update on the planned road closures in the village scheduled for later in the year. The proposed closure in March has been delayed for up to 3 months. ES will contact Hodgsons buses who operate the 72 service through the village to ensure they are aware of the date changes

2503.11

Fence Play Area

The Clerk gave a verbal update regarding the title to the land/fence at the rear of the play area. A local solicitor has been contacted to pursue the grant of a possessory title to ECPC but to date no response has been received

Chairman signed.....14th April 2025

2503.12

Public Participation

- a) Noted that many villages were unaware of a change to the green bin collection day, a call has been placed to note a complaint
- b) Noted that the council are selling their office at Stone Cross and opening a premises on the High St, concerns expressed that will be a degradation in service
- c) Advised that teenage girls have been observed on top of the climbing frame in the play area and being very vocal
- d) ES advised that the damaged Birkby finger sign has been reported and there is a 20 day response time
- e) The Darlington & Stockton Times have run an article on reduced speed limits near schools, it was Resolved that ES will look into a stretch of 20mph to cover the school approaches. Noted that speeds are creeping up in the village, particularly the Garnetts school bus. ES advised that now there is an improvement in daylight hours a speed watch will be set up shortly to monitor the situation. ES asked anyone who observes speed limits being broken to record the date, time and registration number and Cllr Shields will pass on the information to the PCSO

2503.13

Date & Time of Next Meeting

14th April 2025 at 19:30 was agreed

2503.14

Any Other Business

- a) ES advised that NYCC have been asked to remove the stump of the tree that came down in the last storm
- b) AWR has obtained a copy of the standing orders of Appleton Wiske Parish Council to cover financials and will talk to more councils. It was **resolved** the Clerk will circulate the current financial policy to all councillors
- c) JG/AWr to review the operations manual
- d) ES/AWr to visit Barclays Bank in Northallerton before the end of March to restart the process of getting read only access/ability to transfer funds between accounts for the Clerk
- e) Noted that a Range rover Discovery has been parked up on the left-hand side of the road on the Northallerton side of the Birkby bridge. The vehicle is causing a danger to traffic and if not removed will be reported to the Police

2503.15

Meeting Closed

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

Chairman signed.....14th April 2025