

EAST COWTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

2502.01

Present

Councillors: E Simpson (ES) (Chairman), J Green (JG), A Wragg (AWr), J Shields (JS), Councillor Wilkinson (AW), Clerk: J Walker (JW)

In Attendance

1 Member of the public

Apologies for Absence

H Robinson (HR)

2502.02

Disclosure of Interests

None

2502.03

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

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

2502.04

Chairman's Formal Announcements

None

2502.05

Police Report

Cllr Shields provided Councillors with a verbal report :

- a) A national amnesty will start on 28.02.25 for handing over blank hand guns to Police to prevent them being converted to live guns and present a danger
- b) On 29.01.25 a female was arrested in Northallerton on suspicion of shoplifting
- c) Police have issued an appeal following a motorcyclist failing to stop
- d) A cannabis farm has been found in Aiskew near Bedale following an alert for increase in utility usage. Police are asking public to be vigilant if they notice the smell of cannabis or curtains being permanently closed and to report the activity
- e) Two arrests have been made, vehicles and mobile phones seized in what Police believe to be county lines activity
- f) There has been an increase in agricultural diesel thefts and thieves are targeting Toyota Hilux vehicles
- g) Booking.com users are being targeted by scammers who are gaining access to email details
- h) Scam noted when QR codes are being scanned for car parking, recurring transactions are being set up
- i) A 31 year old female has been sentenced to 6 years and 8 months plus a 5 year driving ban for careless driving leading to the death of a cyclist on the AN near Bedale

Chairman signed.....10th March 2025

2502.06

Financial Accounts

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

Invoice Date	Description	£	Authority
11/02/2025	Clerk's wages – Feb	164.28	Local Government Act 1972, s112(2)
05/02/2025	Play area Fence Repairs	Up to £300	Open Spaces Act 1906, s10(b)

2502.07

Planning Applications

- a) Councillor Wilkinson advised that regards planning meetings there will be a full council meeting on 14.02.25 and the quarterly meeting will be held on 19.02.25 at which a number of consultations will be discussed. There will also be a public meeting in March to discuss the application for solar panels at Cross Rein Bank, it was resolved the Clerk will obtain clarification of the date.
- b) Dwellings Birkby Lane ZB24/00105/OT – ES advised that an email will be drafted and sent to the Case Officer and copying Mark Codman, Peter Jones and Councillor Wilkinson to advise that the appeal status is not visible on the planning website and to seek updates
- c) ES advised that the builders at the Bungalow Farm site have been able to avoid a road closure for essential works by being able to create the minimum width of 3.8m to allow traffic to pass on a two way traffic control system. Councillor Wilkinson added that if there are concerns on overruns an email can be sent to highways Streetworks and marked urgent for a quick response
- d) Full planning permission for a new detached residential dwelling and outbuildings on land off Raby Lane, East Cowton - ZB24/01763/FUL – ES advised there have been no updates to this application

2502.08

Vacancy Parish Councillor

It was **Resolved** that the Clerk will notify the elections team of the vacancy and advertise the post once confirmation to do so has been received

2502.09

Policies/Procedures

- a) Resolved the Clerk will circulate templates for Standing Orders to Councillors Green and Wragg to review alongside other small councils and make recommendations as to adoption of guidelines for ECPC
- b) Finance Policy – the Clerk advised that the current policy has been reviewed against the new Good Finance Guide and remains compliant. The Clerk agreed to circulate the guide if any councillor wishes to view it
- c) Resolved that JG will provide feedback on review of GDPR and the Transparency Compliance Code and recommend updates required in line with other small councils
- d) Resolved that any amended policies be sent to JS for upload to the website

Chairman signed.....10th March 2025

2502.10

Vehicle Parking

- a) JS confirmed there has been no response from the PCSO regards assistance with inconsiderate parking in the village
- b) The Police are hosting a Neighbourhood event in the M&S car park on 12.02.25, Councillor Wragg agreed to attend
- c) ES advised the problems at the junction with Birkby Lane have been exacerbated by site traffic and one solution may be the addition of yellow lines. ES to contact Deborah Flowers at Area 2 to invite Highways to attend a site visit
- d) ES asked that any instances of inconsiderate parking be photographed and sent to Councillor Shields for collation

2502.11

Public Participation

- a) Noted that the development behind Vineyard Terrace is not showing appeal details on the planning website
- b) Noted that the heavy plant arriving on the Birkby Lane site is causing diminishing verges and were any kerbs in the plan going forward. ES advised there is a requirement to repair any verge areas damaged by the traffic
- c) Noted increase in the number of bottles and cans being littered near Birkby, a sign placed by residents had been a deterrent
- d) Advised the placing of yellow lines restricting parking can still lead to fines if residents park between the lines and their dwelling
- e) South Tees Health Authority are outsourcing their parking management to 'Parking Eye' and if estimates stays are breached fines are being levied

2502.12

Date & Time of Next Meeting

10th February 2025 at 19:30 was agreed

2502.13

Any Other Business

- a) Councillor Wragg has visited Barclays Northallerton branch to ask for updated guidance on how to change the mailing address and allow read only access to the Clerk. Email to be sent to ES to outline the process
- b) Councillors agreed to the purchase of 4 posts and concrete for the repair of the damaged fence adjoining the play area. Resolved the Clerk will contact a local solicitor for advice on the ownership of the fence
- c) JG advised that whenever there have been storms recently the 4G signal is lost, noted that in last storm a mast had fallen

2502.14

Meeting Closed

There being no further business, ES closed the meeting at 20:35

Chairman signed.....10th March 2025