**EAST COTTINGWITH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held remotely by Zoom videoconferencing at**

**8.00pm on Thursday 11th March 2021**

**Note: Due to the Coronavirus pandemic emergency, and Government advice on holding public meetings, members of the public and the press were given direct access to the meeting and the opportunity to take part.**

**Present:** Councillors P. Rhodes (Chairman), N.Hobbs (Vice-Chairman),D. Griffith, S. Ashton,

C. Cornmell, P. Shervington ,C. Stevens

**In Attendance:** D. Cornmell (Parish Clerk)

**Members of the Public**: None

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

1. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present.

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST ORDINARY MEETING**

Proposed by the Vice-Chairman, seconded by Councillor Ashton, and agreed that the minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting, held remotely, on 14th January 2021, be accepted as a true record.

1. **ONGOING ITEM**
2. **Coronavirus: Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting**

The Clerk advised that notification had been received that a return to physical meetings would become effective from May. It would be necessary to arrange the Annual Parish Meeting; the Annual Meeting of the Council, as well as the next scheduled Ordinary Meeting, on 13th May. It was confirmed that the village hall was available on that date. **Resolved-** that a return to physical meetings be arranged, as from 13th May 2021.

**Action:** **Clerk**

1. **Hagg Bridge**

The Chairman hoped that the promised remedial work would be completed on time and the road re-opened by the 31st March.

1. **Jubilee Wood**

Councillor Griffith informed the meeting that further trees had been planted and an order placed for a replacement owl box. He sought Members approval to purchase a picnic bench from monies donated by Yorkshire Water. A discussion took place on the most appropriate type of bench; the best time to place the order and the steps to be taken to prepare the ground.

**Resolved –** that an order be placed in April for an 8ft wooden picnic bench, the cost to be met from monies donated by Yorkshire Water.

Councillor Shervington made mention of his earlier research into the problem of flooding in the vicinity of the wood as a result of blocked drains. A site meeting had been requested with a representative of the county council

**Action:** **Councillor Griffith/Councillor Shervington**

1. **Storwood Notice Board**

Councillor Shervington confirmed that he had the notice board and that a local parishioner would arrange to fix it on the bus shelter. The Vice-Chairman observed that there would be a need to liaise with him as he had possession of the keys for the old notice board.

**Action: Councillor Shervington/Vice-Chairman**

1. **Electricity Contracts**

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had been in contact with Npower seeking the final accounts. Problems had been encountered in bringing this about but it was hoped to receive the bills in the near future.

**Action: Clerk**

1. **Pot Holes**

The previously reported potholes, having been filled in Main Street, Green Lane, Swan Garth and Canal Lane, had re-appeared. ERYC had again been contacted, requesting that they be attended to. Also, that an assurance be given that cracks in the road surface in Postern Lane be looked at. As of the date of the meeting this had not been attended to and needed to be chased up.

**Action: Clerk**

1. **SIGNAGE**

Councillor Shervington acknowledged that he had previously expressed concern about the colour of lettering on a sign erected by the Canal and River Trust in Canal Lane, indicating ‘No Parking’. He had reflected on the matter and of greater concern was people parking in front of the sign and obstructing it. A better option was for vehicles to left in the village. Members were in agreement and Councillor Shervington indicated that he would write to the Canal and River Trust about the matter.

**Action: Councillor Shervington**

1. **LAND REGISTRY**

Members heard that a recent survey, undertaken by HM Land Registry, sought information concerning land held by parish councils and whether such land was registered. It would appear the Council’s land is not registered.

The Clerk referred to his early research, which indicated that if the Council were to pursue the matter there were legal considerations. These might best be addressed by seeking professional advice, which would have cost implications. The Vice-Chairman indicated that a similar situation existed with regard to land held by the Towns Land Trust. He agreed to make further enquiries and report back at the next meeting.

**Action:** **Vice-Chairman**

1. **BROADBAND**

Attention was drawn to the fast fibre roll out programme. Currently, Kingston Communications (KCOM) was seeking to establish whether or not there was a demand in Melbourne and the surrounding area. The Vice-Chairman had made contact with a representative from that company who had offered to attend a future meeting of the Council. Councillor Cornmell commented that it would be useful to make parishioners aware of the programme as it would appear that it was necessary to have at least 30% interest. It was agreed that a representative from KCOM be invited to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting: details of the programme to be published on the Council’s website.

**Action: Vice-Chairman/Councillor Ashton**

1. **COMMUNITY RECOVERY GRANT**

Early notification had been received from Ward Councillor Leo Hammond about a grant scheme being made available by the county council. He asked that consideration be given to putting forward suitable projects. The Vice-Chairman agreed to make the Village Hall Committee aware of this. Councillor Cornmell offered to work with the committee if it was decided to make a bid for this funding.

**Action: Vice-Chairman/Councillor Cornmell**

1. **RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY**

The Clerk confirmed that he had carried out a review of the Council’s Risk Management Policy and no changes were necessary.

**Resolved-** that the current policy remain unchanged.

1. **RISK ASSESSMENT**

Consideration was given to the quarterly review of risks faced by the Council.

**Resolved-** that the current risk assessment be accepted.

**Action:** **Chairman/Clerk**

1. **ASSET REGISTER**

It was reported that there had been no change in the Council’s assets since the last review.

**Resolved-** that the Asset Register remain unchanged.

1. **FINANCE**
2. Bank reconciliation

Balance at 1/4/2020 £ 4,478.28

+ Receipts to date £ 9,751.00

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£ 14,229.28

Current Account Balance at 11/3/2021 £ 4,174.94

1. Payments

Payments made since last meeting:

15/1/21 Image Playgrounds – Repairs £ 918.00

9/2/21 Eon -Electricity £ 21.81

9/2/21 D.J.Cornmell- Clerk’s Expenses £ 28.78

8/3/21 ERYC – Play Area Lease £ 92.00

10/3/21FCC Recycling -Village Hall Donation £ 1300.00

**TOTAL £2,360.59**

1. Receipts

NIL

1. Financial Report

The Clerk/RFO presented an up-to-date account of the Council’s finances.

1. Appointment of Auditor

The Clerk/RFO confirmed that the parishioner who had previously carried out the audit of accounts was prepared to do so again.

**Resolved –** that the parishioner concerned be appointed to carry out an audit of the parish council’s accounts for the financial period 2020/2021.

**Action: Clerk/RFO**

1. **PLANNING**
2. Applications

The following applications were considered:

(i)21/00416/PLF-Erection of single storey extension to rear: Beacon House, Canal Lane, East Cottingwith YO42 4TJ

**Resolved-** that there be no objection to the proposals.

(ii)21/00526/PLF-Erection of single storey extension to side and rear and erection of garage following demolition of existing garage: Midway, Green Lane, East Cottingwith YO42 4TT

**Resolved-** that there be no objection to the proposals.

(iii)21/00451/TCA-East Cottingwith Conservation Area: Crown reduce 1 no. Apple tree by pruning back to previous pollard points; Crown reduce 2 no. Birch trees and 1 no. Cherry tree by 2 metres due to branches overhanging walkway; Crown reduce 1.no. group of Beech trees by lateral pruning branches to provide 2.5 metre clearance from the house due to branches touching the house and overhanging public walkway and gas tank: Beechwood House, 3 St Marys Close, East Cottingwith YO42 4TZ

**Resolved-** that there be no objection to the tree work.

**Action:** **Clerk**

1. Permission

The following permission was noted.

(i)20/03869/PLF-Change of holiday cottage to permanent residential dwelling: The Old Cowshed, Rossmoor Farm, Hagg Lane, Storwood YO42 4SY

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**

A list of correspondence, received since the last Ordinary Meeting, was noted.

1. **MEMBERS REPORTS**

Councillor Stevens reported that the missing signage on the finger posts had been replaced.

1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Annual Parish Meeting: 8.00pm,Thursday 13th May 2021.

Annual Meeting: To follow on.

Ordinary Meeting: To follow on.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.