**PARISH OF EAST COTTINGWITH**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall, East Cottingwith**

**at 8.00 pm on Thursday 11th May 2023**

**Present:**  Ten (10) parishioners, including the Chairman of the parish council.

**In Attendance:** David Cornmell, Clerk to the Council

1. **OPENING ADDRESS**

The outgoing Chairman of the parish council, Peter Rhodes, assumed the Chair and welcomed parishioners to the meeting.

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 12th MAY 2022**

The Minutes of the last Parish Meeting, held on Thursday 12th May 2022 and approved on 14th July 2022, were read and noted.

1. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

1. **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Peter Rhodes, the outgoing Chairman of the parish council, presented his Annual Report, in relation to the work of the Council, for the period 2022/2023. He touched upon his time as a parish councillor and Chairman and extended thanks to the present and former parish councillors who had supported him, including those who had acted as Clerk to the Council. A copy of his report is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

1. **REPORT OF THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER TO THE PARISH COUNCIL**

David Cornmell, Clerk/RFO, presented his Annual Report, in relation to the financial position of the parish council, for the period 2022/2023, together with a detailed balance sheet. He answered a number of questions raised by parishioners in relation to the Council’s bankers and how the precept was formulated. A copy of the report is attached as an Appendix to these Minutes.

1. **LETTING OF THE LANES**

It was agreed to let the lanes as follows:

Mill Lane: Peter Shervington

Walloways Lane: John Barlow

Langrickgate Lane: Peter Shervington

Ings Lane: David Griffith

Postern Lane: Carol Stevens

1. **BROADBAND**

Neil Hobbs was pleased to report that KCOM had completed the fast-fibre broadband project. As part of the scheme, the company had installed its fastest broadband package in the village hall, completely free of charge, as part of its community programme.

1. **PLAY AREA**

Clare Cornmell referred to twelve good years of use of the equipment in the play area but, as some of it was in need of repair, choices had to be made as to the kind of replacements needed. She called for volunteers to join with her in forming a Working Group to consider future use of the play area and play equipment. The Working Group would, in due course, report to the parish council with its findings. It was agreed to use social media in an effort to get the Working Group up and running.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

John Barlow referred to the footpath on the river bank and, in particular, Natural England’s stance in trying to prevent the public from using the path. Both Bubwith and Ellerton and Aughton parish councils had challenged Natural England on this and made application to East Riding Council for the footpath to be included on the definitive map. It was a matter of regret that East Cottingwith parish council had chosen not to do so. He also made mention of the fact that Natural England had posted notices on land, which it did not own, and had locked gates, in an attempt to prevent the public from using the path. He called upon the parish council to take a more robust stance on this matter. Joan Burnett referred to the fact that 20 years use of the path by the public established it as a right of way. Neil Hobbs indicated that there were two distinct issues here. Firstly, use of the path as a public footpath and secondly, the matter of Natural England’s use of signage to deter use of the path. The Chairman agreed that both issues should feature as agenda items at a future meeting of the parish council.

Joan Burnett felt that better use of the Parish Newsletter was needed to highlight this and other issues relating to the parish.

1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

8.00pm, Thursday 9th May 2024

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.49pm.