

EAST COTTINGWITH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Yvonne Eggleston, Windrush, Main Street, Sutton upon Derwent, YO41 4BN
Email: eastcottpc@gmail.com Tel No: 01904 608453

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council, held on Thursday 14th November 2024 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall, East Cottingwith.

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs N Hobbs (Chair), C Stevens, D Griffith, C Cornmell, S Jones, D Parapen, T Verity
Ward Cllrs L Hammond, P West
22 parishioners

061/24 To record any apologies for absence: Ward Cllr D Carey

062/24 Declarations of Interest: None

063/24 To hear any matters raised by attending parishioners:

Myleen Leah Solar Farm: representatives of Statkraft gave a short presentation on the proposed Solar Farm which was then followed by a Q&A session.

Cllr Hobbs stressed that the purpose of the meeting was to gain information from Statkraft and was not to be used as a platform to object to the proposed project. The reason for this is that the formal consultation exercise will not take place until summer 2025.

The project is in the early stage of design which will change and evolve over time. Formal consultation will begin next year. ERYC will be part of the consultee stage. Statkraft is keen to listen to the concerns of the locals and will take their comments on board.

On-site assessment began last year with an ecology report having been started. Archaeology and geophysical reports are to be carried out. Reports will include landscaping packs and housing amenities.

The site will be capable of producing 500 megawatts of power and will house a substation. There will not be any battery storage on the site.

An extensive flood risk and drainage assessment will be conducted.

There are 90 homes near the proposed development which have all been leafleted. The landowners on whose land the solar panels and other infrastructure will be placed have all agreed to the use of their land.

Statkraft can be granted Compulsory Purchase Order powers once the scheme is approved as National important infrastructure - they don't have that right yet.

The final proposal will be submitted late 2025/early 2026 to the Planning Inspectorate and then to the Secretary of State.

Questions were asked about the use of good agricultural land for solar panels. Statkraft have advice that less than 15% of the land at issue is classified as good agricultural land. They say that this location is important because of its proximity to the Thornton Greener Grid Park and onward connection to the National Grid. 2900 acres are required for the site.

Questions were also asked about flooding, the drainage of rain falling onto and from the solar panels and the impact on the varied wildlife in the area, especially resident and migratory birds. Statkraft say that they are taking specialist advice about all of these issues. Funds will be allocated to mitigate the impact of the proposal on the area and there is a commitment to provide a minimum of 10% biodiversity gain.

Consultation and planning approval is likely to take 2 years then construction, a further 2 years.

Website: Cllr Stevens explained that the current problems with the website, which parishioners have not been able to access, are because of an issue with ERYC's systems. Meanwhile, parishioners can submit any queries to the Parish Councillors.

Play Area: the land is leased from ERYC. The play equipment is listed on the Parish Council's Asset Register.

Speed limit: it is noted that East Cottingwith is the only village in the area without a speed limit. Cllr West pointed out that the presence of street lighting indicates a 30mph automatically. It is

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Possible to request speed limit signage. Cllrs Hammond and West will take the matter back to ERYC. **LH, PW**

A portable speed indicator device (SID) scheme has been set up which is funded by the Police And Crime Commissioner. The speed signage information being looked into is exploratory at this stage and no decisions have been made. It is understood, however, that it would be possible to share the costs with a neighbouring village.

Attendance: Cllrs Hammond and West informed the meeting that they will now be able to attend Parish Council meetings more regularly as North Cliffe now has a full Parish Council made up of parishioners.

Devolution: the Devolution deal has now been signed off. This should help the agricultural economy and local roads. Mayoral elections will take place on 1st May 2025.

Taskforce Schedule: visits will no longer be carried out biennially automatically. Issues can be raised through the Parish Open Door hub. Cllr West will forward details to the Clerk. **PW**

Public Participation: a request to remove the 10 minute limit for Public Participation was made.

064/24 To approve and sign the Minutes of the September meeting:

The Minutes were agreed by all and signed by Cllr Hobbs.

065/24 To discuss any matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting that are not elsewhere on the Agenda:

- i. Jubilee Wood – update: Cllr Griffiths thanked Cllr Jones for building a bench which was then erected with the help of Cllr Parapen. Thanks were also given to the volunteer group that cut the hedge.
Some new poles are required for the fence. Cllr Griffiths also proposed that a small pack of trees be obtained and planted to fill any gaps. He will submit an application to the woodland Trust. All agreed. **DG**
- ii. Langrickgate- the Clerk will report and submit photos to ERYC of the hedge which is sticking out and is now so high that there is a risk that the power cables will be shorted out. **YE**
- iii. Road Sign – Redcap Lane: this is still outstanding. The Clerk will chase ERYC. **YE**
- iv. Engagement with the Local Community - Newsletter/Emails: Cllr Jones reported that all the changes had been made though there was a little bit of tweaking required. A final proof read then needs to be done. It is anticipated that the new website will go live in 2 weeks' time.

066/24 Agenda Items:

- i. Mylen Leah Solar Farm: see Public Participation
- ii. Play Area: Cllr Cornmell reported on the Annual Inspection Report. Within the Report, there are no findings which have are red risk and therefore need immediate attention. Several items in the Play Area required some maintenance, either of a low or medium risk nature.
Cllr Cornmell proposed that she purchase any necessary low cost items required to make the necessary repairs. All agreed.
The grass cutting contractor will be asked to trim back the bordering hedge which is overhanging some of the play items. **YE**
The problem of moles will be addressed in the new year. Jet-washing the equipment will be considered in Spring.
Cllr Cornmell proposed setting up a Working Group with interested parishioners which would meet to discuss ideas for the future and look at possible funding streams. She will report back at the March 2025 meeting. **CC**
- iii. Road Maintenance: the Clerk will ask ERYC why Ings Lane has been removed from the

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grass cutting schedule and ask that it is put back on. **YE**

A link to report potholes will be put on the website.

iv. Budget 2025-26: the Clerk circulated a proposed budget for the forthcoming financial year.

It was agreed that the Precept for 2025-26 should be kept at £8800 with a transfer made from the Reserves if necessary.

067/24 Financial Reports:

- a. Bank Reconciliation – signed by Parish Councillor
- b. Receipts: Precept - £4400.00
- c. To note and approve any requests for payment received:

Clerk's salary (September and October) - £272.84

Clerk's Travel (November) - £5.80

Grass cutting (September and October) - £422.40

Playing Field Annual Inspection - £122.40

HMRC (Months 6&7) - £68.20

Increase in Playing Field lease - £31.00

Proposed: Cllr Verity Seconded: Cllr Jones

068/24 To note and process any Planning Matters:

Applications to consider: None

Applications Considered: None

Notices of Approval:

Erections of 2 dwellings with associated garages following demolition of outbuildings (revised scheme of 23/02666/PLF) – Land west of Rose Garth, Main Street, East Cottingwith – 24/01524/PLF

Remove 1no. Medlar tree as it is dying and has fallen over following flooding in the garden - Briar Dene Main Street East Cottingwith – 24/02871/TDD

Fell 3no. Poplar trees and 1no. Thuja tree due to health and safety concerns arising from windy conditions - Hall Garth Farm Church Lane East Cottingwith – 24/02385/TCA

Crown lift 1no. Sycamore tree (T1) by 2 metres on the field side to balance the tree and to abate nuisance low branches over the paddock fence - Middleton House Middleton Farm Main Street East Cottingwith – 24/02193/TPO

Crown reduce 2 no. rows of Hornbeam trees (G1) by 2 metres to re-pollard the trees back to previous pollard points for maintenance - Middleton House Middleton Farm Main Street East Cottingwith – 24/02213/TCA

Notices of Withdrawal: None

Notice of Refusals: None

069/24 To hear and note any Correspondence Matters:

- i. Annual survey of rough sleepers – 21st November 2024
- ii. Community Governance Review Implementation Plan Briefing – 26th November
- iii. NALC Pay Award notification 2024
- iv. ERYC Housing Needs Survey
- v. Apology from Barclays Bank

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070/24 Members Reports: See elsewhere

071/24 To conduct any other business by consent of the Chairman under the Local Government Act 1972:

072/24 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting:

Thursday 9th January 2025 at 8.00pm

Agenda items to be with the Clerk by Friday 3rd January 2025.

Meeting closed at 10.00pm