**East Cottingwith Parish Council**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 14th January 2016 in the village hall at 8pm**

**Present**: Peter Rhodes (Chair), Steve Ashton, Clare Cornmell, Dave Griffith, Julie Harrison, Neil Hobbs, Duncan Morter; Noel Joy (Clerk).

**1. Declarations of interest**

Clare Cornmell declared an interest in discussions on Ecopa’s financial arrangements with the Council.

**2. Planning Application** – Sycamore House – ref 15/03769/PLB

In Duncan Morter’s absence, it was agreed to support this application, subject to any advice from the conservation officer.

**3**. The **minutes** of the meeting held on 12th November 2015, including the addendum on Jubilee Wood, were signed as a correct record.

**4. Matters arising** not on agenda:

A letter of thanks had been received from the Village Hall Committee for the Council’s recent donation (Minute 7)

Julie Harrison agreed to seek professional advice on ensuring the safety of the switching equipment for the electricity supply to the Christmas tree lights, and to obtain quotations for any additional work which may be needed. Peter Rhodes and Neil Hobbs would arrange for the Christmas tree to be removed. A letter of thanks would be sent to Mr and Mrs McClure for the gift of the tree (Minute 8)

Noel Joy would arrange for paint to be provided for cosmetic repairs to the defibrillator case (Minute 9)

**5. Finance matters**

It was noted that the current balance was £9615. Before the year end there would be two more payments in (Ecopa Insurance and Mr Beever’s rent), and two more payments out (lease of playing field and use of village hall), giving an end of year balance of around £9900.

For **Ecopa**, it was agreed that the payment still due in this financial year would be made; but **resolved** (with 5 votes in favour, and two abstentions\*) that from 2016/17 onwards, the Council would bear the full cost of Ecopa’s insurance and Rospa inspection.

*(\*It was confirmed after the meeting that voting intentions had been 5 in favour, 1 against, and 1 abstention)*

After examining likely income and expenditure for 2016/17, it was agreed to **set the precept for 2016/17 at £5,000**. ERYC would be informed accordingly.

In Noel Joy’s absence, it was agreed that his annual payment be increased by £150.

**6. Planning matters**

The decision to approve the planning application in respect of School House (ref 15/03127/PLB) was confirmed.

The projector had been received. It would be kept by Steve Ashton, and could be made available for community groups to use in the village hall.

**7. Grass cutting**

On the understanding that 2015/16 prices would be held, it was agreed to award the 2016/17 contract to George Fillingham and Sons, of Hook Moor Farm, Rawcliffe Bridge, Goole, on the same basis as the contract for 2015/16.

**8. Jubilee Wood**

It was **resolved** that arrangements would now proceed in accordance with the addendum to the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November.

Precise boundaries of the site had been confirmed.

Although help from Askham Bryan was not currently available, a tree planting programme could now commence, possibly with assistance from the East Riding Conservation Group. A phased programme would be appropriate, with the best trees planted first; and consideration would be given to growing some Christmas trees for future use in the Parish.

**9. Roads and paths**

A report based on the Village Taskforce Survey was received and endorsed. The Council expressed its concern about the state of some highways in the Parish, as detailed in the report, and hoped that it would be possible for the highways department to take urgent remedial action.

Julie Harrison raised an additional problem about flooding on Langrickgate Lane, caused by the absence of grips, and it was agreed to draw the attention of the highways department to this matter.

**10. Fracking**

The Council received a briefing note from Duncan Morter. It was agreed that the Council would keep informed about any developments; make any comments through normal channels to ERYC; and if and when necessary, judge each planning application on its merits.

**11. Neighbourhood Planning**

It was agreed that the Council required no further involvement.

**12. Other correspondence** received, November and December 2015

A list was noted. Particular attention was drawn to a nil return for rough sleepers in the Parish; a final decision that a 30mph limit in the village would not proceed; a letter of thanks from Martin House Children’s Hospice for a donation of £130; and a register of electors updated to December 2015.

**13. Any other business:** Dave Griffith would arrange for minor repairs to the guttering on the bus shelter.

**14**. Date of next meeting: **10th March 2016.**