**EAST COTTINGWITH PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**8.00pm on Thursday 12th March 2020**

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

C. Cornmell, P. Shervington, C. Stevens

**In Attendance:** D. Cornmell (Parish Clerk), Ward Councillor L.Hammond

**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**

Ward Councillor Hammond introduced himself to the meeting. As a parish councillor himself, he appreciated some of the issues facing parish councils. He asked if he could help with any matter which was causing concern. Members put forward a number of points, in particular, the utter contempt in the manner in which the Council had been treated by East Riding of Yorkshire Council(ERYC) with regard to repairs at Hagg Bridge and road closures. Promises made by the Principal Highway Engineer had not been kept and poor communication between the county council and the parish council was of real concern. Mention was made of any penalty clause in the contract at Hagg Bridge and whether the scheme could be postponed until the Coronavirus situation had been resolved. Councillor Hammond gave an assurance that he would take forward this and the other matters raised which included the state of the footpath in Langrickgate Lane; deterioration of road edging and potholes in Church Lane and Main Street and the position with regards to the privately owned land to the rear of the telephone box, which was an eyesore in the Conservation Area.

Councillor Hammond was thanked for attending the meeting and for his offer of help.

Councillor Hammond left the meeting.

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST ORDINARY/EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS**

Proposed by the Vice-Chairman, seconded by Councillor Ashton and agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting, held on 9th January 2020, and the minutes of the Extraordinary Meetings, held on 5th and 24th February 2020, be accepted as a true record.

1. **ONGOING ITEMS**
2. **Hagg Bridge**

Whilst main matters of concern were raised with Councillor Hammond, Councillor Shervington raised the issue of those children who attended the school in Sutton upon Derwent. An earlier promise, to look at providing a bus service from the Sutton side of the bridge to school, had been overlooked. He asked if this could be taken up with Councillor Hammond and the county council. It was also agreed that ERYC be contacted as a matter of urgency and asked to postpone the start date until such time as the Coronavirus situation was resolved, there being grave concern that, in the case of a medical emergency, there was likely to be a lengthy delay in a response from the ambulance service. In addition, repair work could be delayed as a result of the workforce falling ill.

**Action: Clerk**

1. **Neighbourhood Watch**

Councillor Ashton reported that he continued to circulate matters of interest on facebook and the Council’s website.

1. **Jubilee Wood**

Councillor Griffith mentioned that the wood was still under water. He had learned that there had been a pond on the site at some time in the past and that the land had also been used for various other purposes. Councillor Shervington made mention of the ditch alongside, which was full of water, and other areas nearby which were waterlogged. He undertook to research the origins of the drains in proximity of the site and report back.

**Action: Councillor Shervington**

1. **Storwood Notice Board**

Councillor Shervington indicated that he would liaise with the Chairman after the meeting, with a view to establishing the feasibility of using the notice board as a replacement for the one in the village.

**Action: Chairman/Councillor Shervington**

1. **Overgrown Verges/Hedges**

It was reported that a contractor employed by the county council had attended to the overgrown trees in Langrickgate Lane and made an excellent job.

1. **Emergency Plan**

Councillor Ashton confirmed that a copy of the plan had been placed in the phone box and a further copy forwarded to the Emergency Planning Officer.

1. **Memorial: Soldier of World War II**

Councillor Ashton reported that he still awaited delivery of the memorial.

**Action: Councillor Ashton**

1. **VE DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY COMMUNITY FUND**

Councillor Cornmell confirmed that she had made application for funding and was awaiting a reply.

**Action: Councillor Cornmell**

1. **CORONAVIRUS**

Members were advised of the latest situation and the likely effects the disease would have on the workings of the parish council. The Clerk made mention of advice received from East Riding and North Lincolnshire Local Councils Association (ERNLLCA),in relation to the need for parish councils to consider contingency measures in the event that an emergency is declared including alternatives to public meetings. Councillor Shervington expressed concern about the effect on local democracy of a temporary cession of public meetings and suggested that any provision for alternative decision-making arrangements should be limited specifically to circumstances where specific government advice in relation to the Covid-19 virus outbreak prevented a public meeting taking place. A debate took place on this issue when the following was agreed, ‘In the event that, as a result of the current Covid-19 virus outbreak, the parish council is legally prohibited from holding a public meeting, or “where to hold such a meeting would be in breach of advice issued by Public Health England” the parish council reserves the right to undertake its business by such alternative means as appropriate to the circumstances, including by granting additional authority to the Clerk. The parish council shall continue to notify the public of any meetings and of its decisions in the normal manner’. **Resolved –** should the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer become incapacitated, Councillor Cornmell to carry out those duties.

**Action: All Councillors/Clerk**

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 needed.

**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 1/4/2019 £ 8,851.76

+ Receipts to date £ 6,605.42

…………………………..

£15,457.18

* Payments to date £ 9,196.36
* Unpresented cheques. £ 1,336.19

………………………….

£10,532.55

Current Account Balance at 12/3/2020 £ 4,924.63

1. Payments

Proposed by Councillor Stevens, seconded by the Vice-Chairman and r**esolved** that the following payments be made:

ERYC – Play Area Lease £ 92.00

D. J. Cornmell – £ 285.95

Clerk’s Salary/Expenses

HMRC – PAYE £ 68.40

TOTAL £ 446.35

1. Receipts

Nil

1. Financial Report

The Clerk/RFO, presented an update on the Council’s finances for the current financial year.

1. Appointment of Auditor

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

**Resolved –** that the parishioner concerned be appointed to carry out an audit of the Council’s accounts for the financial period 2019/2020.

**Action: Clerk/RFO**

1. **PLANNING**
2. Application

The following application was considered:

(i)20/00740/PLF: Change of use of land and piggery building to use ancillary to dwelling-Rossmoor Barn, Main Street, Melbourne YO42 4SZ

**Resolved –** that the application be best dealt with by Melbourne Parish Council.

**Action:** **Clerk**

1. Permissions

The following permissions were noted:

(i)19/03127/PLF-Installation of a biomass heating system within existing agricultural building(retrospective): Ball Hall, Ball Hall Lane, Storwood

YO42 4TD

(2)19/04176/TCA - Crown lift 2 no. Ash trees

(No. 2 and No. 4) by removing six lower limbs due to branches obstructing farm vehicles passing down the lane adjacent to the property and over shadowing the garden in the summer; Crown reduce 1 no. Willow tree (No. 5) due to close proximity to the property: Ings Cottage, Ings Lane, East Cottingwith YO42 4TW

1. Withdrawal:

The following withdrawal was noted:

(i)18/03513/PLF -Erection of an agricultural building: Cherry Tree Farm, Postern Lane, East Cottingwith YO42 4TG

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

1. **MEMBERS REPORTS**

There were no reports.

1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm, Thursday 14th May 2020

Annual Meeting: To follow on.

Ordinary Meeting: Tio follow on.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm.