**EAST COTTINGWITH PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**8.00pm on Thursday 12th September 2019**

**Present:** Councillors P. Rhodes (Chairman), S. Ashton, D.Griffith, C. Cornmell,

 P. Shervington, C. Stevens

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

**Members of the Public:** 1

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from the N. Hobbs (Vice-Chairman)

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Cornmell declared an interest in respect of item 12 (a) (i)

1. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The member of the public raised the issue of overgrown verges and hedges which had been a contributing factor in a near-miss road accident involving a tractor and a car.

It was agreed to bring forward :

**item 6:** **Overgrown Verges/Hedges.**

The member of the public requested the support of the parish council in ensuring that verges and overhanging trees/shrubbery, at various locations within the village, be cut-back. He pointed out that an official from the County Council had already visited the village and identified several locations where remedial work was needed. Where an owner could not be found, the County Council would carry out this work.

After a lengthy debate, it was agreed that the parish council would write to ERYC, as Highway Authority, and request its assistance in dealing with this matter.

**Action: Clerk**

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

Proposed by Councillor Ashton, seconded by Councillor Stevens, and agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting, held on 11th July 2019, be accepted as a true record. Proposed by Councillor Cornmell, seconded by Councillor Griffith, and agreed that the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting, held on 25th July 2019, be accepted as a true record.

1. **ONGOING ITEMS**
2. **Neighbourhood Watch**

Councillor Ashton reported that he continued to circulate items of interest, either through the Council’s website or facebook. He had not yet been able to establish whether the person who was prepared to act as Co-ordinator for Storwood was able to act in the same capacity for East Cottingwith.

**Action: Councillor Ashton**

1. **Tenancy of Council land**

Details of the proposed tenancy agreement had not been received from the Land Agent. The Chairman confirmed that he would pursue the matter with a view to bringing it to a conclusion.

**Action: Chairman**

1. **Jubilee Wood: its status within the parish council**

Councillor Griffith updated members on recent developments associated with the upkeep of the wood. Arrangements were in hand with Yorkshire Water to supply a suitable bench, to be sited in the wood. Of the different types, it was agreed that a wooden bench would be most appropriate. He sought permission for additional funding of £100, to be used to purchase further specimens for planting in the Autumn.

**Resolved –** that Yorkshire Water be invited to supply a wooden bench and that funding of £100 be allocated for the wood. Purchase of a suitable Christmas tree, for this year, to be considered at the next meeting.

**Action:** **Councillor Griffith/Clerk**

1. **Storwood Notice Board**

The Chairman reported that there was a change of heart as to the need for a notice board in Storwood. Following debate, about an alternate site, it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

**Action: Clerk**

1. **Roadworks/footpaths Langrickgate**

The Clerk confirmed that he had written to the contractor with a view to the hedge being cut-back in the early part of the new year. The fact that this location was one identified by the Highway Authority as in need of urgent attention, this order may have to be rescinded.

**Action: Clerk**

1. **Access to the Ings**

The meeting heard that Natural England had confirmed that the public had an unfettered right of access to the path which crossed the Ings.

Arrangements were in hand to change the signage to better reflect the situation.

1. **Pension Scheme**

Confirmation of the Council’s registration details had been received from the Pension Regulator. The Clerk, the Council’s only employee, was not eligible for automatic enrolment.

1. **OVERGROWN VERGES/HEDGES**

Dealt with under public participation.

1. **STREET LIGHTING:MAINTENANCE**

A recent inspection of street lighting, carried out by the County Council, had revealed that three lighting brackets did not comply with current requirements. The cost of replacing the brackets, associated lighting units and re-connection to the supply, amounted to £944.16 (excluding VAT). There was no provision for this unexpected expenditure in the current budget. **Resolved –** that monies from the Council’s contingency budget be used for this purpose.

The inspection also detected that overgrown foliage around light number 3 in Church Lane (opposite the village hall) was restricting output. It was recommended that the owner be invited to attend to this matter. Councillor Shervington indicated that there was a real danger of the shrubbery concerned falling onto the road if not attended to.

**Action: Clerk**

The Clerk reported that notification had been received from ERYC that an increase of 1.5% would be applied to the Council’s Level 2 Service Level Agreement, with effect from 1st April 2020. **Resolved –** that on expiry of the existing contracts with Npower, in December 2020, the Council move to Level 1 Service Level Agreement, which would achieve considerable savings in the cost of electricity. **Action: Clerk**

1. **DATA PROTECTION**

Notification had been received from the Information Commissioner’s Office that the Council’s registration certificate was due to expire in the near future.

**Resolved-** that the renewal fee of £40 be paid.

**Action: Clerk**

1. **FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

Consideration was given to proposed revised Financial Regulations, as recommended by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). Following deliberations, it was agreed to accept some but not all of the changes.

**Resolved –** that the revised Financial Regulations be adopted.

**Action:** **Clerk**

1. **EMERGENCY PLAN**

Following a request from the County Council’s Emergency Planning Officer, it was agreed to revise the existing arrangements and complete a new plan. Councillor Ashton agreed to look into the matter.

**Action: Councillor Ashton**

1. **FINANCE**
2. Bank reconciliation

Balance at 1/4/2019 £8,851.76

+ Receipts to date £5,435.79

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 £14,287.55

* Payments to date £. 4,681.90

Current Account Balance at 12/9/19 £. 9,605.65

**Resolved –** As a non-signatory of the Council’s cheques, Councillor Stevens be nominated to scrutinise future bank reconciliations.

**Action:** **Councillor Stevens**

1. Payments

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

A.J.C. Hallis £ 50.00

Pest Control

Information Commissioner £ 40.00

Renewal- Registration Certificate

David Cornmell -Clerk’s Expenses £ 30.52

Postage / Travelling

TOTAL £120.52

1. Receipts

HMRC VAT Repayment £ 84.79

1. Financial Report

The Clerk/RFO, presented Members with an update of the Council’s current financial position.

1. **PLANNING**

**Councillor Cornmell declared an interest in this item, in as much as her garden adjoined the applicant’s property. She took no part in the debate.**

1. Application

The following application was considered:

1. 19/03064/TCA: Fell 3x Conifers; the 2 in the front garden have started to interfere with telephone wires and the root system will start to have an impact on the structure of the dwelling, the 1 in the rear garden is in close proximity to the property and its roots have invaded the greenhouse, felling this tree would allow additional light into the neighbour’s garden.

**Resolved** – that there be no objection to this tree work.

**Action**: **Clerk**

1. Permissions

The following permissions were noted:

1. 19/02085/TCA: Remove dead, diseased or dis-functional materials from Orchard trees (Apple; Pear; Plum; Damson)-The Elms, Green Lane, East Cottingwith YO42 4TT
2. 19/01713/PLF: Erection of single storey extension to rear following demolition of existing conservatory-Briar Dene, Main Street, East Cottingwith YO42 4TN
3. 19/02259/PLF –Erection of single storey extension to side and re-build front elevation: Oakland Farm, General Lane, Melbourne YO42 4SY
4. 19/01724/PLF –Change of use of land for the siting of 4 log cabins. Paradise Leisure Ltd, Ball Hall Lane, Storwood, York YO42 4TD
5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

The following was considered:

23/7/19 -ERYC: Nomination sought of a parish councillor to serve on the Standards Committee: **Declined**

16/8/19 – ERYC: Authority sought for parish councillors e-mail addresses to be provided for the purpose of circulating a proposed Newsletter: **Declined**

10/9/19- Humber & Wolds Rural Action: Invitation to join membership: **Declined**

11/9/19- ERYC: Continuation of Parish Transport Champion: **Accepted**

**Action Clerk**

1. **MEMBERS REPORTS**

Councillor Ashton reported that the Parochial Church Council was close to finalising arrangements for a memorial to a former parishioner, killed in the Second World War. There was the likelihood of a financial commitment falling on the parish council, but not budgeted for: to be considered as an Agenda item at the next meeting. **Action**: **Councillor Ashton/Clerk**

It was reported that a floral display in the village had brought much colour and enjoyment during the Summer months. It was agreed that a letter of appreciation should be sent to the parishioner concerned.

**Action: Clerk**

The Chairman paid tribute to all those persons involved in organising or taking part in the Village Feast, held the previous weekend and which had been such a huge success.

1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

8.00pm, Thursday 14th November 2019

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.