**EAST COTTINGWITH PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**8.00pm on Thursday 9th January 2020**

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

 P. Shervington, C. Stevens

**In Attendance:** D. Cornmell (Parish Clerk), P.Smith (ERYC Highways Dept.)

**Members of the Public**: 4

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C. Cornmell

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Griffith declared an interest in item 9(a) and took no part in the debate.

1. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It was agreed that item **5 (a), Hagg Bridge,** be brought forward and members of the public be invited to comment. In welcoming Phillip Smith, from East Riding Council’s Highways Department, the Chairman expressed his deep disappointment at the manner in which the county council had treated the parish council. Firstly, news of the intended road closure was gained through a facebook announcement originating from a neighbouring village and then the proposed closure date and diversionary route was posted by another neighbouring parish council. East Cottingwith had not been kept informed of developments, despite an assurance that this would be the case. Representations made to the Leader of the County Council; Ward Councillors and the local MP had not received any response: this portrayed the parish council in a bad light so far as its parishioners were concerned. In offering an apology, Mr Smith explained that, following planning consent, his Department had put the scheme out to tender, with a return date of 13th January. A provisional start date had been given and a time-scale of seven months. A temporary bridge had been considered but at a cost of £500,000, was ruled-out in favour of a diversionary route via the A1079.It was accepted that a diversion amounting to 13-14 miles would cause considerable disruption and inconvenience but for safety reasons it was necessary to close the road whilst work was in progress: a crossing would be maintained for pedestrians and cyclists. In reply to a query regarding a penalty clause, if the work was not completed on time, he was unable to confirm this at present. A member of the public recalled her experience of a similar road closure at the bridge in 1977. The then Humberside Authority dismissed the idea of putting in a temporary crossing but the villagers went ahead and did so themselves at nothing like the cost being put forward now.

Councillor Shervington gave a detailed account of the steps taken by the parish council and parishioners in staging a traffic count; undertaking a household survey and carrying out a feasibility study of providing a temporary crossing. He asked whether the County Council had carried out a detailed analysis of the environmental impact and cost benefit of putting in a temporary bridge as opposed to a lengthy diversionary route, which would see vehicles having to travel through Melbourne and Allerthorpe to access the A1079. There was also the possibility of the Thornton canal crossing being used as a rat-run. Mr Smith was unable to give a satisfactory answer to the questions posed but referred to other, more major schemes, where a temporary bridge had not been provided. Other questions put to him by members of the public and Councillors were best summarised by the Vice-Chairman:- specific answers were needed to the questions posed by the parish council and the legitimate concerns of the parish council and the public needed to be properly addressed. The Chairman asked that consideration also be given to providing a permanent new bridge, to be built alongside the existing Grade Listed structure. In thanking Mr Smith for attending, it was agreed that he would go away and re-visit the costing of putting in a temporary bridge; address the legitimate points being raised about the environmental impact of the diversionary route; its effect on neighbouring communities; whether there was a penalty clause in the contract and provide a written response to the parish council.

Mr Smith left the meeting.

A member of the public wished to draw attention to the drainage ditch outside the play area which needed attending to. The Clerk agreed to contact the county council and ask that it be cleared out.

**Action: Clerk**

The members of the public left the meeting.

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

Proposed by the Vice-Chairman seconded by Councillor Stevens and agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting, held on 14th November 2019, and the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting, held on 26th November 2019, be accepted as a true record.

1. **ONGOING ITEMS**
2. **Hagg Bridge –** dealt with under PublicParticipation.
3. **Neighbourhood Watch**

Councillor Ashton reported that he continued to circulate matters of interest on facebook and the Council’s website. To date, no one had come forward to take on the role as Co-ordinator.

1. **Tenancy of Council land**

The Clerk confirmed that he had forwarded a signed copy of the Farm Business Tenancy Agreement to the tenant. The revised rental payment had been received.

1. **Jubilee Wood**

Councillor Griffith referred to concerns regarding drainage on the site due to the recent heavy rains. The Clerk advised that the promised donation, towards the cost of a bench, had yet to be received from Yorkshire Water.

1. **Christmas Tree**

Parishioners expressed mixed reactions to this year’s tree but the overall view was that it was an improvement on the one previously provided. The account had not yet been received from the supplier.

1. **Storwood Notice Board**

The Chairman indicated that the notice board was in his possession but it was not needed in Storwood. The feasibility of siting it near to the bus shelter in the village was discussed. Councillor Shervington agreed to look into the matter.

**Action: Chairman/Councillor Shervington**

1. **Overgrown Verges/Hedges**

It was reported that workmen from the county council had removed some of the overgrown material from the footpath in Langrickgate Lane. In doing so, part of the surface had been removed. There was still outstanding work to be done in trimming back the willows, between Jubilee Wood and the butcher’s shop. Also, attention was needed to the overgrown shrubbery at the corner of Ball Hall Lane.

The Clerk agreed to pursue the matter with the county council.

**Action: Clerk**

1. **Emergency Plan**

Councillor Ashton confirmed that the plan had now been completed. A copy would be placed in the telephone box and he would notify the county council’s Emergency Planning Officer.

**Action: Councillor Ashton**

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

Councillor Ashton reported that he had yet to arrange for the memorial to be fixed to the wall in the church. He hoped this could be accomplished in the near future.

**Action: Councillor Ashton**

1. **ANNUAL REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE POLICY**

Consideration was given to the annual review of policy documents appertaining to the good governance of the Council.

**Resolved** – that the policy documents remain relevant.

1. **QUARTERLY 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. **FINANCE**
2. Bank reconciliation

Balance at 1/4/2019 £ 8,851.76

+ Receipts to date £ 5,605.42

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 £14,457.18

* Payments to date £ 7,164.01

Current Account Balance at 9/1/20 £ 7,293.17

1. Payments

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

D. J. Cornmell – £ 297.35

Clerk’s Salary/Expenses

HMRC – PAYE £ 68.60

Npower - £ 62.40

Street Lighting

East Cottingwith Village Hall- £ 1,000.00

Hire of Hall/Donation

TOTAL £1,428.35

1. Receipts

J Beevers – Land Rent. £ 165.00

ERYC – Overpayment £ 4.63

Street Lights Service Agreement

TOTAL £ 169.63

1. Financial Report

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

1. Three-year Financial Forecast

Further consideration was given to the three-year financial forecast outlined at the previous Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

**Resolved-**  that the forecast (outlined as an Appendix to these Minutes) be accepted.

**Action:** **Clerk/RFO**

1. Parish Precept

Consideration was given to the parish precept for the financial period 2020/2021. In view of additional expenditure and the need to maintain an amount for contingency purposes, reluctantly, the precept would need to be increased. Proposed by the Vice-Chairman, seconded by Councillor Ashton and agreed that the parish precept be increased to £7,000.

1. **PLANNING**
2. Application:

The following application was considered:

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

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

**Action: Clerk**

1. Permission:

The following permission was noted:

19/03029/PLB -Removal of existing bridge deck and wooden railings and replace with reinforced concrete bridge deck to support concrete upstand concealed behind the rebuilt brick parapet and stone copings, replacement of timber/steel flitch post and rail system and general repairs including replacement of coping stones with matching sand stone and repointing of existing brick work: Hagg Bridge, Hagg Lane, Storwood.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

The following was considered:

**Western Parishes Liaison Meeting**

It was agreed that the Clerk represent the Council at the meeting, to be held at Bishop Wilton Village Hall, at 7pm, Wednesday 22nd January 2020. An item for the Agenda: Road Closure: Hagg Bridge.

**Action: Clerk**

1. **MEMBERS REPORTS**

The Chairman commented upon the success of the recent ‘pop-up pub’ events and the monies raised for good causes.

Concern was expressed at the lack of support for the annual ‘carol sing’ around the village this Christmas. Much needed funds, to help with the running of the Church, were lost as a result.

1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

8.00pm, Thursday 12th March 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.50pm.