**EAST COTTINGWITH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held remotely by teleconference at**

**8.00pm on Thursday 18th June 2020**

**Note: Due to the Coronavirus pandemic emergency, and the prohibition from holding public meetings, members of the public were given due notice of the meeting and the opportunity to make observations/comments.**

**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),

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interest were given by Councillors Ashton and Cornmell in respect of item 8(a)(ii).

1. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No observations/comments were received from members of the public.

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST ORDINARY MEETING**

Proposed by the Vice-Chairman, seconded by Councillor Ashton and agreed that the minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting, held on 12th March 2020, be accepted as a true record.

1. **ONGOING ITEMS**
2. **Coronavirus**

Consideration was given to fixing a new date for the Annual Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting.

**Resolved-** subject to the lifting of restrictions, the meetings to take place on Thursday 10th September 2020.

**Action:** **Clerk**

1. **Hagg Bridge**

The Chairman provided an update, based on his recent observations of work taking place on-site. New cycle and pedestrian crossings had been constructed but little work on the bridge itself had been undertaken. Despite an earlier request for information about an end date, and whether a penalty clause had been included in the contract, little details had been provided by ERYC, other than the work was on schedule.

**Resolved-** that ERYC Highways be requested to provide a more detailed account with milestone dates, including an end date and whether a penalty clause had been included in the contract.

**Action:** **Clerk**

1. **Neighbourhood Watch**

Councillor Ashton reported that he continued to circulate matters of interest on facebook and the Council’s website, including details of recent scams associated with the coronavirus pandemic. Mention was made about the provision of signs but after debate it was decided not to progress the matter at this time.

**Action: Councillor Ashton**

1. **Jubilee Wood**

Councillor Griffith commented on the state of the wood and the fact that there had been some loss of trees due to the site being waterlogged and rabbits. Replacement trees would need to be planted in the Autumn. Steps were being taken to obtain an estimate for the provision of hard standing and fixings for a bench seat, from funding provided by Yorkshire Water. It was also hoped to provide a replacement owl box from this money. Councillor Cornmell indicated that the previously advertised grant funding available for trees was not a viable proposition for the wood. Councillor Shervington reported on his findings, following research into the inadequate drainage system in the area, which had resulted in the wood and surrounding area being flooded earlier in the year. It appeared that a blocked drain, running alongside Langrickgate Lane, had been seriously affected by roots from willow trees, planted by the county council.

**Resolved –** that enquiries be made of the county council and they be requested to rectify the situation.

**Action:** **Clerk**

1. **Storwood Notice Board**

The Chairman and Councillor Shervington reported on action taken since the last meeting, with a view to replacing the existing notice board on the bus shelter. Councillor Shervington agreed to make arrangements for the work to be carried out, the cost to be met by the parish council.

**Action: Councillor Shervington**

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

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

**Action: Councillor Ashton**

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

Councillor Cornmell reported that the county council had closed the fund after the coronavirus outbreak had been declared.

1. **FLAGPOLE**

Members heard that an offer of a flagpole had been made by a parishioner, who wished to donate it to the parish council. Whilst the offer was accepted, the need for planning permission was raised. It was agreed that the flagpole was not intended to be a permanent fixture and only erected on special occasions, utilising the fixing point used for the village Christmas tree. The Vice-Chairman agreed to store the pole when not in use; the Clerk to check with ERYC regarding the need for planning permission.

**Action: Vice-Chairman/Clerk**

1. **FINANCE**
2. Bank reconciliation

Balance at 1/4/2020 £ 4,478.28

+ Receipts to date £ 4,556.00

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£ 9,034.28

Current Account Balance at 18/6/2020 £7,714.77

1. Payments

Payments made under delegated authority:

17/4/20 Npower -Street Lighting £ 60.64

24/4/20 Npower -Street Lighting £ 194.18

24/4/20 ERNLLCA – Renewal Fee £ 286.09

25/5/20 Kaye Middleton & Co – Pay Roll £ 120.00

11/6/20 Sonex Ltd -Npower Street Lighting £ 658.60

**TOTAL £1,319.51**

1. Receipts

29/4/20 ERYC – Precept( 1st payment) £3,500.00

29/5/20 HMRC – VAT re-payment £1,056.00

**TOTAL £4,556.00**

1. Financial Report

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

1. Appeal for Donation

The Clerk gave details of an appeal for funding received from Marie Curie. It was unanimously agreed that it was not appropriate to make such a donation and would set a dangerous precedent.

1. Annual Audit

It was reported that the parishioner who had carried out an internal audit of the Council’s accounts was satisfied with his findings. The necessary certification had been provided.

**Resolved –** that a letter of thanks be forwarded to the parishioner concerned.

**Action:** **Clerk**

1. Annual Governance Statement/Certificate of Exemption

Consideration was given to the Annual Governance Statement. It was confirmed that all relevant areas had been dealt with to the satisfaction of Members.

**Resolved –** that the Annual Governance Statement be completed and the Certificate of Exemption be forwarded to the external auditor.

**Action: Clerk**

1. **PLANNING**
2. Applications

The following applications were considered:

(i)20/01586/CLP-Certificate of lawfulness for the siting of a caravan for use as welfare/office facility by agricultural workers ancillary to the agricultural use of the site: Land South of Woodside Lodge, Ballhall Lane, Storwood YO42 4TD

**Resolved –** that the planning authority be asked to satisfy itself that there is a genuine agricultural need for this application.

**Action: Clerk**

(ii) 20/01788/TCA-East Cottingwith Conservation Area - Crown reduce 1 no. white poplar tree(T1) by 6 to 7.5 metres due to tree becoming far too big.

Pollard 1 no. tree(T2) to 3.6 to 4.2. metres: School House, Church Lane, East Cottingwith YO42 4TL

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

**Action:** **Clerk**

The following application was dealt with by delegated authority:

(ii)20/01086/PLF-Change of use of storage shed and former pigeon lofts to workshop space (use Class B1(c), alterations to existing storage barn including installation of roller shutters to front, replacement cladding to all sides and alterations to the design of the roof: Forest Farm, Langrickgate Lane, East Cottingwith YO42 4TA

**OBJECTION:** The parish council objects to this application, as it has to previous applications in relation to the use of this site. The proposed conversion of a storage shed and pigeon lofts, into further workshops, would see an intensification of activities associated with industrial type use, which is not in keeping with its rural location.

1. Permissions

The following permissions were noted:

(i)20/00050/VAR-Variation of Condition 8 (Approved Plans) following planning permission 20/00050/VAR: Forest Farm, Langrickgate Lane, East Cottingwith YO42 4TA.

(ii)20/00327/PLF-Erection of an extension to an existing agricultural storage building: Woodside Lodge, Ballhall Lane, Storwood YO42 4TD

(iii)20/00024/PLB-Erection of a conservatory, building works to allow the installation of French doors to the rear: Sycamore House, Main Street, East Cottingwith YO42 4TN

(iv)20/00208/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 (Revised Scheme of 19/03029/PLB: Hagg Bridge, Hagg Lane, Storwood.

(v)19/03775/PLF- Erection of a dwelling: Land South of Sycamore Bungalow, Main Street, East Cottingwith YO42 4TN.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**

A list of correspondence, received since the last Ordinary Meeting and dealt with by delegated authority, was noted.

1. **MEMBERS REPORTS**

The Vice-Chairman made mention of cctv cameras which had been erected in the village, without any consultation or notification being made to the parish council: it was believed that the cameras had been put in place in connection with a traffic survey. It was agreed that Ward Councillor Leo Hammond be requested to check on the validity of the cameras.

**Action: Clerk**

Councillor Shervington advised that the verges in Langrickgate Lane had not been cut by the county council, at the request of the Verges Group, so as to encourage flora and fauna. The verges would be cut by members of the Group later in the year.

1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Annual Parish Meeting: 7.30pm, Thursday 10th September 2020.

Annual Meeting: to follow on.

Ordinary Meeting: to follow on.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.