EAST COWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in East Cowton Village Hall
on Monday 12th June 2017 at 7.30pm

1706.01 The Chairman declared the meeting open

Present
Councillors: S. Watson (Chairman), B. Denley, A. Oakley, B. Robinson and E. Simpson

In Attendance
County Councillor A. Wilkinson, Clerk J. Kilsby and 12 Members of the Public

1706.02 Apologies for Absence
None

1706.03 Disclosure of Interests
None

1706.04 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 22nd May 2017
It was resolved that the minutes of the meetings of the Parish Council on 22nd May 2017 circulated to councillors be signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising
None not included as agenda items

1706.05 Chair’s Formal Announcements
None

1706.06 Police Community Report
Cllr Watson confirmed that there have been two incidents of what the police describe as commercial burglary/other in the area in the last month but the Parish Council has not been provided with any more detail. It has been advised of the launch of the Police summer campaign against drink and/or drug driving and the Police also wish to urge residents to be conscious about home security when enjoying the warm weather

1706.07 Financial Accounts
1. Councillors agreed the accounting records and bank balances which Cllr Simpson confirmed she had verified

Balances on the Parish Council’s bank accounts (there are currently no uncashed cheques) are:

Community (Current) Account: £3115.49

Chairman signed………………S. Watson…………………………………… 10th July 2017
Premium (Deposit) Account: £8,616.64;
Total: £11,732.13

2. Councillors **resolved that** the Parish Council’s insurance cover with Zurich be renewed in accordance with the renewal notice received and at a cost of £257.60

3. The draft grant application has not yet been circulated and **it was resolved that** it be considered at the next meeting.

4. The Clerk as RFO has submitted the annual return to the external auditor and retained proof of posting.

5. **It was resolved that** cheques be drawn for stationery (£42.49), grass-cutting (£216.00), insurance premium (£257.60) and Clerk’s salary (£102.01). It was noted that the cheque in favour of St John Ambulance (Minute 1705(2).10) had not been forwarded and that Cllr Denley had discharged the invoice personally on behalf of the Parish Council but is now awaiting a partial refund and an amended invoice. **It was resolved that** upon production of a receipted invoice Cllr Denley should be reimbursed and written confirmation of the amount due to the Parish Council by Brian Robinson Machinery Limited should be issued for reimbursement by it.

1706.08 Parish Garden
Cllr Watson confirmed that he was intending to arrange for the siting of the new benches in the garden as soon as possible.

Cllr Simpson confirmed that a grant application had been made to Yorventure in the absence of any further response from Asda.

1706.09 Assets of Community Value
In circumstances where Hambleton District Council has rejected the application to register the Village Shop and Post Office as a community asset on the grounds that it includes residential accommodation **it was resolved that** no further steps be taken to pursue this at the present time, although the option of resubmitting the application at a future date remains open on the basis either that the residential element of the premises is integral to the business or that the registration is restricted purely to the shop area.

1706.10 The Village Shop and Post Office
Cllr Watson advised Councillors that he has finally received a response (today at 4.45pm) to his overtures to Mrs G Burnett from the Post Office and will now ensure that the Village Hall is booked so that a public meeting can take place to discuss the issue at 7pm on 19th June 2017.

The meeting was opened for **public participation** on this issue:
A member of the public accused two unnamed members of the Parish Council of defaming the owners of the Village Shop by allegedly stating that the owners had only bought the premises to gain an access to an adjoining property.

A letter addressed to the Parish Councillors from the Owner, confirming the accusation, was handed in with a request that it and the letter of complaint dated
27th April 2017 (hand delivered to the Clerk on 2nd May 2017) be retained as documents of public record.

A member of the public indicated that the licensees at the Beeswing were exploring whether or not they would be able to offer an alternative service for the village in the event that The Village Shop and Post Office do close

1706.11 The Resilience Plan
Cllr Watson confirmed that this is now completed and that he will circulate copies to Councillors and the Clerk by e-mail. **It was resolved that** he should also place a printed copy in the Emergency Box stored in the Village Hall.

1706.12 Bus Shelter and Landscaping
Cllr Watson confirmed that he will arrange for the proposed contractor to prepare the necessary response to the queries raised by North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) this week.

1706.13 Village Planters
Cllr Simpson confirmed that these have now been replanted after a delay attributable to the weather and that a roster for watering has also been implemented.

1706.14 Overgrown Footpath
Cllr Watson confirmed that it had been unnecessary for the Parish Council to contact the owner (Minute 1705.22) as the overgrowth had been cut back.

1706.15 Casual Vacancy
An application has been received to fill the casual vacancy that has arisen for a Parish Councillor. It was resolved that subject to completion of the relevant paperwork the applicant be co-opted to join the Parish Council and invited to attend future meetings.

1706.16 Defibrillator Location Signage
Cllr Watson proposed that signage indicating the whereabouts of the defibrillator be placed at strategic points in the village. **It was resolved that** sources and quotations be obtained with a view to the matter being debated at the next meeting.

1706.17 Consultation on Street Permits
Councillors discussed the questions raised in the consultation by NYCC and **it was resolved that** Cllr Watson submit the response upon their behalf.

1706.18 Flood Bags
**It was resolved that** Cllr Robinson should hold two boxes of flood bags; Cllr Denley should hold two; Cllr Oakley should hold one; two should be stored in the Village Hall subject to the consent of the New Village Hall Association.

1706.19 Millennium Wood
Cllr Watson indicated that Mr N Reed has not yet completed the work required but has confirmed that he will do so within 2 weeks.

1706.20 Documents
The Clerk confirmed that she has located the Land Certificate for the Millennium Wood and made arrangements to collect it from Hunt & Wrigley solicitors.

In relation to the 2008 transaction in respect of the Parish Garden the Land Registry plan obtained by Cllr Simpson suggests that the area exchanged must comprise a separate title or else has not been registered. It was resolved that a further search be carried out for that particular area by submission of a plan for identification of the area.

1706.21 Correspondence
A summary of routine correspondence received and undertaken was given by Cllr Watson.

1706.22 Planning Applications
A retrospective application in respect of Manor House Farm (reference 17/01123/FUL) has been received and in relation to which it was resolved that the Clerk should advise the Planning Authority that Councillors assume that:
1. the statutory bodies will have been consulted and that the Planning Authority will satisfy itself that the building will not add to flooding issues in the village.
2. the Planning Authority will ensure that the use of the building is for agricultural purposes, as was understood to be the case when the building was first erected under the auspices of Permitted

1706.23 Public Participation
A member of the public pointed out that the size of the roof of the building at Manor House Farm could be an issue in relation to the drainage of water.

The County Councillor was asked if she could raise with NYCC the dangers of the road junction with the A167 from Birkby Lane and the positioning of Low Bridge signs.

A member of the public explained the intention to raise funds for the new Macmillan Centre and asked if any residents have any issues regarding The Beeswing’s plans for Cowtonbury and Bonfire Night could they please speak to the landlady there.

1706.24 Any Other Business
Cllr Robinson raised the issue of livestock straying onto Raby Lane and Cllr Watson undertook to speak to the farmers in the vicinity.

Cllr Oakley has receive a complaint regarding obstruction of public rights of way but will obtain specific details so that the matter can be considered at the next meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that no consultation paper has to date been issued regarding the village school changing status to an academy.

Cllr Simpson confirmed that she had participated in the making of a video with the Police and Lifestyle Challenge winners to promote the challenge in the current year.

Cllr Robinson confirmed that he had attended the Hambleton Liaison Meeting but that nothing was raised that the Parish Council was not already aware of.
Cllr Denley proposed the Parish Council’s thanks to Brian Robinson Machinery Limited for hosting the First Aid Training.

It was resolved that YLCA representatives for the current year be Cllrs Robinson and Simpson.

Cllr Watson indicated that the New Village Hall Association was seeking volunteers to assist in the painting of the Village Hall on 13th June at 9.30am and was intending to move planters to do this.

1706.25 Date and time of Next Meeting
Monday 10th July 2017 at 7.30 pm.

1706.26 Meeting Closed
There being no further business Cllr Watson closed the meeting at 8.55pm.