

Good evening, this is your Chairman's report for 2018. It has been a very productive year for the East Goscote Parish Council.

Council and Staff:

This year was a consolidation year for our Councillors with no changes of personnel. We currently have a full complement of 10 Councillors. Unfortunately, due to work commitments, Cllr Lander had to stand down as Chairman and was replaced by myself with Cllr Duffy moving into the Vice Chairman's role.

Whilst the Councillors make decisions, our staff work hard to carry out these decisions to the benefit of the village. Our clerk, Liz Pizer, and our administration assistant, Caroline Taylor also keep us in line with legal and regulatory requirements. Liz also supervises work done around the village.

Charlie Cadle continues in the Caretakers role although, Nick Shivers assists when we need an extra pair of hands. Work done by our Caretakers is of a very high standard.

Mr Webbon has been appointed as Tree Warden on a voluntary basis.

Our thanks go to all councillors and the staff for their continued hard work.

Planning Applications:

During the year 17 planning Applications have been received and considered by the Parish Council.

Section 106 Funding – Rearsby Roses

Two bus shelters have been situated near the Rearsby Roses development; one in each direction. A litter bin has been placed

adjacent to the northbound shelter. Unfortunately, a replacement for the Broome Avenue/Melton Road bus shelter which was to be included meant that the cost took the project over budget.

The Parish Council also refurbished the Brook bus shelter out of its own budget.

The Tennis Court is still popular with 92 members. During the winter the court has been closed to protect it and the moss has been cleared from its surface by Nick and Charlie.

The library was allocated £380 some of which has been spent on teen and pre-teen books.

Vandalism:

The cost of vandalism for March 17 – March 18 amounted to £370 which is very low compared to other years. This was mainly damage to the wet pour surfacing on the play areas.

Dog Fouling:

This continues to be a constant complaint received by the Clerk and Councillors, this is despite the fact that over 70,000 dog poo bags have been issued to residents this year and there being a plentiful supply of bins around the Village.



Details of the issue of dog bags	2014	2015	2016	2017
Free issue Dog bags	30,900	32,950	41,700	48,900
Purchased Bags	13,800	16,400	20,400	25,350
Total Bags Issued	44,700	49,350	62,100	74,250
Total Net Cost (exc VAT)	£535.30	£432.24	£681.88	£643.40
Total income purchased bags			£227.00	£253.50

Allowing your dog to foul without clearing up afterwards is totally unacceptable behaviour and we need YOUR help to catch those people responsible for spoiling our streets and

green spaces. If you know an environmental offender, call 01509 634564 or email: cleaner.greener@charnwood.gov.uk.

We have now made it easier for residents to collect their dog bags, by giving them out at the village library. This gives easier access and more times for collection (hence the large increase in number given out).

Village Hall:

The Village Hall Committee are still doing a great job maintaining the hall, and managing the bookings and finances.

The car park has been lit throughout the winter from 5pm – 9pm giving users a much safer environment when getting in and out of their cars.

The committee have raised funds to replace the roof with a new Kingspan composite sheeting roof. This is eco-friendly and will thereby reduce the village halls carbon footprint. The insulation will also be greatly improved by having the roof replaced. They hope to install the new roof in the summer. The Parish Council are trustees and have allocated funding towards this project.



The hall has also been awarded a Climate Change Grant and has had all the lights changed to LED lights. The committee work very hard to keep the hall up to a very high standard and are continually working at improving our village hall.

East Goscote Library

The library continues to provide a vital need for East Goscote. As well as the supply of books and computer use, the library has many more functions including the distribution of Dog Bags, Coffee Mornings etc. There will be more about the library later in the meeting.

Parish Phone App/New Website

Due to the continued success of the website and the App the council have agreed to be the guinea pig for a new WEBAPP designed by the App Office. Look out for more news of this over the coming months. We would like to thank the App Office for their continued confidence in demonstrating their products.



To download the app please see details at the end of this report.

Fitness Equipment

The fitness equipment mentioned at last year's meeting has been installed and is proving very popular.



We will be looking to replace the old play equipment on Lilac Way with new items. This equipment was installed in 2001 and is in need of updating.

Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Preston was hoping to expand his Neighbourhood Watch campaign to the rest of the village after the success of its introduction to Rearsby Roses, but there was apparently no interest when it was advertised.

Christmas Events

In December, in conjunction with St Hilda's, the Village Hall Committee and the Brownies, two events were organised by the library and funded by East Goscote Parish Council. More about these later in the meeting.

Snow Warden Scheme

East Goscote Parish Council are registered with the County Council Snow Warden Scheme. This means that they supply salt and pay the parish council for clearing snow and ice around the village where it is considered dangerous. Charlie and Nick have worked hard spreading the salt whenever we have had snow this last winter.

Trees

Mr Webbon is continually checking trees around the village and reporting back to the council. During the year, the Memorial Oak tree has been replaced free of charge and a dead tree adjacent to Lilac Way has been removed.

The hedgerow at the side of the mound has been replaced as the old one had failed in places.

Long Furrow

During the last year resignation of the editor put the continuance of Long Furrow in danger. Fortunately, Gareth Roberts stepped forward to assist. It was agreed that changes had to be made to the format of the magazine and the council continue to support it.

SIMS

Considering the frontage of Sims was unsuitable for the image of the village as visitors entered by Chestnut Way was a danger to the public, the Council, Borough Councillor, County Councillor and our MP applied pressure to Enterprise Inns to get the public house tidied up. At the time of writing, a new tenant has been appointed and major work has been done to the exterior of the building and the frontage has been improved. The Plough, as it is now called, opened on March 22nd.

First Aid Training

When the council was approached with regards to siting a Defibrillator, the council felt that free First Aid training for residents would be more applicable. Approximately 20 residents showed interest but when Wreake Valley Academy indicated that they would raise the money for a Defibrillator for the village, the training was postponed until it was in place. A raffle was held in the Chemist and Cllr Gerrard is holding £100 funds raised to be put forward to the defib project.

Leases

Over the last few months the Council have been liaising with Charnwood Council about the renewal of the lease concerning the land around the pavilion, and the Scout Hut. By the time you read this the lease should have been signed and the sub-lease between the Council and the Scouts should be close to completion. This will allow us to use the land for the next 25 years.

Speedwatch

There have been several complaints about speeding in and around the village. A number of volunteers have come forward to train as Speed-watch operators. Once the training is completed, they will be out and about with speed cameras checking your speed.



Next Year's Projects Include:

For next year we hope to continue with the high standard the village is being maintained, and we are looking to replace the 17 year old Play equipment on Lilac Way.

Finally, we hope to again considering a Christmas event of some sort for the elderly of the village.

Thank You's:

I would like to thank all of the Parish Councillors, Borough Councillor, Mrs Gerrard, County Councillor, Mr Poland, and our MP, Mr Argar for their help and support during the past year. In addition, I would like to thank our staff for their service and expertise during the year.

To PCSO Geeson and PCSO Harbutt for the time they have spent on our village,

Thank you to the East Goscote Library volunteers and committee for their service to our residents in keeping the library open, and for working so hard to make the East Goscote Christmas celebrations a great community event once again.

And finally It was a special year for our clerk, Liz Pizer. In December, she reached 25 years' service for this Council. She joined the Council as a novice Clerk and under the early guidance of her mentor, Lynn Palmer, she has become an efficient and knowledgeable Clerk and administrator. In December, a committee was formed to create a presentation evening for Liz. She received a plaque and a watch from the council as well as a presentation from the Village Hall committee. In addition, in May, she will represent the council and the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire at a Queens Garden Party.



J Malpus

Chairman

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