

EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 18th November 2015 at 6.30pm in the East Goscote Village Hall.

Present:	Mrs Elaine Garner	Ms Cathy Duffy
	Mrs Lisa Castle	Mr Kevin Preston
	Mr Roger Merry-Howe	Mrs Sue Gerrard (Part of meeting 7.50pm)
	7 Members of the Public	Sergeant Roger Barlow and PC Nathan Adkin
	Mr Nick Shivers	Mrs Caroline Taylor

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Cllr Roger Merry-Howe was proposed to Chair the meeting. All agreed.

15/144 **Matters Arising from the Public (Meeting adjourned)**

Members of the public raised 3 issues.

The first issue was to do with the continued problems with Fleury Court. Unfortunately, Cllr Gerrard was not present at that time to deal with the questions that were raised regarding the tenancy and Charnwood Borough Council. Cllr Gerrard had informed one of the residents that there was a minimum age requirement of 55 years old for the occupancy of the flats. The Clerk believed that it used to be designated elderly flats, but that changed some years ago. Cllr Gerrard will be asked to clarify the position of the age requirement at Fleury Court.

Many residents were “petrified” to leave their flats and said it was very stressful to live there with the current continued anti-social behaviour. Cllr Preston urged the residents to report all incidents however small.

The second issue was speeding. This is still an ongoing problem and one that will be referred to Cllr Gerrard again for chasing up.

The final issue was the footpath fronting Rearsby Roses. Cllr Houseman visited the site and is working on the issue; he also requested that Cllr Gerrard investigate the matter through the planning department. The resident is yet to receive a reply from either councillor.

15/145 **Matters arising from the Police**

The Police, PC Nathan Adkin, were in attendance and re-iterated the following points to the public:

- They could not comment on the housing terms as set by Charnwood BC.
- 3 or 4 residents were the cause of 99% of the problems.
- The ASB approach is to follow a 3-tier solution. This must be followed by law.
- Formal warnings have been given and have resulted in legal actions.
- The firearms incident was hoax as was the alleged stabbing. The 3 reported incidents at Fleury Court were not true.
- Charnwood Council has been asked to review the tenancies.
- Every incident needs to be reported, however minor, either to the Charnwood Beat or to the Charnwood ASB Team.

The crime statistics for the last month were 6 burglaries (other than dwelling). These were all the result of entry being gained by unsecured access.

Sergeant Roger Barlow introduced himself and said that he would do his best to secure some funding for hand held lights from Charnwood Borough Council. Any free items to help the residents would be left at the Office. He will also investigate if funding is possible to light the car park area and alleyway which was very dark for residents.

The Chairman thanked the police for attending the meeting and dealing with the concerns from our residents.

The Clerk suggested that we write to all Fleury Court residents giving them contact information for the police and Charnwood ASB team.

15/146 **Apologies for Absence:** Ms Sally Lander, Mr John Malpus, Mrs Sue Gerrard (attended late), Mr Darren Eden and County Councillor Dave Houseman. A letter of resignation has been received from Mr Peter Hickling which was read out to full council. A brief letter of thanks for his work as a Councillor will be sent. He joined the Council in May 2015.

15/147 **To report any declarations of interest:** Ms C Duffy regarding the Village Hall.

15/148 **To confirm the minutes of the last full council meeting (14.10)**
The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

15/149 **Matters arising from the minutes**

- 15/117 – Clerk to confirm if Cllr Gerrard has been in touch with the residents regarding the cemetery query.
- 15/025 – Cllr Hickling was previously agreed as a cheque signatory although never completed the necessary forms. As we require a cheque signatory as soon as possible it was agreed that Cllr Castle would commence completing the forms and the process, and become a council signatory. This will be ratified at our next meeting.
- 15/124 - Article for the Long Furrow re Anti- Social Behaviour – Cllr Gerrard was requested to organise this but it did not appear to be in the Long Furrow– Clerk to provide contact details to all residents via a letter.
- 15/127 – The Church had declined the offer of a planter.
- 15/132 – Employee appraisals have commenced. Unfortunately, owing to Cllr Lander's absence the rest of these have been put on hold until she is back in office.

15/150 **Borough Councillor's Report**

The Clerk circulated an email from Cllr Gerrard with several points relating to the core strategy, Section 106, help for gardening, police, a joint action group meeting and thanks to Cllr Hickling. She also provided information regarding the occupancy of Fleury Court.

15/151 **Reports from Representatives on other Committees**

VHMC –Next meeting 26th November 2015

PAV/PLAYING FIELD: Cllr Duffy will carry out playground checks for November.

LONG FURROW –The latest edition is on line. The council was informed that the front page issued to the editor was changed to add a garland – it was felt that it took away the professionalism of the page submitted. We will ask that any future submissions if possible are featured unchanged.

LIBRARY UPDATE – No Further update.

PRIORITIES FOR LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS – A table was circulated for Councillor consideration. This was approved.

TRAINING UPDATE – The Chairman has completed the Chairman’s course, and the Admin Assistant has completed the Minute taking course. Both of which were well received.

CHRISTMAS UPDATE – New lights have been received. The fair could not attend due to other commitments. The Council is obtaining a DBS check from “Santa”. The licence for the tree lights is being dealt with and should be received this week. As the fair has been cancelled, Cllr Castle suggested that there would be a second Santa cycling around the village meeting children in a type of treasure hunt. The Clerk advised that previously Santa had been driven around the village in a sleigh, however, very few children turned out. It was suggested that a band playing carols at the front of the hall might be a better solution. The Clerk will contact Thurmaston Scout Band and Syston town band to see if they could play.

TENNIS COURT OPENING Tennis Court opening event was a great success – articles have appeared in the Melton Times and the Leicester Mercury were present and took photographs. Hopefully the Leicester Mercury will report on it soon.

MOBILE APP – Is now live – articles will be appearing in the Long Furrow, Melton Times, Leicester Mercury and hopefully the Pink Pages. The Society for Local Council Clerks has been in touch congratulating us on “perhaps the first among parish councils” and wish to run an editorial in the next edition (January) of the Clerks Magazine. The Clerk and Admin Assistant will be undertaking more training. We have also contacted Broomfield Primary School and are waiting for them to respond. The Syston Town News will be running the editorial in their December/January edition out in early December. It was noted that the Council is very pleased with the progress. Cllr Duffy voiced her congratulations to the Clerk and her Admin Assistant and said that they “should be very proud of themselves”. Posters have been placed around the village and Cllr Garner suggested that we put one in the playing field noticeboard.

15/152

Proposed Accounts

The Council accepted accounts to the sum of £5264.96 for November.

15/153

Correspondence

A list of correspondence received was issued to all Councillors present

- Request to use Pavilion Goal Store – This was refused by the council owing to lack of space and no pavilion access for one of the teams.
- TSB Bank – Further problems experienced by the Clerk – a further compensatory award of £150 was received.
- DBS enquiry – An ex Councillor asked if we would apply for a DBS check on his behalf and at his cost – this was agreed, subject to confirmation that he could not apply on his own behalf.
- Library – request for donation next year.
- Notification that Rearsby are completing a Neighbourhood Plan.

15/154

Planning Matters

P15/1583/2 – 2 Wayfarer Drive East Goscote – Appeal underway.

P15/1847/2 - 17 Broome Avenue – Granted

P15/1971/2 - 8 Keepers Croft – Granted

E.G.P.C. 18.11.15

P15/1627/2 – 11 Countrymans Way – Significant changes have been made. It was RESOLVED that following discussion the Council is happy for Charnwood BC to have delegated powers to deal with this application.

15/155

To discuss the revival of our Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

The Clerk wrote to both PCSO Geeson and Ellen Hewitt asking for their opinion on how we could revive this scheme. A reply from Ellen Hewitt was read out to Council. Ellen Hewitt attended the meeting.

- Neighbourhood Watch is virtually non-existent in 2015. There is no longer the support there on the Police side. The only updates come from PCSO Geeson and they are not very often.
- It was felt that new blood was needed to get the Watch up and running again. Ellen Hewitt is happy to continue as Co-ordinator until such time as a replacement is found.
- The Council discussed the use of the new App as a way of informing residents of any Neighbourhood watch information.
- There are currently 30 contacts which Ellen Hewitt emails with information, but she is not sure if those contacts inform their neighbours of the information.
- The Chairman asked Council if they felt it was worth continuing and all Councillors were in favour of this.
- It was RESOLVED that Ellen Hewitt write to all existing 30 contacts to ask if anyone would be willing to take over her role as co-ordinator. If and when someone new has been found, Birstall Neighbourhood Watch would be contacted and invited to talk to the Council, to give us ideas of how their scheme works. Cllr Preston was given this task.

15/156

To Consider the Area between The Meadows and Broome Avenue – can we upgrade this area.

A written reply was received from Cllr Gerrard who suggested a Climbing Frame and seating. Cllr Preston asked an acquaintance to visit and provide a quote on this area. The cost of lawn renovation would be £281. It was RESOLVED that no further action would be taken.

15/157

Admin Staff – Eye Testing Requirements

The Clerk's last eye test was 4 years ago. Following discussion, it was RESOLVED that the cost of an eye check and 50% of the cost of any replacement glasses would be agreed to for the Clerk and the Admin Assistant.

15/158

To Consider closing the tennis courts over the winter and removing the net.

The Chairman suggested that as the use of the Court was very much weather dependant, it would be wise to delegate any decision to close the court to the Caretaker, Clerk, Chairman and Cllr Castle. RESOLVED that delegated powers be given to allow the court to be closed when necessary. Cllr Gerrard abstained from the vote.

15/159

Funds for LCC Bus shelters

A contribution of £17,062 was received by Leics County Council on 3rd July for bus stop works around the Rearsby Roses site. Cllr Houseman met with the Clerk on Monday 2nd November, following which the Clerk met with Angie Dunn, Assistant Engineer. A proposed Scheme was circulated to all Councillors which included; moving of one bus stop opposite to the Rearsby Roses Site, dropped Kerbs and possible new bus shelters. RESOLVED that Councillors were in support of this scheme.

- 15/160 **Review of the Equal Opportunities Policy.**
The Clerk has checked with the SLCC and the LRALC and both confirmed that our policy is up to date and includes the 2010 Equality act. Changes would be made to “Uses of this policy” which include the staff handbook which is no longer in place. RESOLVED to formally adopt this policy.
- 15/161 **Maintenance**
Cllr Gerrard and Cllr Duffy are yet to complete their sheets.
- 15/162 **Items approved for Expenditure**
Eye tests and glasses.
- 15/163 **Urgent Items by Permission of the Chairman**
A table containing details of councillor responses to consultations was circulated to all councillors. The Chairman felt that it was disappointing that Cllr Eden had not replied to any of the consultations and that this is part of his duty as a Parish Councillor which he is failing to carry out.
RESOLVED that the Clerk would put “FOR ACTION” or “FOR INFORMATION” in the subject line of the email to make it easier for the Councillors to reply to those requiring action.
- 15/164 **Date and time of the next Full Council meeting:**
The next meeting will be held on Wednesday December 9th 2015.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

L Pizer
19.11.15