

EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 9th September 2015 at 6.30pm in the East Goscote Village Hall.

Present: Ms Sally Lander (Chair) Mr John Malpus
Mrs Sue Gerrard Mrs Elaine Garner
Mrs Lisa Castle Mr Kevin Preston
Mr Roger Merry-Howe

15/092 **Matters Arising from the Public (Meeting adjourned)**

None

15/093 **Apologies for Absence:** PCSO Geeson, Mr Shivers, Cllr P Hickling, Cllr Houseman
Cllr Duffy and Cllr Eden

15/094 **To report any declarations of interest:** Ms S Lander regarding the
Village Hall. Mr Malpus re the library, Long Furrow and planning application Countrymans
Way.

15/095 **To confirm the minutes of the last full council meeting (08.07)**
The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

15/096 **Matters arising from the minutes**

- 15/025 – The Clerk sent the cheque signatory forms to Cllr Hickling for him to complete the forms and visit the bank in June – we are unsure if he has applied to be a cheque signatory as yet.
- 15/049 – Cllr Gerrard only managed to get speed watch information in relation to Speed monitoring – she was asked to contact the police to ask them to set up speed testing around the Long Furrow and issue fines as necessary.
- 15/072 – Cllr Gerrard said she would like to set up more “no cold calling zones”. There is no progress to date.
- 15/073 – Cllr Gerrard has dealt with the relocation of the litter bin, although the resident has stated that she did not want the bin removed and would like it putting back. Cllr Gerrard is speaking to officers at Charnwood to try to get a smaller bin put back.
- 15/077 – Lilac Way noticeboard has had a new front door installed.
- 15/077 - Minstrels Walk – The resident did receive a reply from Cllr Houseman
- 15/080 – New gates have been fitted to Lilac Way play area, and a 12 month warranty is in place.
- 15/085 – All councillors except Cllr Gerrard now have a generic email address on the website.

15/097 **Matters arising from the Police**

PCSO Brian Geeson sent in a report – 3 incidents in August, criminal damage, lead theft, burglary dwelling.

15/098 **Borough Councillors Report**

Cllr Gerrard reported that Charnwood had refused the development of 66 houses at Rearsby – there were many reasons for refusal i.e. visual impact and archaeological impact. Information was offered regarding the speed watch scheme although Cllr Gerrard was asked to find alternatives to this scheme.

The centre of Syston will be closed for one day. Cllr Gerrard was unsure of the actual date and will email the clerk to inform Councillors.

The cabinet at Charnwood has reduced to 6 members with a view to saving money.

Cllr Gerrard is a member of the budget scrutiny panel.

Cllr Gerrard explained that she has had a lot of problems with her laptop, and had lost many of the emails which had been sent to her, therefore had not been replying.

There were no questions.

15/099 **County Councillors Report**

The County Councillor was not present to give a report.

15/100 **Review of Reps on Committees and Reports from Representatives on other Committees**

a) Review of reps - Due to us having three new Councillors the list of representatives was reviewed. Councillors updated their lists.

VHMC – A meeting was held in September – the chairman reported on the following:-

- All users will be written to with a view to increase the numbers on the committee. It was felt that the current number of Councillors on the committee was adequate and we would encourage users of the hall to join the committee.
- The risk assessment and fire risk assessment have been approved
- Much work has been carried out in the summer including – floor stripped and re-polished, village hall walls painted, skirting boards painted, new signs – the kitchen will have a spring clean in the half-term break.
- The committee are still obtaining quotes for a new roof.
- A periodic inspection (electric) will be undertaken in half-term
- Next meeting 26th November 2015

Cllr Merry Howe asked if the village hall committee would consider the acoustics in the hall as it is very difficult to hear. This will be agendered at the next village hall committee.

PAV/PLAYING FIELD: The Pavilion was checked prior to the start of the football season by the Chairman and Clerk – minor issues will be dealt with. The playground check for August is required from Councillor Eden.

The Clerk reported problems with 2 adults' metal detecting on the playing field leaving square holes around the pitches and other areas. Once the grass was removed it then died leaving a hole. The Caretakers are checking and filling with soil where necessary.

LONG FURROW –

Cllr Malpus confirmed that a Long Furrow committee meeting had been held and a decision had been taken regarding the future of the Long Furrow. It was agreed that Dennis Bishop would act as editor for the next two editions, after which Cllr Malpus would continue as editor. Therefore the future of the Long Furrow was secure. Cllr Preston asked when the Rearsby Roses development would be included in the delivery of the magazine. Cllr Malpus confirmed that they would receive the next issue.

NHOOD WATCH – No Report

TREES – The tree check is required from Cllr Eden. It was agreed that Cllr Malpus would carry out the next tree check in November. Cllr Gerrard reported that there has been damage to trees on the mound.

REPORT FROM FOOTBALL MANAGERS MEETING – The meeting was held on August all deposits have been paid, all keys were issued, and terms and conditions signed. There were no issues raised by the teams.

LIBRARY UPDATE – Cllr Malpus confirmed that the business plan had been submitted and a decision as to the takeover would be made within the next 2 -3 weeks. There is a meeting for volunteers in the village hall on Wed 16th September 7 – 8pm. Cllr Gerrard would like to volunteer to staff the library and confirmed that she will be attending the meeting. The library committee are holding an “Autumn Fayre on October 10th. Cllr Gerrard was informed that she can hold her surgery on that date, if a donation is given to the library committee.

15/101

Proposed Accounts

The Council accepted accounts to the sum of £52,004 for August and £5515.88

15/102

Correspondence

A list of correspondence received was given out to all Councillors present

- Update regarding traffic calming measures for Melton Road fronting the Rearsby Roses development.
- Section 106 – Balance of £7717.00 to be used on the tennis court project.
- Parish Improvements – Charnwood have sent out a form asked the parish council to highlight local priorities for community infrastructure improvements. The parks and open spaces audit of 2010 was attached. It was agreed that all Councillors would email their ideas to the Council office by the end of September. The working party consisting of Cllrs Preston, Gerrard, Malpus and Castle would then meet and complete the necessary forms based on Councillors ideas and opinions.
- LRALC Briefing regarding the future of local government at Anstey on 28th September 2015 at 2.30pm. The Clerk and Admin Assistant will attend along with Cllr Gerrard.
- Agreement for use of the playing field – The clerk obtained a document used by Queniborough Parish Council in relation to use of their playing fields. She will amend the document to suit our circumstances and will place on the next agenda for Councillor consideration.
- The guarantee was received from Charles Lawrence regarding the tennis court along with a suggested maintenance schedule.
- The external audit has been approved and signed off.
- Roma Landscapes – will be asked to refrain from mowing outside the village hall at 9am and 12 noon whilst many parents and children are waiting to access the pre-school.

15/103

Planning Matters

P15/1583/2 – 2 Wayfarer Drive East Goscote, Erection of two storey extension to side of dwelling – 3 councillors responded, 1 councillor made their own comments and 1 Councillor replied no comment. Therefore no response was sent to Charnwood as there were insufficient replies.

E.G.P.C. 09.09.15

P15/1627/2 – 11 Countrymans Way, East Goscote, Erection of 2.133 Metre High Fence to side of dwelling. After much discussion it was unanimously agreed to object to the installation of this fence. The reasons for refusal were; Poor visual impact on the street scene given the height of the fence, and out of character with the street scene. Cllr Malpus declared his interest in this application and took no part.

15/104

Training requirements for Chairman/Admin Assistant/Councillors

Available courses were discussed – it was agreed that the following courses would be attended:-

- Chairman's Training 26th October – 1pm – 4pm- S Lander
- Parish Clerks 2 – 24th September 10am – 1pm – C Taylor
- Effective Local Council Minutes – 10th November 1 – 4pm C Taylor

All courses are charged at £35 per day.

New councillors: Cllr Preston, Castle, and Garner have attended training at Syston. Request from Syston Town Council for Cllr Gerrard to attend Chairman's training – It was decided that as Charnwood may be putting on this training that we would hold back on the training at this time.

15/105

Bus Shelter update

- a) Swallows Dale – Remedial works have been undertaken. We are now awaiting comments from the LCC officer before the balance is paid.
- b) To consider quotes to replace the bus shelter on Long Furrow by the Brook. The Clerk presented three quotes for a replacement bus shelter (wooden construction) by the brook. The quotes amounted to (installation only) £1975 (inc VAT), £4580 and £7080. We have a budget of £2000. We have also been given a cost of £300 to remove the existing shelter (inc Vat). The Clerk confirmed that Leics County Council are not offering a 50% grant scheme on bus shelters this year.
RESOLVED to replace the shelter by the brook with the cheapest supplier at a cost of £1975 and also to pay £300 for the removal of the shelter. Cllr Gerrard abstained
Cllr Preston also highlighted the bus shelter Section 106 funding for Melton Road. The clerk confirmed that she was in communication with Leics County Council regarding this and hopes to be offered some of the funding to update our shelters.

15/106

Tennis Court

a) Update on installation

The Clerk confirmed that she met on site with the contractors and arranged for the soil to be levelled next to the railway line. She also confirmed that more work was carried out to the soil deposited around the court. The cost involved was shared between the developer and Charnwood Borough council paid for the additional works from the Section 106. There was no cost to the Parish Council. The installation is now complete and paid for, and the tennis court and surrounding areas are finished to a high standard. It was agreed that a reference letter would be sent to the contractor.

b) Opening Event

It was agreed that we would invite the local press: Melton Times and Loughborough Echo to celebrate the installation of the tennis court. We would invite the children from Broomfield School to take part in the photo-shoot along with members of the Parish Council. Cllr Malpus will attend to take photos for the Long Furrow.

c) Use to Date

The Clerk confirmed that to date we have issued 36 keys of which 6 are non-residents. We have taken a sum of £198 for the keys. The court is being used and booked on a regular

basis and is very much appreciated by many residents as a new excellent facility for the village.

Cllr Malpus thanked the Clerk and Admin assistant for offering the chance to collect keys on a Saturday morning by working in the library. It was agreed that the clerk would use the existing key funds to purchase another 50 keys when required.

d) Remaining Section 106 Funding.

The Clerk informed Councillors of the remaining funds. It was agreed that we would contact Charnwood to ascertain how long this fund remains accessible. We would also apply to use the money for maintenance works including moss killing and pressure washing.

15/107

To consider quotes to repair the multi sports court sinking problem

The Clerk has obtained one quote to repair the tarmac area – a total of 9 square metres at a price of £480.00. Resolved to order the works ensuring that the court is repainted where necessary.

15/108

To receive the risk assessments for the street furniture/pavilion and council offices

Cllr Hickling and Gerrard submitted the risk assessment forms although having checked them against the 2013 form there were no changes, and the actions which were addressed in 2013 were still listed in the form. Cllr Gerrard confirmed that she had not visited the pavilion or council offices to complete the risk assessments and did not take the 2013 document with her when she assessed the street furniture. She also stated that she took no part in producing the final document which was signed off as complete by Cllr Hickling.

The Chairman said that the document was invalid and felt it was appalling that Councillors have sent this document to the council for consideration when it is clearly unfinished. The following comments were made:-

“Is this an attempt to mislead the Council or does it show that there is a training requirement?”

“Should this be reported to the monitoring officer?”

“Two Councillors have seriously let the Council down on this occasion”

“Could it be that the wrong document has been submitted?”

“Should we have a staffing committee meeting to deal with this?”

“The trust in these two Councillors has been lost”

The Clerk confirmed that she had obtained a price for the document to be updated professionally and by a qualified person. The price quoted was £225 + vat.

RESOLVED to have the risk assessments carried out professionally at a cost of £225 + vat

It was also agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman would meet with Cllr Gerrard and Hickling to establish the reasons why they failed to complete this document, how this has occurred and how we can prevent it happening again. It was suggested that these Councillors could be removed from the committees that they are currently on.

15/109

Policies

a) To consider the update for the E Safety Policy

Defer to the next meeting.

b) To consider the update for the Anonymous correspondence policy

Defer to the next meeting

c) To consider the new Media Policy

Defer to the next meeting

d) To consider the new Recording at Meetings policy

Defer to the next meeting

15/110

To consider the refurbishment of the village green play area

Cllr Lander and Cllr Castle have issued all Councillors with details of the play equipment which they would like to be removed from our existing play area. It was RESOLVED in principle that the wooden play trail and springy horse could be removed in order that a new design can be created. The cost of removal will be agreed at a future meeting. Cllr Preston abstained from this vote.

They are also in discussion with three companies and are awaiting quotes for new equipment. A consultation exercise will be carried out once all three quotes are in.

Cllr Preston asked if the council were considering providing more equipment for the older children i.e. 11 plus. The Chairman said that we would be considering developing the mound area in the future; however this play area was aimed at Broomfield children.

15/111

To consider a parish council Mobile Phone App.

The clerk issued all councillors with a comprehensive document about mobile apps. It gave information as to why the parish council would want an app, and details of the package, analysis, market trends and how to demo the app prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED that subject to establishing how long the contract would remain at the monthly cost quoted, and also to establish what would happen if the company fails, we would adopt the app and market it to the residents of the village. Two of the best features were the ability to book the tennis courts and for the council to notify those who have downloaded the app of any events, issues, problems that occur on the village. It was noted that this may involve a lot of additional hours initially for the clerk and admin assistant. Office hours will be monitored. In the future it would also be possible to get the local village business to "rent" space on our app. Cllr Gerrard abstained from this vote due to a personal view.

15/112

Christmas Events Update

The Chairman confirmed that this year's event would be taking place on Friday 11th December. We have a budget of £850. Quotes for the installation of the lights will be presented to the next meeting.

15/113

Maintenance

The Clerk asked the parish council if they felt that the mound required a third cut this year as the grass is relatively low and may not require another cut. If we do not require a cut the contractor has offered to cut the top and sides of the playing field hedge instead, with an additional payment of £50. RESOLVED to have the hedge cut instead of the third cut on the mound.

Maintenance sheets outstanding: Cllr Eden Playing fields/Cllr Hickling V Green/Cllr Lander beds and land back of doctors.

15/114

Items approved for Expenditure

Mobile App/ Hedge/Risk assessments/Bus shelter/training/court repair

15/115

Urgent Items by Permission of the Chairman

Cllr Malpus asked if the area between the Meadows and Broome Avenue could be looked at by Councillors as he feels it is unkempt and needs to be upgraded. Next Agenda.

Cllr Gerrard reported a nail sticking out of a bus shelter on Melton Road.

15/116

Date and time of the next Full Council meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday October 14th 2015.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

L Pizer
10.09.15