

EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th June 2016 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present:

Miss S Lander (Chair)	Mr J Malpus
Mr K Preston	Mrs E Garner
Miss L Needham	Mr R Merry-Howe
Mrs L Castle	Mr M Gonulalan
Cllr D Houseman	

16/044 Matters arising from the Public (Meeting Adjourned)

16/045 a) Co-option of New Member – Mr Mehmet Gonulalan
Mr Gonulalan has written to the council to ask that they consider his co-option. His questionnaire was copied to all Councillors for their consideration.
RESOLVED that Mr Gonulalan be Co-opted. He duly signed his declaration of office and was issued with her register of interest to be completed within 28 days.

16/046 Apologies for absence: Cllr C Duffy, Cllr S Gerrard

16/047 To report any declarations of interest: Cllr Malpus re library and Long Furrow, and Cllr Needham re the Library

16/048 To confirm the minutes of the last full council meeting held on 11th May 2016
The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

16/049 Matters arising from the minutes

16/016 Cllr Needham has made contact with Arriva and copied all Councillors with the email and response.

16/016 – Cllr Gerrard has not forwarded copies of her correspondence with Neil Thompson to the Clerk re the Rearsby Roses traffic Calming Measures. Cllr Preston confirmed that he had not seen any correspondence between the two parties either.

16/019 – Seed Bombs – Event held in village hall to make the seed bombs, unfortunately although Cllr Needham had requested at least two Councillors help – no other Councillors attended. Approx. 130 seed bombs were made by office staff and Mr Shivers. Cllr Needham has made the other 300 Bombs herself. Broomfield Children will put the seed bombs around the village playing field on 10th June – The cost of the seed bombs amounted to £115.53 There is an excess of compost and powdered clay.

16/022 – Cllr Malpus was not happy regarding the wording “we may not be so generous in future years”. He felt that it is important to consider all village facilities in a similar vein when making donations and the library will be an important village facility.

16/028 – Parish improvements – completing the forms – Cllr Malpus and Preston still to do this.

16/028 – Lease with Charnwood/scouts – working party to meet July or August.

16/032 – The new council website – The Clerk gave details of the new website to all Councillors and asked that they please take a look at the site and make any comments/suggestions to the Clerk. Once she has received feedback that Councillors are happy with the new site it will be advertised and residents will be re-directed from the old site.

- 16/050 **Matters arising from the Police**
PCSO Geeson was not present,
- 16/051 **County Councillors Report**
Cllr Houseman asked that when he is not required at meetings i.e. no County Councillor report is included on the agenda, under "Apologies for absence" could it be noted that he "was not required", rather than simply listing his apologies.
Section 106 funding for Bus stops – He confirmed that we should be made aware of the construction date next week. Mr Payne (Head of design) is the officer currently working on the project at LCC.
Copies of the Shire Grant scheme were given to Councillors.
Cllr Houseman gave Councillors a written report giving details of the Carers' Health and Wellbeing service, which has been highlighted in a new NHS report as a good example of an organization working closely with GPS to provide backing for the often-unsung heroes.
A host of events are being held and further details are available by calling support for Carers on 0845 689 9510.
- 16/052 **Borough Councillors Report**
Cllr Gerrard emailed a written report which was sent to all Councillors. A discussion ensued regarding this report, and previous reports from our Borough Councillor. The general consensus was that we are not satisfied that the report represents information we require from the Borough Council, and that our Borough Councillor is not working to a standard that we would like. It was unanimously felt that we could offer guidance to our Borough Councillor and set out a report format that is more structured and relevant to issues within the Borough. Cllr Merry Howe volunteered to offer a report format.
Cllr Castle objected to the comments in the report and felt that the name of the injured party is irrelevant – the council asked that Cllr Gerrard arrange for a health and safety check by a Charnwood Officer.
Cllr Malpus felt that the comment "Ed was really impressed with what John and Laurie had achieved" was unfair, as there are many members of our community working hard to keep the library going.
- 16/053 **Reports from Reps on other Committees**
VHMC – Nothing further to report
LONG FURROW – A new editor has been appointed and has written to all local Groups. Mr Jules Richards is taking over as editor and has asked for articles to be in for the next edition by July 17th.
PAV & PLAYING FIELD – Playground checks were completed by Mr Merry Howe.
Summer works to the pavilion are underway. The Changing rooms will be painted along with the floors.
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – Cllr Preston agreed to research information from the National Neighbourhood Watch scheme to try to set up a scheme for the 60 houses recently built on the Rearsby Roses site. He was advised that we have a small budget for this.
TREES – Mr Merry-Howe has carried out a visual check of trees – No problems.

LIBRARY – The Opening of the East Goscote community Library was held on Saturday 4th June, and the library is now being managed by Volunteers and Trustees. The event was very successful and it is hoped that new members will join the library. There was a good turnout from members of the public.

CHRISTMAS EVENT – Cllr Lander confirmed that the church would be arranging for Santa to be seeing the children alongside the tree festival. The Parish Council will therefore not be arranging the event this year.

PARISH APP - The clerk confirmed that figures are still increasing and the app is being downloaded. Current figures are: Total users up to the end of April was 172, it is now 189 users. The banner is situated in the Library and all village groups were sent letters asking if they wished to advertise on our events tab. We have had two replies asking for us to promote their events.

16/054

Proposed Accounts

Accounts to the sum of £4916.72 were accepted by the Council

16/055

Correspondence

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

- Speed checks have been carried out by the Police on Long Furrow (13th May) – 2 warning notices issued
- Cllr Castle requested Cllr Gerrard to arrange for a health and safety inspection by Charnwood Borough Council of the Front of Sims – this has not been done

16/056

Planning Matters - P/16/112/2 Retain change of use from parking area to garden and retention of wooden shed at 6 Broomfield, East Goscote, Leicestershire, LE7 3XY. After much discussion it was unanimously agreed to object to the above application on the following grounds – 1. The proposed shed by reason of its scale, location and bulk would be out of keeping with the design and character of the existing dwelling, and would have an adverse effect on the visual amenity of the area as a whole. 2. The proposed change of use from front garden to parking area for two vehicles would be out of keeping with the design and character of the row of houses that constitute Broomfield which is a pedestrian- only walkway. It was also noted that some neighbours had not been consulted, the Clerk will investigate this.

16/057

Completion of the Annual Return

a) Review effectiveness of the Internal Audit

Resolved that the comments of the Responsible Financial Officer be noted and the Council, having reviewed the effectiveness of the system of internal audit, approves the current arrangements. The Statement on Internal Control, for the year ending 31st March 2016 was signed by the Chairman.

b) To consider the internal audit report.

A very comprehensive report was given to the council which included internal audit compliance testing, internal audit procedure and the report. There were four levels of opinion, the best being “good”. The auditor felt that we have “good” controls in place, and overall the accounts and other records are maintained to a very satisfactory level. The Auditor commented that “a continuing high level of professionalism is displayed by the clerk who should also be commended for her role in developing the Parish Council app. Recommendations were made by the auditor.

The recommendations are:-

- 1) Consideration be given to reviewing the equal opportunities policy and publishing on the council website.
- 2) That each page of the minutes is initialled by the Council Chairman
- 3) That consideration is given to more regular backing up of electronic data to minimise the potential loss of any key data.

The Report was duly signed as received.

c) Approval of the statement of Assurance (Section 1)

Resolved that the statement of assurance be approved and signed by the Council Chairman.

d) Approval of the Statement of Accounts (Section 2)

The annual accounts contained in the annual return for the period ending 31st March 2016 were approved and signed by the Council Chairman.

e) Approval of our Asset Register

The Clerk issued the asset register listing values along with insurance values, in year additions and disposals.

The Council approved the register and the Chairman duly signed it.

16/058

a) Approval of risk assessment and management policy and risk register

The Clerk provided the council with the risk assessment policy and the risk register which details all items which have any risk, and when they were last reviewed.

It was agreed that we would review the Safeguarding children policy – Cllr Malpus agreed to email his copy supplied by LCC for the library. This will be compared to our existing by Cllr Castle. Also he has a Vulnerable adults policy – Cllr Needham will review this. Both recommended new policies will be considered by Council at our next meeting.

The Council approved the policy which was signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman. It will be reviewed again in June 2017.

16/059

To consider purchasing further equipment/bench for the village green play area.

It was considered that the play area outside the school is extremely well used on a daily basis and there was inadequate seating. It was RESOLVED to purchase a recycled plastic circular picnic table/bench in blue. The cost is £485.00 plus an additional cost for extended legs.

Also, other ideas for play equipment was discussed (play boat). The council did not have a specific budget for this and it would therefore have to be paid for out of our contingency budget. It was agreed that we would re-agenda this item for September.

16/060

Progress regarding the Awards for all Grant

The clerk confirmed that she completed the application form and sent it off on 16th May. We have received an acknowledgment and confirmation that the assessment could take up to 8 weeks, so hopefully we will have a decision by mid- July, and if successful if can be installed as soon as possible after that date.

16/061

To consider issuing of dog bags in our community library.

The Clerk confirmed that the library trustees and volunteers were happy to issue our free dog bags/50p sales from the library. This would give better access and a greater range of hours for residents to collect them, and also allow the office staff more time for admin rather than dealing with approx. 50 residents per month.

RESOLVED that the library would be provided with forms/bags and will commence issuing the bags from 1st July. Residents visiting the office during June will be given details of library opening hours, and posters will be placed around the village.

- 16/062 **Maintenance** – Cllr Preston said the grass cutting carried out by Leics County Council was atrocious. They have on both occasions been late with their cuts, long grass has been left everywhere and this discourages residents from picking up after their dogs. The Clerk confirmed that she has on both occasions complained and did speak to the men cutting the grass last time. They were in fact agency workers called in to catch up and informed the clerk that they had to cut the grass “as quick as they could”.
- 16/063 **Items approved for Expenditure**
Picnic Bench.
- 16/064 **Urgent items by permission of the Chairman**
Cllr Needham and Preston were due to carry out playground equipment checks in July and August. They asked if they could be shown how to carry out the checks effectively – the clerk will arrange this.
- 16/065 **Summer Meetings – to consider a break in July or August**
RESOLVED to take a break in August. The next meeting will be held on July 13th, followed by the next meeting on September 14th.

Date of next Meeting: **Wednesday July 13th 2016**
at 6.30pm in the Village Hall

The Meeting closed at 8.25 pm

L. Pizer
9th June 2016