

<u>EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL</u>

Minutes of a full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th September 2019 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr J Malpus (Chair) Cllr S Gerrard
 Cllr Cannon Cllr R Merry-Howe
 Cllr C Duffy (Vice-Chair)

PCSO Matt Harburt
 C Taylor Assistant Clerk 2 members of the public

The Chair explained that the Vice-Chair would be running the meeting.

19/096 **Co-option of New Members**

None

19/097 **Matters arising from the Public (Meeting Adjourned)**

A resident raised the speed of traffic on Melton Road. She mentioned that over the 10 years that she had lived on Melton Road the traffic had become more intense and the only quiet day was Christmas Day. She explained that she had been to Rearsby Parish Council and they were more than happy for her to put something up on their Parish notice board, would we allow her to do something similar in East Goscote. Cllr Merry-Howe responded on behalf of the Council and explained that due to a lack of volunteers, the Community Speedwatch had had to be cancelled. It was also suggested by Cllr Gerrard that the resident email Cllr James Poland and the Chief Constable for their information/advice. The PCSO did mention that the beat team are checking the speeds along Melton Road at different times as they are aware of the problem. He stated he would send the Clerk the speed monitoring results.

Another resident raised the issue of parents' cars being left running whilst doing the drop-off and pick-up from school. He would like the school to be written to, the Chair of Governors and the Diocese. He feels that currently when climate change is important, the school should do more to stop this. **RESOLVED** to write to the parties as requested and point out that diesel emissions are particularly harmful to children and there are links that air pollution reduce IQ and mental ability.

The resident also wished to know what Charnwood BC were going to do about having more charging points for electric cars. **RESOLVED** that Cllr Gerrard resolved to find out the information.

19/098 **Apologies for absence**

Cllr L Needham, Cllr M Nelson & Cllr M Webbon.

19/099 **To report any declarations of interest**

Cllr Malpus re library, Long Furrow and Chairman's Allowance, Cllr Duffy re VHMC and Chairman's Allowance and Cllr Cannon re Long Furrow.

19/100 **To confirm the minutes of the last full council meeting held on 10th July 2019**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

19/101 **Matters arising from the minutes**

19/046 Fly tipping cost – Cllr Needham was not there to answer questions. **RESOLVED** that C Taylor email Cllr Needham and find out about the fly tipping costs.
 18/264 The defib has been installed at the pavilion, not free of charge as promised by Cllr Gerrard. Cllr Gerrard offered defib training, however the Clerk is also working on this.
 19/052 Church land – site meeting with Leicestershire County Council and Reverend Tim Day on 2nd September. Result was that the bays are marked out and maintained by LCC. The LCC officer was hoping to get the bays marked out. Ownership of the land is between the Church and LCC and the road will have to be resurfaced at the Church's expense in the future. The Council now has all the legal documents regarding the land.

19/070 Ling Dale wall – Charnwood have asked a builder to visit the site. The site has been tidied up, but no further information at the moment.

19/046 Neighbourhood Speedwatch has been cancelled as there were not enough volunteers to run it
19/080 Leicestershire Matters had still not been delivered and the deadline had passed for the satisfaction survey to be completed (4th September).

19/082 Cllr Cannon said that he was waiting for further information regarding playground inspections.

19/084 The cost of bulky waste is going to be charged at £20 for 3 items. Cllr Malpus believes this to be an illegal charge for residents having seen a news item on waste charges. **RESOLVED** to get Cllr Needham to investigate.

19/088 Putting a door in the Council Offices into disabled toilet has been completed. Three quotes were obtained and the best value was £1,600 (+VAT) and an excellent job was done.

19/089 Football managers meeting was cancelled, however they did all see the Clerk individually and all have keys. The season has got off to a good start.

19/090 The bus shelters were ordered at the end of July and the office is awaiting a fitting date for September.

19/092 The defib and cabinet cost £1078.50 which will be donated to the Village Hall Committee. The Village Hall feedback was agreeable to accept the defib and to cover the electric costs and the replacement pads. Cllr Gerrard had been asked to have the plaque engraved with the following inscription “Gifted to the people of East Goscote by ALH”. Cllr Gerrard is also trying to get an electrician to fit the defib free of charge. It will need to be fitted in half-term. The cost of installation will be discussed at the next Village Hall meeting on 19th September.

19/093 A further 40 lamp post poppies have been ordered and this will make it 80 in total. A map has been submitted to LCC which has been approved. They will be installed on 31st October and removed on 14th November. There is a request for a Councillor to offer to work with the Groundsman to help install the poppies as NS is unavailable.

19/095 Damage to wet pour on Ling Dale. The Insurance paid £950, but the actual cost of the replacement wet pour was £1,475 (+VAT). The extra money came from the Contingency Budget. The whole area has been resurfaced.

19/095 The graffiti wall is being rebuilt on 20th September and the NFU (mowing contractor’s insurance company) paid out in full.

19/095 Electrical check at the pavilion failed. All works were completed and rechecked on 3rd September.

19/102

Matters arising from the Police

PCSO Harburt attended the meeting and reported that for August there had been 2 burglaries. One included car keys being stolen and resultant cars going missing, and the other involved loose cash and jewellery being taken. PCSO Harburt informed the Council of new “key pouches” that can be purchased to protect the key booster signal that can be picked up by criminals laptops’.

Following the vandalism to the school, the police have spoken to the young people involved and there have been no further problems. All the youths that were spoken to have not gone on to do anything else. There does not seem to be any more glue or gas cannisters being found on the village either.

19/103

County Councillors Report (Questions only)

Cllr Poland arrived late and gave his report;

- Recycling campaign – there is new campaign being launched to help residents recycle as much as they can. Last year over 5,500 tonnes of material in recycling bins was rejected due to wrongly recycled items. This has led to joint working across the county and a complete list of items that can be recycled can be found at: www.lesswaste.org.uk/items-accepted-for-recycling-at-casepak/
- Applications for secondary school places – the application process is now open to apply for secondary school places and closes on 31st October.
- Services to continue to benefit from investments – County council services are set to receive a multi-million pound boost this year due to the income being generated by property investment. The new properties that are being created will not only create income but also

provide hundreds of new jobs. The county council are also making sure that the new buildings are as sustainable as possible, all working towards being carbon neutral by 2030.

Cllr Cannon mentioned to Cllr Poland that Leicestershire Matters was not delivered, and Cllr Poland said that he would raise the matter again with Royal Mail.

19/104 **Borough Councillors Report (Questions only)**

Cllr Needham was not able to attend the meeting and there was no report. C Taylor to email the Borough Council and ask about the fly tipping figures.

19/105 **Reports from Reps on other Committees**

VHMC – Cllr Duffy reported that the next meeting is on 19th September at 1.00pm. All works have been undertaken over the summer. A new boiler is being replaced next Easter. Thanks to Cllr Laurie Needham for £500 from the Member's Grant towards this cost.

LONG FURROW – Latest edition is on the website and has been delivered to every house on the village. Lots of positive comments on this edition and at a meeting since that edition, a decision has been taken to go back to 250 printed copies for the next 2 editions and then hopefully to go back to a full village distribution provided that there are enough advertisers and distributors. The magazine is also hoping for help from the Parish Council, but do not know to what extent yet. The deadline for the next edition is October 1st.

PAV & PLAYING FIELD – Playground checks and pavilion were completed by L Pizer on 15th August. Toddler swing seats on Ling Dale need replacing – the rubber has started to crack and the pavilion car park needs maintenance work. **RESOLVED** to make a future agenda item. Cllr Gerrard left the meeting at this point.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – Nothing to report

TREES – Countryman's way tree needs cutting back. Trees and bushes that run alongside footpath also need cutting back.

SPEEDWATCH UPDATE – Cllr Merry Howe reported that despite his efforts to recruit volunteers to run a scheme this year, he only received 5 offers of help. Therefore, he has had to cancel this year's dates as the requirement is that we cover a minimum of 2 sessions per day for 10 days.

PARISH APP/WEBSITE

Figures for September (year to date) are Total App downloads for Android 300 (284 in July) and Apple 483 (468 in July) and website views 5988 (increased from 5881 July).

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE – The group met on 19th July. Key people and places of safety have started to be identified. The Church has been identified as primary place of safety and where the storage of emergency equipment will be held long term. Cllr Cannon will take stock of the emergency kit and investigate what else is required. At the next meeting, the following will be looked at;

- identify vulnerable residents
- identify residents with useful skills or equipment
- update emergency kit
- communicate a simplified version of the plan to residents (when finished)
- delegate the team roles

DEFIBS UPDATE – the footballers raised money for a defib to be fitted at the pavilion and this has now been installed. It has been registered with the East Midlands Ambulance Service. The Groundsman is checking it on a weekly basis and the Clerk is in discussions to train the football managers and village hall users in October either on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening.

19/106 **Proposed Accounts**

Approval of August and September accounts. Accounts to the sum of £11,498.58 were approved by

the council for August, and £11,103.91 for September.

19/107

Correspondence

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

- Leicestershire CC circulated a National Highways and Transport satisfaction survey to Parish Councils. The closing date is 31st October 2019. One response per council. **RESOLVED** that Cllr Malpus will respond on behalf of the Council.
- There is a mandatory “keep clear” outside Broomfield primary school. This is effective Monday – Friday, 8.00 am – 4.00 pm.
- Leicestershire County Council are undertaking a review of encouraging biodiversity and they wish to look to develop a sustainable approach to verge management. **RESOLVED** to put on the October Agenda.
- Cllr Needham is the new Champion for Climate Change at Charnwood BC.
- The East Goscote elections cost £80.76.
- An email from Broomfield Primary School expressing concern that several of their pupils had been opening hatches on the Mound that lead to ladders, etc. **RESOLVED** to investigate and reply to the school.
- Resident email about overgrown tree on the mound overhanging their garden. **RESOLVED** to reply to the resident with the outcome of the Groundsman’s visit to assess the situation.
- Email from resident voicing objections to the felling of the horse chestnut tree on Long Furrow opposite Wild Rose Walk. Leicestershire CC advised that the tree was infected with chestnut bleeding canker and was so extensive that the tree’s structural integrity had been affected. Cllr Needham and the Clerk both responded to the resident.
- Email from Bizzy Bees asking to display their banner in the community. **RESOLVED** to respond that the Parish Council do not promote individual businesses within the community. They may wish to contact the Church or the Precinct.
- Notice of Conclusion of Audit from PKF Littlejohn. The external auditor report 2018/19 states that “Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with the Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met” and “other matters affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority – None”.
- Email from East Goscote Juniors asking whether the facilities can be accessed by the U8/9s when no other team is in on Sundays. **RESOLVED** to respond to the U8/9s manager that could allow them access on a trial basis; keys would have to be picked up on a Thursday and delivered back on a Monday. The pricing structure would be the same as for the girls’ team.
- Graffiti wall insurance claim been granted at full rate (£1,360) – start date to rebuild it is 20th September.

19/108

Planning Matters

P/19/1645/2 – First floor rear extension including balcony at 189 Long Furrow. The deadline for this application was 03.09.19. Councillors responded individually with all no objections.

19/109

Update re the lease with Charnwood/Scouts

The lease was finally signed off on 19th July and the Scouts have paid for legal fees, rent and their maintenance charge up to date.

19/110

To consider 3 quotes for a new Springy on the Mound

The professional inspection report highlighted the fact that the original springy on the Mound had been found to have several splits in its framework making it unsafe. There is a budget of £1,500 available. Several options were presented to the Council and they differed in price. The Councillors unanimously chose a three-way cockerel springy with extended wetpour. This was at a cost of £2,324. Funds will be made available from other budget headings. **RESOLVED** to place the order

soon as possible.

- 19/111 **Syston and District Cemetery opened on 19th July/Costs**
Chair and Clerk attended the opening on 19th July. Comparison costs show that the Syston and District is expensive when compared against Loughborough Cemetery and Queniborough Cemetery. **RESOLVED** to write to Syston and District Cemetery and comment on their pricing structure.
- 19/112 **To discuss the Closure of the Doctors Surgery and leaving event**
The GP wrote to his patients in May advising them of his retirement in the autumn. He advised them of possible merger with the Jubilee Medical Practice. The PPG worked very hard to try and bring this to fruition with the West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group. Unfortunately, the merger was not successful partly due to the low number of registered patients. Cllr Needham did a petition asking the West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group to put a care taking service in place.
- Services will cease on Friday 27th September 2019. The Council have decided to hold an event in the Plough to celebrate the doctor's 25 years' service to the village and to the residents of Ling Dale. A guest book been purchased for everyone to sign and is in the Community Library. The celebration will be held on Friday 27th September 6.00 – 8.00 pm. The Chair of the Parish Council and the Chair of the PPG will be doing a joint speech.
- The Chair's allowance can be used for occasions like the retirement of the doctor and it was proposed by Cllr Merry-Howe that the money left in the Chair's allowance of £378 be used to pay for the costs of the retirement celebration. **RESOLVED** to spend the Chair's allowance of £378 on the costs of the celebration.
- 19/113 **To discuss the risk assessments for the street furniture/pavilion/council offices**
The Clerk confirmed that a professional assessment was completed in 2017 and updated by Councillors last year. **RESOLVED** that we ask to appoint a professional assessor to complete the assessments at a cost of £300.
- 19/114 **To consider cutting the playing field hedge (top and sides)**
Our mowing contractor has confirmed that to cut the playing field hedge this year, it will cost no more than £250. **RESOLVED** to have the playing field hedge cut by the contractor.
- 19/115 **Review of our Financial Regulations**
The Finance Committee will review the regulations as a new set has been written by NALC. Two members of the Finance committee will arrange for this to be done, and new regulations will be issued to all Councillors. **RESOLVED** for Cllrs Merry-Howe and Malpus to meet and review the new and old Financial Regulations.
- 19/116 **To Review a) Disciplinary b) Grievance policies c) Email and Internet policy d) Complaints policy**
It was agreed that the two out of the four need Staffing Committee review the policies would review the current policies and new information from NALC. Councillor will receive copies of the updated policies. **RESOLVED** to delegate to the Staffing Committee to review the policies and to bring back to the November meeting.
- 19/117 **Maintenance**
Cllr Malpus raised the issue of a fence panel behind the doctor's surgery that is still being propped up by a post. The owner has been written to before. **RESOLVED** to write to the owner of the property and ask them to rectify the matter of the leaning fence panel. Point out to them that they have a public liability if anyone is injured as it is on public land.
- 19/118 **Items approved for expenditure**
Defib
Risk assessments
Doctors Retirement event
Hedge
Springy

19/119

Urgent items by permission of the Chairman

Cllr Merry-Howe raised the issues of the speeding project having been budgeted for £2,500 and there is drainage of the playing field budget of £1,500. **RESOLVED** to put both these items on October's Agenda.

Date of next Meeting:

Wednesday October 9th 2019 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall

The Meeting closed at 8.50pm

C Taylor
12th September 2019