

<u>EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL</u>

Minutes of a full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th October 2019 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr J Malpus (Chair) Cllr M Nelson
 Cllr C Duffy (Vice-Chair) Cllr L Needham
 Cllr M Webbon

C Taylor Assistant Clerk 1 member of the public
 PC Malik

19/120 **Co-option of New Members**
 None

19/121 **Matters arising from the Public (Meeting Adjourned)**
 A resident wanted to raise a concern about the heavy rain in the last week or two and the drain on Long Furrow opposite number 40 that struggled to take the water away. **RESOLVED** to pass the matter onto Highways and get them to investigate.

19/122 **Apologies for absence**
 Cllr Malpus read out a letter from Cllr Merry-Howe giving his resignation from the Parish Council with immediate effect. Cllr Malpus raised the subject of a retirement gift for Cllr Merry-Howe. He has been in office for 4 years and qualifies for a £50 gift voucher as per the Councillor Retirement Guidelines. **RESOLVED** to purchase a £50 One4All voucher.

Apologies from Cllr David Cannon and Cllr Sue Gerrard.

19/123 **To report any declarations of interest**
 Cllr Malpus re library, Long Furrow and the possible locations for trees from the Woodland Trust and Cllr Duffy re VHMC and Neighbourhood Watch.

19/124 **To confirm the minutes of the last full council meeting held on 11th September 2019**
 The minutes were deferred as Cllr Gerrard had made a comment and the Council wanted to wait to see if Cllr Gerrard managed to attend the meeting later. Cllr Malpus signed the minutes as a true and accurate record of the proceedings at the end of the meeting.
 19/119 The budget for draining the playing field should read £1,000 not £1,500.

19/125 **Matters arising from the minutes**
 18/264 The defib training has been arranged for Tuesday 22nd October at 7pm in the Village Hall. Councillors and footballers have been emailed. There are a maximum of 30 spaces available.
 19/046 Fly tipping cost was found out by Cllr Needham and circulated to the resident.
 19/052 Church land – response received from LCC regarding cost to resurface the area. All things being equal, it would cost £1940 for the Council area to be done and £6858 for the Church area.
 19/070 Ling Dale wall – Charnwood have asked a builder to visit the site and a date of 1st October given to rebuild the wall. This has not been completed.
 19/080 Leicestershire Matters had still not been delivered and the deadline had passed for the satisfaction survey to be completed (4th September) – Cllr Poland found out the information that not enough packs had been delivered to Syston sorting office. This will be amended for next year.
 19/082 Cllr Cannon are still waiting for information on playground inspections. As soon as anything arrives it will be forwarded to the Clerk.
 19/084 Cllr Gerrard looked into this problem and forwarded the answer to Cllr Malpus; any authority can charge for waste over 25kg and/or not fitted into the household bins. Cllr Malpus feels that garden waste has not been covered by this information. **RESOLVED** that Cllr Needham would find out more information for the Council.
 19/090 The bus shelters were fitted on 2nd October.
 19/093 To help the Groundsman fit the poppies this year, Cllr Webbon has kindly stepped into the breach.

19/095 The graffiti wall was rebuilt on 1st October and reinforced steel was put in the end bricks to strengthen the wall. **RESOLVED** to chase the builder for the invoice to forward onto the insurers.

19/097 The issue of parents' cars being left running was taken up with the school and they promised to put something in the next school newsletter. Cllr Nelson confirmed seeing something in the Friday Flyer.

19/097 The charging points for electric cars was raised by a resident and Cllr Gerrard promised to find out the information. Cllr Needham informed the resident that:

- The Planning team are working with partners to deliver an integrated network of affordable electric vehicle charging points in locations which are safe, accessible & convenient
- They propose new developments to make provision for electric vehicle charging points to encourage low carbon vehicles
- Working with infrastructure providers to trial new technologies such as street lamppost charging posts and rapid charging hubs
- Charnwood also working with Western Power to understand what type of charging points are most suitable at different locations

19/105 The maintenance of the pavilion car park will go as an Agenda item for another meeting.

19/107 Cllr Malpus responded on behalf of the Parish Council the National Highways and Transport Satisfaction survey.

19/110 Springy has been ordered.

19/111 Email to Syston Town Council re the cemetery and their response under correspondence

19/112 Doctor Shah's retirement party was well attended. Dr Shah has donated £500 to the Parish Council so that something can be provided for the village to benefit from. Dr Shah, Cllr Malpus and the Clerk will meet to discuss this matter.

19/114 The hedge on the playing field has not yet been cut and will be done in November.

19/115 Cllrs Malpus and Merry-Howe have reviewed the Financial Regulations.

19/116 The policies will be looked at by the Staffing Committee and brought back to the November meeting.

19/117 The resident took it upon himself to repair the leaning fence post.

19/126

Matters arising from the Police

PC Malik attended the meeting on behalf of PCSO Harburt who has moved onto training as a Police Officer. There are more patrols in the area, particularly at night. They have also undertaken a speeding operation on the Melton Road

In the last month there has been;

- 3 vehicle crimes
- Reduction in burglaries

Cllr Webbon had seen PCSO Harburt on one of his last patrol of East Goscoste and reported finding several gas cannisters in the village. PC Malik noted the location and will make further enquiries.

Cllr Malpus would like a thank you letter to go to PCSO Harburt for all his time given to East Goscoste. **RESOLVED** to send a thank you card.

19/127

County Councillors Report

No report was sent.

19/128

Borough Councillors Report

- Ling dale wall should be completed by the end of October
- Charnwood local plan – draft consultation
- Members Grant allocations - £500 to village hall for new boiler, £250 to community library, £250 to East Goscoste girl guides
- Strategic growth plan – asked that Council consider withdrawing its support for the SGP over the impacts of housing and road building on East Goscoste

19/129

Reports from Reps on other Committees

VHMC – The finances are healthy. One regular hirer left, but Weight Watchers will be starting at the beginning of November on a Monday. The matter of the defib and where it should go was discussed at the last meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee and it was agreed that it should go on the front of the building after the electrician confirmed that electric can be sourced to it. The cost to install the defib is £120. With the matter of the plaque, the Committee are still waiting for details of the donor from Cllr Gerrard.

LONG FURROW – Currently with the editor for design purposes. It will be out beginning of November.

PAV & PLAYING FIELD – the risk assessment for the Pavilion took place on 2nd October. Cllr Malpus had not had time to complete his playground inspection. **RESOLVED** that Cllr Webbon would undertake October.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – Cllr Duffy has signed up to the Neighbourhood Link and continues to forward anything that comes to her.

Cllr Duffy left the meeting at this point.

TREES – On Sadlers Close, LCC has cut down 1 diseased tree. There are some trees on the Long Furrow and Ploughmans Lea where the branches are a bit low. **RESOLVED** to get the Groundsman to trim back.

PARISH APP/WEBSITE – Figures for October (year to date) are Total App downloads for Android 303 (300 in September) and Apple 484 (483 in September) and website views 5914. Cllr Webbon asked that the website be checked as he could not find the Police contact information. **RESOLVED** that C Taylor check the Crime and Safety page.

19/130

Proposed Accounts

The Council accepted accounts to the sum of £5,529.88 for October.

19/131

Correspondence

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

- Charnwood Design supplementary Planning doc consultation 30/9-11/11/19
- Request from Marie Curie for donation – **RESOLVED** to put on next Agenda
- Snow warden scheme – **RESOLVED** that Council agreed to participate in this year's scheme
- BT payphone consultation – closing date 15/11/19 – **RESOLVED** not to keep payphone
- Email from resident regarding speeding traffic on Melton Road and their concerns
- Email from school in response to their parents leaving their cars running
- Letter from resident asking to put a memorial tree on the Jubilee Playing Field and thank you letter with photo (Cllrs unanimously agreed to the planting of the tree)
- Photos of inside of manhole on Jubilee Playing field near dog walk/Scout Hut
- LCC response regarding cost of resurfacing the Church and Council land at Ling dale
- Response from Cllr Gerrard to Cllr Malpus question about charging for waste
- Cllr Needham's responses to resident queries about fly tipping and car charging points
- Response from Syston TC regarding the pricing structure for the new Cemetery
- Wet pour damage on the Mound; reported to the police on 10th September; cost to repair £100 – been repaired
- Armed Forces Covenant – **RESOLVED** that more information be required

19/132

Planning Matters

P/219/1864/2, 2 Countryman's Way, East Goscote – no objection this planning application. Cllr Webbon commented that he was concerned about the planting of Cypress trees next to a footpath. **RESOLVED** to find out the legality of planting such trees next to a footpath, particularly on a bend.

Cllr Needham brought to the Council's attention the news that in the draft Charnwood Local Plan, East Goscote was indicated as planning need for 223 more houses. The site allocated was the same as that indicated previously by the Gladman planning application.

Cllr Needham has emailed the Head of Planning Department and clarified that the land will be open for development if the draft Local Plan is adopted. A need of 6,000 houses has been identified over and above the last Plan. The consultation is due to start on 4th November and last for 6 weeks.

There is a meeting for Parish and Town Councils on Monday 21st October 5.30-7.30pm at Loughborough. **RESOLVED** that the Chairman will attend this meeting with either Councillor Webbon or our Assistant Clerk.

RESOLVED to arrange a meeting with Rod Axon, KEGG, Keep Rearsby Rural and Cllr Needham to discuss the upcoming issue with a view to putting together a response from the Council.

RESOLVED to add to next Agenda.

19/133

Christmas Update – to approve contractor for light installation/removal

The contractor that normally installs the lights and removes them has been used for several years with no problems and it was agreed to use them again this year. **RESOLVED** that the contractor be asked to carry out the installation at the quoted price.

19/134

Speeding Project – discussion

This year's Community Speedwatch campaign was not able to run due to low numbers of volunteers. Queniborough's Community Speedwatch has been approached through the Clerk at Queniborough Parish Council and they are willing to join forces next year to enable East Goscote to run a Speedwatch project as well as their own.

At the budget meeting last year, £2,500 was put aside for a speeding project. As the Speedwatch project was cancelled, discussion took place around the usefulness of speeding signs. **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Nelson and Needham investigate finding out information on how to slow drivers down around the village and to add Ling Dale to the Speedwatch area. **RESOLVED** that Cllr Needham ask the resident who attended the Council meeting in September if they would like to be involved with the task. **RESOLVED** that C Taylor ask Cllr Poland if additional signs can be added to the highway.

19/135

Drainage of the playing field - discussion

A budget of £1,000 had been put aside at the beginning of the year for works to be carried out on the playing field. Information that had been found out suggested finding the original drainage plan that would show where the drains were. The drainage was originally done in the early 1980s with a main channel across the middle of the field to the right of the drive and drains leading off in skeletal form. **RESOLVED** not to take this forward at this time. **RESOLVED** to find the drainage plan in due course.

19/136

To discuss the bus shelter on land at the Doctor's Surgery

There was discussion amongst the Councillors as to what might happen to the Doctor's Surgery and the fact that the bus shelter is on its land. **RESOLVED** to wait and see what happens to the building. **RESOLVED** to look into prices for an "up and over" bus shelter in the meantime.

19/137

LCC grass cutting of verges/wildflower areas

Discussion took place about the cutting of verges in the village. The Parish Council has the grassy areas cut 15 times, whilst LCC only cuts between 5 and 7 times a year (7 times in 2019). Cllr Webbon felt that just leaving certain areas would look untidy. Cllr Needham indicated that Hathern PC had taken on leaving some verges to wildflower areas and would talk to the Borough Councillor for that area in more detail. **RESOLVED** that Cllr Webbon would identify some areas that could be left for wildflower areas and inform the Clerk of them. **RESOLVED** that Cllr Needham would talk to the Hathern Borough Councillor in more detail and perhaps arrange for them to talk to the Council at a future meeting.

19/138

a) Trees available from the Woodland Trust – possible locations

Cllr Malpus declared an interest in this item.

Cllr Needham started the discussion on this item, saying that a resident remembers that when East Goscote was first built, each house was given a tree to plant. Obviously, a lot of trees are nearing the end of their life.

Cllr Nelson, who had originally thought that a Copse of 30 trees would be ideal, had since changed her mind to the Urban Tree package as this was a smaller amount of 15 trees. However, the original suggestion of a copse in Lilac Way and/or behind the Doctor's Surgery were disregarded.

There is a specific way to manage any amount of trees and consideration will have to be given to maintenance of the area, especially within the first 3 years of planting.

RESOLVED to bring the matter back to another meeting after Cllr Nelson and Cllr Webbon to walk a proposed site with the Clerk on 28th October at 2.30pm. **RESOLVED** to look into the rules and regulations of this Woodland Trust scheme in more detail. **RESOLVED** that Cllr Needham would contact Charnwood Borough Council regarding their possible tree scheme.

b) To consider a tree and hedge maintenance policy

The Council had previously had time to look at and consider the Tree and hedge maintenance policy. **RESOLVED** that Cllr Needham write a paragraph to add to the policy regarding the replanting or replacement of trees when removed. **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt with immediate effect.

19/139 **Drain covers/abandoned storm drains – preventing access**

A photo had been circulated with the papers and the Council discussed the merits of either purchasing a metal drain cover with T-handles to remove it if necessary, or just to cover with soil and rocks. Cllr Webbon suggested that the covers be lifted, the area cleaned out and then the covers be cemented in and any cracks to the lids be filled. There are three manhole covers – 1 near the pavilion, 1 in a hedge and the last 1 in from of an elder. **RESOLVED** that Cllr Webbon and the Groundsman have a look at the manhole cover near the pavilion and discuss the situation. Permission to spend up to £200 on materials.

19/140 **To arrange a date to consider next years' precept (Dec meeting approval)**

The Finance committee will meet to discuss next year's precept. As Cllr Merry-Howe has resigned, Cllr Nelson was asked to step in for this meeting. The Committee will meet on the 25th November at 2pm. The draft precept will be presented to full council in December. Should any Councillors wish to submit any suggestions for the draft budget please do so by mid-November

19/141 **To consider Employee appraisals**

The Staffing committee will meet on 18th November at 2 pm to consider the policies that need reviewing; Disciplinary, Grievance, Email & Internet and Complaints. The Staffing committee will hold appraisals on 28th November. Staff appraisals will be completed by the Chairman and the Clerk and the Chairman and Vice Chairman will complete the Clerk's appraisal.

19/142 **To consider the Risk Assessments for street furniture/pavilion and council offices**

The risk assessments for the benches, bus shelters and pavilion were undertaken on Thursday 2nd October, however, due to staff illness the office was not able to be assessed. This has been rearranged for Monday 21st October. **RESOLVED** to have any risks looked at and dealt with by the Groundsman. **RESOLVED** to check if there is an asbestos survey.

19/143 **Maintenance**

Soakaway at the pavilion
Email Jelsons regarding the dipped drain cover near the back of Church hall

19/144 **Items approved for expenditure**

Christmas lights
Risk assessments
Manhole covers/cement repair
Retirement gift

19/145

Urgent items by permission of the Chairman

None

Date of next Meeting:

Wednesday 13th November 2019 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall

The Meeting closed at 9.07pm

C Taylor

10th October 2019