

EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 13th May 2020
at 6.30pm via “Zoom”.

Present:

Cllr Malpus
Cllr S Gerrard (Part)
Cllr M Webbon
Cllr M Nelson

Cllr L Needham
Cllr C Duffy
Cllr D Cannon

Mrs L Pizer (Clerk)

1 Member of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to our Zoom meeting and explained that there would be polls/votes throughout the meeting.

20/001 **Co-option of New Members - None**

20/002 **Election of Chairman**

Cllr John Malpus was elected as Chairman and will sign the declaration of office and send to the office

20/003 **Election of Vice Chairman**

Cllr Cathy Duffy was elected as Vice Chairman and will sign the declaration of office.

20/004 **Declarations of Acceptance of Office**

The Proper Officer will sign the declarations of office from the Chair and Vice Chairman.

20/005 **Declarations of interests/Register of Interest to be Updated**

Cllr Malpus re Chairman’s Allowance, Long Furrow and Library
Cllr Cannon re the donation to the Long Furrow
Cllr Duffy re Village Hall, NHood Watch and Vice Chair Allowance

All Councillors were given their register of interests update form and asked to complete within 28 days if necessary.

20/006 **Matters arising from the public (Meeting adjourned)**

Mr Axon confirmed that he has drafted a letter to be sent to the flood authority, Charnwood and the Environment agency following further research. He has also had a response from Julian Howe at Charnwood regarding tree planting and the environment. Mr Howe would like to attend a future council meeting if possible.

20/007 **Apologies for Absence.**

Cllr Poland submitted his apologies and a report has been circulated.
The police have submitted a report but are unable to attend.
We have three vacancies.

20/008 **To confirm the minutes of the last meeting (March 11th, 2020)**

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

20/009 **Matters arising from the Minutes**

- 19/210 – Dog Bin for the Rearsby Roses development – Cllr Needham and Cllr Nelson will contact the management company to ask if they would install a dog waste bin.
- 19/211 – Charnwood Watch signs have been installed
- 19/211 – Parking issue on Lilac Way is now resolved
- 19/194 – Fleury Court Bins – Cllr Needham will write again to Jelson asking

if they would provide a bin store for the residents. Cllr Gerrard suggested that she also involve environmental health.

- 19/227 – The bench and plaque for Dr Shah is yet to be installed as it is a two-man job.
- 19/238 – Dirty Street Signs – Cllr Needham to confirm if these are cleaned by Charnwood.
- 19/238 – The Library is closed so there are no Borough Councillor surgeries at present.
- 19/239 – Tall Leylandi – Information has been received and no further action will be taken.
- 19/250 – Biodiversity training was cancelled
- 19/251 – A staffing committee meeting will be held in July.

20/010

Reports from Reps on other Committees

VHMC – A meeting was held on May 7th, 2020.

The Village hall Chairman thanked the committee members for their dedication and enthusiasm in keeping our village hall to a high standard, she also thanked Liz for her hard work in researching funds available during the Covid 19 closure, and being successful in obtaining £10k for the village hall which will cover 6 months loss of income.

The committee hope to install a new boiler in the summer and are looking at a new cooker. The VHMC AGM is being held on June 24th via Zoom

The hall had improvements amounting to over £30,000 this last year.

LONG FURROW – The magazine is on our website and 250 copies available in outlets around the village. It is hoped that the Long Furrow can be delivered again to every household. Cllr Needham said that she could possibly source volunteers and Cllr Gerrard offered to deliver two rounds.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – There are 23 residents on the mailing list and emails are circulated on a regular basis.

TREES – Visual checks were carried out –

Lilac Way – Silver birch tree – resident unhappy – discuss again.

The Meadows – request to prune a tree – Defer to the Autumn.

Wild Rose Walk – a tree has been removed – possibly by Jelson or LCC

LIBRARY UPDATE – The Library is currently closed so the AGM will be held in the future. Dog bags are being sold at the library gate for our residents and the committee are looking at improving the heating system.

PARISH APP/WEBSITE UPDATE – Total app downloads amounted to 825 (818) in March. Website sessions over the last 12 months amounted to 4445 (4635 in March) The Chairman suggested that we now report on our parish app and website every six months as it is now well established. This was agreed

GREENER GOSCOTE – Cllr Cannon reported that this is an independent group which now has its own bank account and funds. The group is applying for additional funding and is now paying for the use of the bottle bank. It was agreed that the Council would have a representative on this group.

SPEEDING COMMITTEE – It was reported by a resident that vehicles continue to speed on Melton Road and around the village. Speed checks have been undertaken this week by the police. (Details to be circulated). Cllr Webbon said that he still has some 20's plenty stickers to give out.

It was requested that the banners on the bus shelters be moved to different locations.

20/011 **To agree annual Subs and Donations**

RESOLVED that we subscribe to all the associations/societies listed on the attached sheet.

Donations with their own budget were agreed as follows:

Long Furrow – Resolved to award £500 (Cllr Cannon and Malpus took no part)

Library – (Cllr Malpus took no part). The Clerk advised the council that £230 has been made for the purchase of dog bags so far this year. She informed everyone that there is currently a balance of over £18k in the library and this equates to approximately four years of expenses. She informed that Council that should the library fold for any reason, any balance must go to a similar use and would not be returned to the village. RESOLVED to award the grant of £1000 – 2 Councillors voted against this, and 4 Councillors voted for.

Friendship Club – No letter to request funding has been received to date this year.

20/012 **Presentation of Deed and Trust Instruments**

All documents are available for inspection by members in the future.

20/013 **Confirmation of Cheque Signatories for 2020/21.**

Current cheque signatories are: L Pizer our financial officer, Cllr Duffy, Cllr Malpus and Cllr Needham. These are adequate and no changes are required.

20/014 **Appointment of Representatives**

RESOLVED that representatives were appointed as per the attached sheet.

20/015 **Proposed Accounts**

Accounts to the sum of £3845.78 were accepted by the council for May and £4755.30 for April. RESOLVED to make all payments via bank transfer for the short term. The chairman is conducting an internal check of all accounts on a monthly basis.

20/016 **To approve the Village Hall's Annual Accounts (C Duffy declared her interest)**

The annual accounts were presented to all Councillors.
RESOLVED that the accounts be approved by the Parish Council (trustees).
Councillor Malpus will sign the accounts on behalf of the Council

20/017 **Correspondence**

A List of correspondence received was issued to all Councillors present.

- The Audit information has been received. The submission deadline for the return of the audit is 31st July. The internal audit is taking place by the end of May so we will consider the accounts as normal at our June meeting.
- Request to work with the council for a tennis coaching project – the Clerk will obtain more information.

20/018 **Planning Matters - None**

20/019 **To approve updated standing orders**

The Clerk confirmed that NALC have issued modified standing orders to support the new empowerment enshrined in the Coronavirus Act 2020, and associated 2020 regulations. RESOLVED to adopt the modified standing orders until we revert to meetings in person.

- 20/020 a) **To approve the Chairman/Vice Chairman's Allowance payable for the year commencing May 2020**
- The Chairman and Vice Chairman declared their prejudicial interest and left the room.
- RESOLVED that the Chairman's allowance be added to the Vice-Chairman's allowance and both would be paid on a claim's basis. This can be used for attendance at civic duties, meetings, training, clerk's briefings and travel. Maximum amount available between the Chair and Vice-Chair is £700. A further amount of £100 will be available for the purchase of gifts for retiring Councillors/staff if required. The allowance is to be paid upon completion of one year's service in April 2021 and is not paid on a monthly basis.
- 20/021 **To consider the Annual Playground Inspection Report**
- The Clerk has emailed all Councillors with the full inspection report and risk assessment. It was noted that mainly all play areas are low risk and the identified actions will be addressed if possible, by our caretaker. One moderate risk was the goal end on the Mound where the cricket panel and basketball board need repairing. Cllr Cannon had concerns regarding some of the items highlighted in the report, and it was agreed that he would identify these and have a site visit with the Clerk in the future.
- Tennis court – The Clerk asked Councillors to consider the opening of our tennis court. RESOLVED to open the court from Thursday 14th May indicating that anyone uses the court at their own risk.
- 20/022 **To Review the Council Insurance Policy.**
- Our Current insurance policy is with Ecclesiastical through brokers "Came and Company" until 30th September 2020. The Council reviewed the policy and were happy that everything is covered. The Clerk will obtain new quotes for the policy renewal for the council to consider in July.
- 20/023 **Football issues – To approve the conditions of hire/policies**
- Councillors were provided with the policies prior to the meeting. The conditions of hire and the policy for Management and Allocation of pitches was approved unchanged.
- Pitch inspection process – A letter was received from East Goscote Juniors regarding the pitch inspection process. Currently the Caretaker confirms if the pitches are fit or un-fit on a Thursday. The Clerk then informs the teams and calls all games off if necessary. RESOLVED that we continue with our inspection regime as we do not have any staff available on a Friday or Saturday. We would, however, look at each pitch on an individual basis, rather than calling off all matches.
- 20/024 **To ratify Pitch Allocations 2020/21**
- The Clerk informed Councillors of pitch requests made for next season. RESOLVED to allocate pitches as follows: -
1. Senior Pitch allocated to East Goscote FC (New team)
 2. Under 7/8 pitch allocated to East Goscote Junior Under 8's (one team now)
 3. Under 9/10 (60 x 40) allocated to East Goscote Juniors Under 9's and Under 10's
 4. Junior Pitch (80 x 50) allocated to East Goscote Juniors under 12's and Under 13's
- As there are vacancies, any future applications will be awarded on a first come first served basis by the Clerk.
- 20/025 **To Appoint an Internal Auditor**
- RESOLVED that Mr Richard Wilcox (Redwood Pryor) be appointed to carry out the internal audit for the accounts ending March 2020. He submitted terms and

conditions which have been signed. There will be a fixed fee of £265 for completion of the internal audit. He will be undertaking the internal audit on 21st May and a zoom meeting will be held on 28th May so that the Council can have all the audit information for approval at their June meeting as normal.

20/026

To apply for Section 106 funding (deadline July 2020)

The Clerk has contacted Charnwood BC who requested that approval be obtained to both extend the deadline and approve the project of works to the Car Park. The Clerk has written to DWH and is awaiting a response.

It was suggested that if the deadline and approval are not forthcoming, that we may need to have a contingency plan for an alternative. Looking at the playground inspection, this indicated that we need a new goal end panel and basketball/cricket panel along with new swings to the play area at Ling Dale. RESOLVED that if we are unable to spend the S106 on the car park, we would apply for the new swings and goal end panel. Next agenda.

20/027

Maintenance

Land on Broome Lane by the railway line. We have been informed that the fencing and sign have been damaged and the area is generally being used as a tip. The Chairman informed the meeting that this land was purchased from LCC in 2009 as a precautionary measure. We will discuss this at our next meeting in June. All Councillors to view the land before the meeting.

Village sign – the base needs tidying and the weeds removing.

Cllr Nelson asked what was happening to maintenance problems on the Rearsby Roses estate. The clerk confirmed that residents need to contact the management company to rectify the problems. Cllr Nelson will try to establish a group to deal with any complaints in this area.

Maintenance forms will be issued to all Councillors with the next agenda.

20/028

Items Approved for expenditure

Subs and Donations

Chairman's/Vice Chair Allowance

Internal Auditor

20/029

Urgent items by permission of the Chairman

A report from our County Councillor was circulated and advised that waste sites are due to re-open on 18th May. It also detailed LCC efforts in dealing with the coronavirus. He also advised the council that the County's "inspired to care team" are helping to recruit staff. For more information and to apply visit

www.inspiretocare.co.uk/jobs or call 01163055186

Our Borough Councillor also issued a report giving details of the "preferred options consultation on the Draft Local Plan – The final plan is still to be published in the Autumn, we will have the right to comment and appeal.

Charnwood Garden Waste – is resuming on a 4-weekly schedule and users are receiving a £5 discount on their next subscription.

There has been an increase in Fly-tipping and noise pollution.

Mutual aid group – continues to support residents needing assistance.

The Meeting closed at 9.00pm

L. Pizer

14th May 2020