East Goscote Parish Council

Minutes of a full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8 July 2020 at 6.30pm via Zoom.

Present:

Cllr J Malpus (Chair) Cllr M Webbon

Cllr M Nelson Cllr S Gerrard (Part)

Cllr D Cannon Cllr L Needham (Part)

Cllr Axon Cllr Tate

Cllr Shivers Cllr Slack

Cllr J Poland (late) 2 Members of the Public

The Chairman asked that everyone present ensure that they are muted until such time that they wish to speak. He also stated that if in any item the Councillor declares their interest which requires them to leave the meeting, they should log off the meeting and then log back on to be in the waiting room to be re-admitted when the discussion ends.

With regards to the election of Vice Chair – Cllr Nelson has agreed to continue in post until September and this will be re-considered at our September meeting. Cllr Axon asked if the Vice Chairman role could be a shared role

20/056 **Co-option of New Members –** The Clerk has received four applications to fill the current four vacancies. We have received confirmation from Charnwood that there have been no requests to call an election and we can therefore co-opt.

The Chairman asked each applicant to introduce themselves and the reasons why they wish to become a Councillor.

Votes were undertaken for each application and they were all successful. Councillors Axon, Shivers, Slack and Tate were co-opted and Signed the declarations of office in view of the clerk. The registers of interest are to be returned to the office within 28 days and also Councillors are required to create a “Cllr” email address and inform the Clerk of this.

20/057 **Matters arising from the Public (Meeting Adjourned)**

One resident raised concerns regarding youth gathering in certain areas, the Clerk will inform the PCSO and ask for additional patrols.

A resident raised her concerns regarding the bins at the walkway to the shops belonging to the flats. It was noted that on occasion this is a hazard, although Cllr Cannon said that the flats have very little space, and in the summer the smell would be objectionable. He suggests that we try to persuade Jelsons and Charnwood to build a bin compound to store the bins safely.

One resident asked for a transcript of the meeting.

20/058  **Apologies for absence:**

20/059 **To report any declarations of interest:** Cllr Malpus re library and Long Furrow, Cllr

Cannon re the Long Furrow and Greener Goscote, Cllr Nelson re Greener Goscote

Cllr Axon re Greener Goscote, Cllr Shivers re the Village Hall and the Library Cllr Slack re Greener Goscote.

20/060 **To confirm the minutes of the last full council meeting held on 10 June 2020**

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

Cllr Poland arrived for the meeting.

20/061 **Matters arising from the minutes**

* 20/031 – a thank you gift was sent to Cllr Duffy
* 20/032 – Recent Speed check results will appear in the next Long Furrow
* 20/042 – A cycle rack has been installed adjacent to the Village hall
* 20/053 – Bedding plants have been installed at the Pavilion Driveway
* 20/053 – The Wayfarer Drive sign has been repaired
* 20/053 – Planting to the side of the tennis court (banks) will be carried out by Cllr Slack next week.
* 20/053 – Broken drain cover – Herons Way has also been repaired
* 20/038 – The Chairman advised Cllr Poland that the Leicestershire Matters was once again not received in East Goscote. He agreed to report this again.
* 20/050 – Cllr Cannon will give the fencing contractors telephone number to the Clerk to ascertain a quote.
* 20/006 – Letter re flooding – one letter has been sent and others will be sent in the coming week.
* 20/036 – Cllr Malpus reminded the staffing committee that there is a meeting on July 20th at 11am.

20/062 **Matters arising from the Police**

The Police are unable to attend Zoom meetings.

20/063 **County Councillors Report**

Cllr Poland informed the meeting that the Annual meeting was held, and Cllr Rushton was appointed as Leader. Cllr Pam Posnett was re-appointed as Chairman.

He briefed the Council on the COVID situation and confirmed that in Leicester there were 424 cases per 100.000 population. The lockdown will be reviewed on 18th July where it may be withdrawn, or the lockdown zone may be reduced.

Cllr Webbon asked if he had received an email regarding a dead tree on Melton Road.

Cllr Poland will investigate the ownership of this tree, and Cllr Webbon will send photographs.

Cllr Nelson also said that ownership of some areas in the Rearsby Roses development was in question. Cllr Poland will try to help clarify areas of ownership.

Cllr Gerrard left the meeting at this point and gave apologies for our next meeting.

Cllr Needham joined the meeting.

20/064 **Borough** **Councillors Report**

Cllr Needham emailed a written report to all Councillors.

* Garden Waste collections are back to normal
* There has been an increase in fly tipping and Cllr Webbon informed Cllr Needham that there had been a “Truck load” of rubbish dumped at the farm entrance, near the industrial estate.
* Grass cutting – problems with LCC grass cutting – Cllr Needham now has a map from the Clerk listing cutting areas of responsibility.
* Litter – Cllr Nelson, Cannon and Needham and another volunteer did a litter pick and collected several bags from Weavers Wynd and the Playing Fields.
* Mutual aid group – there has been a reduced demand for help.
* Charnwood – all meetings held via online platforms. The Annual meeting was held on 29th June, Cllr Needham is on the Neighbourhoods and Community wellbeing scrutiny committee, Appeals and reviews committee and licensing committee.
* Cllr Needham is considering resuming Borough Councillor surgeries in the summer if it is safe to do so.

20/065 **a) Review of reps on other committees**

Reps were appointed as per the attached sheet.

b) **Reports from Reps on other Committees**

**VHMC** – The AGM was held on 24th June and Cllr Shivers was appointed as the Village Hall Chairman. The hall is hoping to re-open on Sunday 19th July and has sent a COVID questionnaire to all regular users. Work during the summer includes new outdoor lights to the car park and front of the hall, a new boiler, new doors to the storage area and a new composite Kitchen Door.

**LONG FURROW** – Next edition to be delivered to every household at the beginning of August. It will be a black and white edition containing 16 pages.

**PAV & PLAYING FIELD –** Cllr Needham is due to complete Julys checks. The clerk issued guidance relating to the opening of our playgrounds on 30th June for all Councillors to comment on. It was noted that the guidance suggests signage, possibly removing equipment if not 2 metres apart, cleaning prior to opening and a risk assessment to be completed prior to opening. We have been informed that the risk assessment must be undertaken by the operator i.e. the Parish Council. Suggested signs have been sent by Charnwood which we could display. The swings should be removed. After much discussion it was agreed that we would open the play areas on Wednesday 22 July. (Cllr Webbon abstained from the vote).

Cllrs Slack, Axon and Shivers will complete the risk assessment based on guidelines from Charnwood BC. The clerk will arrange for appropriate signage and will request the Caretaker to remove any pieces of equipment as necessary. The clerk will arrange weekly cleaning of the equipment. The Councillors will inform the Clerk of the number of people allowed on each park based on its size. The Council agreed that if our Caretaker requires additional hours, this would be approved.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH** – Nothing to report

**TREES** – Cllr Webbon has carried out a visual inspection and noted that the ash tree on the pavilion drive is showing signs of die back. A large ash tree on Weavers Wynd is also showing signs. The fence at the end of Weavers Wynd on LCC land by the pedestrian crossing has been hit by a vehicle. Cllr Poland will raise this issue.

Cllr Shivers stated that the village sign from Rearsby to East Goscote was overgrown, however the other side of the road had been cut back. Cllr Poland also agreed to check for ownership of this land.

**GREENER GOSCOTE –** Funds have been applied for and were successful and a litter pick was carried out last week by members of the group.

20/066 **Proposed Accounts**

Accounts to the sum of £3206.02 were accepted by the Council. The bank reconciliation and relevant statements were checked along with the invoices and signed off by the Vice Chairman.

20/067 **Correspondence**

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

* Resident letter re the mowing of the mound – Next agenda – Cllr Axon raised the question of a risk assessment on the mound. The clerk confirmed that the land was owned by Charnwood and several years ago the asset management team agreed that any risk assessment or structural issue was their responsibility. The Clerk will provide Councillor Needham will the relevant information for enquiries to begin.

Cllr Needham asked if we could refrain from a second mow of the mound until after our next PC meeting. This was agreed.

20/068 **Planning Matters – P/20/0555 – 265 Long Furrow.**

Councillors were asked to visit the site and look at the comments made by a neighbour on the Charnwood Planning Explorer website. The Clerk will submit comments by 13 July. Cllr Malpus, Axon and Nelson support the neighbour.

20/069 **Website accessibility – new laws from September 2020**

All Councillors received the brochure highlighting the new website accessibility requirements from September 23, 2020. Our developer also offered information and one option was to add a new tool to our existing website. However, long term our website would need upgrading and this would be at a cost of approx. £500 plus the annual fee. Our app has a deadline of June 2021 to be compliant with the new requirements. RESOLVED to arrange to add the smart tool for the short term and an accessibility statement. We will also ensure the website is upgraded at the end of the contract to be fully compliant with the new regulations.

20/070 **Budget update (April, May, June)**

The clerk gave a fully comprehensive spreadsheet to all Councillors listing expenditure to date, and the variance to budget. There were no questions and the update was approved by the Council.

20/071 **To consider library donation following new information. (Cllr Shivers and Malpus left the meeting before any discussion)**

The Clerk informed the Council that after a decision to award a grant of £1000 was approved, the library received a grant of £10,000 from Charnwood, £728 from LCC and also Section 106 funding. At the end of June, the bank balance for the library stands at £28,931. To date the council have donated 24,000 dog bags to the library at a cost of £276.00. RESOLVED that no further donations will be given to the library this year. This will be reviewed every year at our Annual meeting when subs and donations are considered.

20/072 **Community Garden – consultation summary**

The clerk issued a summary following the consultation to all Councillors. 17 residents surrounding the area were hand delivered letters and 9 responded.

Of the 9, 3 were in favour of the proposal and 6 were against.

Cllr Cannon said that he felt that although he was Chairman of the Greener Goscote group who had put forward this proposal, he did not have a prejudicial interest and therefore he could vote. The Clerk read out guidance from the monitoring officer at Charnwood and advised that she believed Councillors in a position of control had a personal interest with bias, along with members of the group. It was however, every Councillors choice whether to declare their interest in a proposal, and this was her advice which was always to err on the side of caution.

Cllr Axon stated that he would not vote as he did not have enough information on the project.

After much discussion regarding the proposal, concerns, resident comments and how they could possibly be alleviated, it was proposed by Cllr Webbon that alternative sites were looked at and presented to our next meeting in September along with an alternative plan. All Councillors who had declared the interest at the beginning of the meeting did not vote. RESOLVED to approve the proposal from Cllr Webbon.

Cllr Needham was concerned that joining this facebook group and volunteering for the group may not constitute being a member. The Clerk said that the group has a constitution and a bank account, and this related to membership and to quarterly meetings of the group. This will be discussed with the monitoring officer for his advice.

20/073 **Active holiday clubs – do we wish to use this company**

The Clerk has issued information from a company who offer local sports opportunities to primary school children during the summer holidays.

The clubs run for five days per week, with a maximum of 20 children per session (100 children per week) for a three-week period. The cost is £4,500 for the three-week programme, plus equipment and venue hire - a lottery grant is applied for to cover the cost. Cllr Malpus suggested that he contact a Parish Council who has used this club to obtain further information. This will again be discussed in October.

20/074 **S106 – To discuss quotes for car park**

The Clerk is awaiting a further quote from one contractor.

Cllr Axon suggested that we look at eco friendly surfacing for the car park consisting of mesh and grass. He will try to obtain a quote prior to our next meeting. Cllr Webbon also offered to obtain a new quote.

20/075 **Speeding group – Proposal to have new village gateway signs**

The speeding group held a meeting to look at replacing the four village gateways signs. A picture of the new sign was shown to the members and the group are currently obtaining quotes for purchase and installation. Cllr Webbon is hoping to meet a representative from Leics County Council.

Cllr Nelson has spoken to the ex-chairman of the Twinning who was happy for the twinned town to be included on one sign only.

The speeding group have a total budget of £2500. Next Agenda

20/076 **Maintenance**

Lamp post poppies - Currently we have 80 lamp post poppies which will be placed around the Long Furrow, Ling Dale and various locations which we have to get approved by LCC. RESOLVED to request approval and install the poppies as per last year.

20/077 **Items approved for Expenditure**

Website accessibility tools

20/078 **Urgent items by permission of the Chairman**

The August accounts will be checked and signed by members of the Finance committee and presented to the September meeting.

Cllr Needham said that the members grants for next year had been withdrawn.

Cllr Shivers asked if we could find out what plans the school will have when re- opening in September as the path outside the Ling Dale entrance is narrow and quite often the parents are blocking the footpath for other residents.

Date of next Meeting: **Wednesday September 9, 2020 at 6.30pm**

The Meeting closed at 9.50 pm

L. Pizer

9 July 2020