

EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Remote Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday, April 14th, 2021
at 7.30pm via Zoom.

Present: Via Video Call

Cllr L Needham (Chair)	Cllr M Webbon
Cllr D Cannon	Cllr G Slack
Cllr V Oates	Cllr N Shivers
Cllr R Axon	Cllr C Tate

There were no members of the public

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chair was saddened at the news of the death of Our Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh and asked our Clerk to read out a statement which read:

“The Duke of Edinburgh selflessly served our country for so many years and earned the respect of not just this nation, but of those around the world “
“Now is a time for mourning, but we should remember the Duke with pride and affection.” Our Chair asked that Councillors reflect during a one-minute silence.

21/001 **Apologies for absence** Cllr S Gerrard, Cllr M Nelson, Cllr J Poland

21/002 **To confirm the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting.**
The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday April 8th, 2020 were accepted as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

21/003 **Matters arising from the minutes: None**

21/004 **Matters arising from the Police**
Annual figures were extracted by the Clerk from the website UK Crime Stats which gave a breakdown of offences and a total number of 103 crimes at East Goscote for the period Feb 20 – Jan 21. There were 125 for the previous 12 months (Feb 19 – Jan 20). It was noted that Drugs and public order offences had increased year on year.

21/005 **Chair’s Report**
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
She had produced a written report included in everyone’s papers.
Some of the issues covered were: -

- Council and Staff
- Planning
- Gladmans Development
- The cost of vandalism – this year amounted to £400.00
- Dog Fouling
- East Goscote Library
- The Parish Phone App/website
- Neighbourhood Watch
- The Snow Warden Scheme
- The Long Furrow Magazine
- Speedwatch Scheme

➤ Next year's projects

The Chair paid tribute to our County Councillor, Borough Councillor, MP Mr Argar, and our PCSO's for all their hard work. She also thanked the Council staff team for all their hard work this year.

There were no questions.

21/006

Finance report

The annual report was issued to everyone present, along with information about the precept. The 2021/22 budget would be £86,000.00 with the precept at £59,000. This equated to a cost of £62.99 for a band D property. The Clerk informed Councillors of charges to other villages within Charnwood as a comparison.

Projects for 2021/22 include improving some of the play equipment on the Mound, upgrading some of our litter bins and improving our Christmas lights.

There were no questions.

21/007

Borough Councillors Report

Cllr Needham issued a written report which said that she has done as much as possible to support residents through these difficult times. The volunteer network remains active but has not had much demand for help recently.

The business of Charnwood Borough Council has continued largely uninterrupted with normal meetings set to resume in May.

The budget was set at a 3.6% increase in Council Tax this year.

The final version of the local plan is due in June. The new Gladman application for land on Melton Road has again caused much concern among residents. Cllr Needham has called in the application so that it will be heard by the Planning Committee.

She finalised by saying it was a pleasure and a privilege to serve our wonderful community.

21/008

County Councillors Report

A written report was issued to everyone with the agenda.

Cllr Poland said that the last year was dominated by the coronavirus pandemic which was one of the most devastating things to hit this country since the Second World War. Leics County Council did put in place a series of measures including: Grants to 3000 local businesses, Financial support for 138 pubs, £2.6million for 390 community groups, £250,000 to Charnwood's Citizens Advice Bureau, £500,000 for free school meals, 20,000 welfare parcels delivered, and an additional £60 million on Children's services and adult social care.

Another effect of Covid was moving democracy online. The Government changed the law to move all council meetings online, allowing people to be able to view from their own homes. This is due to change back in May, but Cllr Poland hopes that some form of online meetings can remain legally permissible.

In East Goscote Cllr Poland dealt with many issues, speeding on Melton Road has been put forward for LCC's community speed management initiative which will record the speed of traffic.

He thanked the Parish Office staff, our Borough Councillor, and our MP Edward Argar.

21/009

East Goscote Village Hall Update

All members received a copy of the annual report with their agenda.

Details included were:

- New blinds fitted throughout the hall
- A new boiler fitting in the kitchen
- Grants received totalling £22,740.00 (COVID)
- New LED car park and front lights
- New storage area doors
- New cooker fitted in the kitchen
- Pre-school operating during COVID when the restrictions were relaxed.
- We are hoping to re-open to children's groups from April 12th, with further welcoming of groups in May and June.

Thanks were noted to the village hall committee and all the regular users of the hall whose funding helps us to make all the improvements to the hall.

21/010

East Goscote Community Library

A written report was included in everyone's papers.

The Government grants have kept the finances very healthy. The Clerk gave Councillors an insight into the current finances for the year ending 31st March 2021. The trustees have bid for a more efficient heating system through the library contingency fund. Currently the library is looking for two Trustees and some more volunteers to help staff the library.

21/011

Matters arising by permission of the Chair

The Chair confirmed that approval of the April accounts would be by the Chair and Vice Chair and they would be ratified in May. All Councillors had received a copy of April's accounts.

Cllr Shivers said that the recent police speed monitoring was carried out on a Saturday afternoon. We did request speed monitoring to be undertaken between 8am and 9am or 3pm and 4pm. The Chair said she could find volunteers to help run the Speedwatch scheme if it was running this year. The Clerk will confirm if this scheme is available this year.

The risk assessment for Council meetings in the village hall from May was discussed and comments noted.

The deadline for applications for the Admin Assistant role was coming to an end. Only one application had been received despite 10 requests for an application form. The deadline will be extended, and Cllr Webbon agreed to update the adverts in neighbouring villages.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

L. Pizer

15th April 2021