

EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th February 2021 at 6.30pm via Zoom.

Present: Cllr L Needham (Chair)
Cllr N Shivers
Cllr M Webbon
Cllr C Tate
Cllr S Gerrard (part)

Cllr R Axon
Cllr D Cannon
Cllr J Poland

20/197 **Co-option of New Members** – one new application – awaiting authorisation

20/198 **Matters arising from the public. (Meeting Adjourned)**

The meeting was adjourned to receive any comments/statements from members of the public.

20/199 **Matters arising from the police – A report was received from PCSO Richards.**

20/200 **Apologies for Absence**, Cllr G Slack, Cllr M Nelson, PCSO Richards.

20/201 **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Shivers re the Village Hall, Cllr Cannon re Greener Goscote/Licence to Cultivate/Long Furrow

20/202 **To confirm the minutes of the last full council meeting (13.01)**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. One minor change 20/181 should read “Cllr” not “Mrs”

20/203 **Matters arising from the minutes**

20/178 A Gift has been purchased for Cllr Malpus

20/166 Cllr Slack and Axon now have images on our website

20/173 Bus shelter Perspex has been repaired by our caretaker

20/185 Guides flower bed has been attended to and the insurance information passed on to the resident regarding trees.

20/187 – Dog fouling information passed on to Councillors – suggest to advertise reporting method in next Long Furrow.

20/187 New Boundary signs will be installed w/c 15th Feb

20/187 Silting of brook – meeting with network rail – not yet arranged.

20/188 -Initial letter re application form sent to Charnwood

20/193 -Community engagement re the mound – Cllr Cannon agreed to write a letter to notify nearby residents of the revised mowing schedule.

20/199 – Buffer stop plaque and private property signs have been purchased and installed.

Cllr Shivers asked if we could contact Charnwood again to confirm that the litter bin at the Rearsby Roses site is not used for dog waste.

Cllr Axon asked if a site visit could be held to look at the mound and a possible depression in one of the mound roofs. This was arranged and it was agreed that we would contact Charnwood if necessary.

Cllr Shivers asked if we could contact the School to ensure that parents are informed that the Church parking area is being used for the COVID centre. Cllr Needham advised that parents have already been asked to refrain from parking in Ling Dale. We will request that when the school fully returns to normal that parents are again asked not to park there.

20/204

County Councillors Report

Cllr Poland issued a written report to all Councillors which was taken as read.

Items on the report included:

- Budget Proposals – 4.99% increase for 2021/22 £5.59 per month for a band D house
- Capital Programme
- Rapid testing for Key Workers

Cllr Axon asked how the transport infrastructure to facilitate development is arrived at in the Leicestershire Plan. Cllr Poland explained that there was a criteria for this but would ask the question.

Cllr Poland is awaiting feedback regarding our query regarding the traffic lights on Melton Road at the pedestrian crossing.

20/205

Borough Councillors Report

A written report was circulated to Councillor. This detailed community engagement and case work, the next phase of the local plan, Charnwood community action, lateral flow tests and the Local elections which will be held on May 6th, 2021.

20/206

Reports from Reps on other Committees:

VHMC – Next Meeting March 4, 2021

- Re-opened for use by our Pre-School
- Obtaining quotes to upgrade the toilets
- Obtaining quotes to re-felt the roof above the kitchen
- The cracked brickwork above the office door will be repaired (£285)
- Keys for the new back doors will be purchased
- A new oven is being fitted in half term
- Pat testing is being carried out at half term

Pavilion and Playing fields -The playground checks for January were carried out by Cllr Webbon. February's checks will be carried out at the end of February by the Clerk and caretaker in preparation for the annual professional check in March.

Long Furrow – Has been distributed to residents/businesses and is also online. Mr Malpus is returning as the magazine editor. Deadline for the next issue is 31.03.21

Trees – Quote for Lime Tree pruning on Lilac Way still not received. Some canes and covers had been removed from the new trees on the mound and a fence rail has been broken.

Cycle Rack – Charnwood have indicated that we can have the cycle rack if we install and collect it. We are meeting with Charnwood's installers to obtain a quote to provide the hardstanding and install. We will also obtain a second quote from a local builder. Next Agenda.

Greener Goscote – All issues covered within the agenda

Development Plan – Cllr Nelson had previously circulated an initial draft to start the development plan working document. The Clerk had also circulated the old Parish Plan for Councillors to look at ideas. RESOLVED that our plan would be in a simple format, however

we would like the residents consulted to ask what they would like on the village and to ascertain local aspirations in the next 5 years.

Cllr Axon suggested that we need to write a Neighbourhood Plan which would carry weight within the planning system. Cllr Needham suggested that this may be something that a resident group would like to undertake as it is a great deal of work and time which many Councillors do not have – there may be funding available for this.

Cllr Gerrard said that she had asked to Council to complete a plan with Rearsby and Queniborough several years ago.

Climate Change – Cllr Cannon issued a report for Councillors detailing progress on various projects. A small shire grant has been applied for on behalf of Greener Goscote. The Clerk confirmed that Councils in Leicestershire were asked to feedback how they were dealing with Climate Change. We have had no response from any other council yet.

Sandbags – Hydro Snakes – Cllr Shivers kindly delivered 2 packs (4 hydro snakes) to every resident on Watergate that backs onto the brook. We still have 3 large boxes of these which need to be stored somewhere on the village. RESOLVED to store in the pavilion. Cllr Shivers agreed to ask residents along the Long Furrow (opposite brook) if they would like any of the packs.

Cllr Gerrard left the meeting at this point.

20/207

Proposed Accounts

The Council accepted accounts to the sum of £3517.53 for February.

20/208

Correspondence

A list of correspondence received was circulated to all Councillors.

- Resident letter re community garden – Clerk has responded informing them that the consultation has ended and the decision by Full Council was to go ahead with the scheme.
- Dog Fouling issues – details were circulated regarding street patrols and the link to report dog fouling to Charnwood.
- Legionella Risk Assessments – Clerk will find out the cost of these audits.
- Tennis Coaching – It was RESOLVED that tennis coaching would be allowed for 2 days per week, for 2 hours at a time. The cost would be £10 per hour for the coaches to book. Everyone using the court must be a paid-up member. (Cllr Tate was against this decision as she felt the court should always be available for the members).
- Resident complaint re feeding seagulls – we will monitor and inform resident of Charnwood’s environmental health section if vermin become a problem.
- Resident complaint re tree adjacent to the Chase – Agreed that the resident’s property was in no danger from this tree. We will ensure appropriate checks are made of the tree.
- To let/for sale signs – to be requested to move if on LCC/Charnwood/Parish land.
- Zumba on Tennis Court – The PC felt that this could be a noise nuisance for the houses on the Long Furrow and therefore would not allow Zumba on the tennis court.
- Puppy Training – Request to use tennis court – was refused.

20/209

Planning Matters –

Gladman Land – P/20/2383/2

Cllr Axon said that a new geo-environmental report had been uploaded to the planning portal. Currently the application was invalid. After much discussion it was agreed that we would write two letters regarding this application. A) One to neighbouring Parish Councils to make

E.G.P.C. 10.02.21

them aware of this application and details of the development and b) one to members of Charnwood Planning committee including the lead member and the Head of Planning Mr R Bennett. The letter to Charnwood would be very succinct and would question if the access for construction is safe. Also, we would question if the area should be included in the Local Plan due to the contaminated land. Cllr Needham is unsure if we have any chance of making any changes to the Local Plan at this stage.

Our previous response to the Local Plan was a professional report. The Clerk will circulate this.

20/210 **Review of Hire Charges (April 21- March 22)**

The Clerk circulated details of hire charges from the previous year.

RESOLVED that the hire charges remain unchanged for the year commencing April 2021.

20/211 **To discuss website upgrade**

Further to website accessibility regulations and the need to be working towards accessibility requirements (WCAG 2.1) our website provider has offered two solutions for the Parish Council to consider. The first is to upgrade the current site to include more built-in accessibility features, the second is to upgrade to a new site using the wordpress platform. In terms of costs there is only £80 difference. The Clerk said that the biggest hurdle was if the website content was not completely transferred over to a new site, and the amount of work involved to re-populate all the pages. RESOLVED that delegated powers be given to the Clerk to find the most suitable option. It was agreed the upgrade be given a maximum budget of £425 to set up.

20/212 **Finding Fitness – lottery grant for Children’s summer club:**

The Clerk circulated information regarding a summer holiday club for children aged 5-12 years old. The club runs Monday – Friday 9.30am – 3.30pm for 3 weeks, for 20 children per day. There are two qualified coaches with DBS checks. Each day consists of three main sports i.e. tennis, football, rounders etc the total cost is £5000.00 which is covered by a lottery grant. RESOLVED that we facilitate this holiday club as it has obvious benefits for our residents. We require confirmation that it would be free of charge for parents, we would like it promoted locally for East Goscote children only, question if the uptake is high the 20 children per day are different so that a possible 100 children per week have experienced the event and finally that if the grant is not approved the event would not go ahead. The event would go ahead during the summer school break possible week commencing 02.08/09.08 and 16.08.

20/213 **Wildflower Verge update**

All councillors were in receipt of the latest information regarding the wildflower verge project. Cllr Cannon informed us that the area has been agreed with LCC and blue hearts to identify the verge have been installed. The process involves 7 steps – we are currently at step 3. The next stage is a baseline wildlife survey by a specialist team called Nature Spot. The Parish Council are responsible for one cut of the verge suggested to take place Mid-Sept at 10cm. The cuttings then need to be left for 7 days prior to being raked, collected, and disposed of. A risk assessment is required to be completed by the Parish Council and insurance arrangements will need to be in place. Cllr Cannon will arrange regular litter picks of the area.

20/214 **To consider the mowing contract quote.**

Further to our last meeting, a quote has now been received from our current contractor for the amended mowing schedule. RESOLVED to revoke standing order 9 and award the contract to our existing contractor without obtaining three quotes.

- 20/215 **Community Garden – To consider the Licence to Cultivate (Cllr Cannon withdrew from the meeting)**
All Councillors were in receipt of a suggested Licence to Cultivate for the Greener Goscote group to work on the area off Long Furrow (Back of the Doctors Surgery)

RESOLVED that the licence is approved with minor amendments and will be given to the Greener Goscote Chairman for signing. The latest constitution of the group will be included with the licence. It was noted that the group would require necessary insurance cover to be in place prior to carrying out any work.
- 20/216 **Football Season – To discuss team payments**
The Clerk confirmed that the senior teams had paid for the season upfront at the start of the season. As it is unlikely that they will play the second half of the season it was RESOLVED to give the Clerk/Football Reps delegated powers to agree a suitable refund if one is required.
- 20/217 **Budget (Expenditure update)**
The Clerk issued an updated spreadsheet detailing expenditure to date. Overspends and underspends were explained and there were no questions.
- 20/218 **Staffing Committee update/to review salaries/appraisals**
Standing order 18a was invoked, any members of the public were asked to leave.
A staffing meeting was held on 12th January.
Details of this meeting were explained to members of the Council. A staffing meeting will be required in the next few weeks to deal with salary reviews and appraisals. It was suggested that we ask our Staff if they prefer to hold appraisals face to face or would be happy with a Zoom appraisal.
- 20/219 **Maintenance**
Sheets have been sent in by Cllr Slack, Webbon, Tate and Shivers. Cllr Needham will complete her forms in due course.
- 20/220 **Items approved for expenditure**
Proposed Accounts, mowing contract, website upgrade, holiday club
- 20/221 **Urgent items by permission of the Chairman**
May 6th Polling Day – The village hall will be used instead of the Church.
Recycling Centre – Cllr Cannon explained that the centre was currently suffering from a lot of fly tipping and requested that a letter be sent to offenders using labels from the packaging. This will be considered on our next Agenda
Boundary Signs – the signs that are being removed will be kept in the pavilion until it is decided what to do with them.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

L Pizer
11.02.21