

**EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
at 6.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present:

Cllr L Needham

Cllr M Nelson

Cllr D Cannon

Cllr C Tate

Cllr S Gerrard (Part)

Mrs L Pizer (Clerk)

The Chair welcomed everyone to our meeting and thanked them for taking all the necessary COVID precautions.

21/001      **Election of Chair**

Cllr Needham was elected as Chair and signed the declaration of office.

21/002      **Election of Vice Chair**

Cllr Nelson was elected as Vice Chair and signed the declaration of office.

21/003      **Declarations of Acceptance of Office**

The Proper Officer signed the declarations of office from the Chair and Vice Chair.

21/004      **Declarations of interests/Register of Interest to be Updated**

Cllr Cannon re the donation to the Long Furrow.

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

21/005      **Matters arising from the public (Meeting adjourned)**

No public present.

21/006      **Apologies for Absence.**

Cllr Shivers submitted his apologies due to health reasons.

Cllr Poland submitted his apologies, and a report has been circulated.

Cllr V Oakes, Cllr M Webbon, Cllr G Slack and Cllr R Axon also submitted apologies.

21/007      **To confirm the minutes of the last meeting (March 10<sup>th</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021)**

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

21/008      **Matters arising from the Minutes**

- 20/199 – Asset Management meeting to be put on hold for the time being due to staff shortages and the fact that the tractor is no longer on top of the mound.
- 20/213 – Risk Assessment required for the wildflower verge – Cllr Cannon is working on this and will provide the council with the assessment shortly.
- 20/236 – Cycle racks have been installed at the pavilion, village green

and tennis court.

- 21/011 – Admin Assistant vacancy – new deadline 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021
- 20/224 – No further information re speed checks at the requested times of day.
- 20/187 – Silting of brook – mtg with environment agency. RA still to action
- 20/193 – Letter to residents who live adjacent to the mound. No replies regarding the change in mowing contract.
- Rearsby litter bin request – no further action at the present time.
- 20/231 – Cllr Webbon kindly planted two new trees on the playing field, at the back of the senior football pitch.
- 20/242 – No meeting held of the staffing committee to be re-arranged.
- 21/011 – Speedwatch – no confirmation if this scheme is running this year. Clerk to chase up.

21/009

### **Reports from Reps on other Committees**

**VHMC** – A meeting was held on May 6th, 2021.

The Village hall Chairman sent in the annual report and wished to record his thanks to the committee members for their dedication and enthusiasm in keeping our village hall to a high standard, he also thanked Liz for her hard work in researching funds available during the Covid 19 closure and being successful in obtaining funds for the village hall.

During the summer holidays the toilets will be refurbished with new vanity units, skirting boards and re-decorated.

Bookings for the hall are extremely busy being booked every day and every evening.

The roof above the kitchen is being replaced.

An Everards grant for a hearing loop and pa system has been applied for.

A recruitment drive will hopefully add 3 more members to the committee.

Query if Cllr Oakes would like to join the committee?

The VHMC AGM is being held on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**LONG FURROW** – The May edition is now online and has been posted to all our residents and businesses. Problem with editorial for the village survey which will be re-run in August with an apology.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH** – There are 20 residents on the mailing list and Cllr Tate said that emails are circulated on a regular basis. Cllr Cannon and Needham would like to be added to the list, also an advert to recruit members in the next Long Furrow. Cllr Tate to print off a list of current members for the office.

**TREES** – Visual checks were carried out by Cllr Webbon– LCC trees on the Meadows/Headlands have failed. LCC have been made aware.

**Funding for tree planting** – LCC – Cllr Cannon sent out details of a scheme on offer from the Government/LCC (Treescape) His suggestion was to plant trees on the side of the mound– adjacent to Long Furrow by the fence, and in the two areas of Lilac Way. He will forward the size of the available tree planting area for LCC to apply. Costs to provide the trees, plant them and 2-4 years maintenance is included if we are successful with the grant.

**Lilac Way** – the quote to remove the deadwood from the Lime tree was discussed. The cost was £460.00 because a cherry picker was needed. The

clerk to check if we need any permission as the tree has a TPO, also to ask for a professional inspection to ensure all the necessary works are covered.

Cllr Gerrard left the meeting at this point.

**LIBRARY UPDATE** –The Annual report was received and taken as read. The Library is currently opening on reduced hours. The library has also received grant funding during the COVID closure.

**GREENER GOSCOTE** – Cllr Cannon reported on Greener Goscote’ s Secret Garden and the recycling centre.

Climate Change group training it was agreed that Cllr Cannon would ask if the training session could be opened up to residents and maybe an event set up in the library.

**The Naturespot wildlife page** – LCC have agreed to fund the set-up of a page for 30 parishes, East Goscote being one of them. The website will feature 3 “Wild place feature pages” Resident individual records can be submitted along with images, lists of species found within the parish, and this can be managed by local volunteers (parish editors) A £50 maintenance fee is required annually after set-up from June 2022. The Clerk felt that we could set up our own wildlife page on our new website, which may be just as accessible to residents without an additional cost. **RESOLVED** that we would agree to the pages for the three wild places, and monitor their progress throughout the year to see if there are any contributions etc. Cllr Cannon said that part of the cost was for a survey of wildlife in the three areas. We will consider after the first year whether the website is worth continuing for the £50 fee. The three areas are to be agreed.(Next meeting)

**DEVELOPMENT PLAN** – The questionnaire was included in the May edition of the Long Furrow but was incorrect. To date there have been 7 responses via the QR code and 2 responses through the office door, albeit one response which will be discarded. Re-Run August Long Furrow.

**WILDFLOWER VERGE AND MOUND PROJECT** – Cllr Cannon asked that the planting budget of £100 be used to purchase wildflower plugs. The areas where planting would take place were approved as the two triangle areas at the entrance to the pavilion driveway, and the side of the mound where the woodland trust trees were planted.

The verge survey will be carried out in June and Cllr Cannon hopes to apply for a shire grant to cover the cost of planting on the verge.

**FINDING FITNESS** – No response from the lottery as yet.

**ELECTRIC VEHICLE** – Cllr Shivers sent a report to Councillors suggesting that the current price ranges from £19k to £26k for a new electric vehicle. He suggests that we should keep our existing van for 2/4 years when there will be a better choice of second-hand vehicles and possibly grants available. This was agreed.

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND EVENTS** – Cllr Shivers sent a quote to Councillors for lights to be installed on the Chestnut Way central reservation lampposts (3). First year costs will be approximately £4-5k and then £1050 pa

after that. This does not include the costs of installing lights on the tree outside the hall, so a total of £6-7k would be needed. RESOLVED to consider increasing this budget at our next precept meeting for December 2022. The Library chairman wrote in to ask if the council were funding the Santa and Afternoon tea event. RESOLVED to ask for more information as to the dates proposed, organisation of the event and who would be responsible for the smooth running. The Clerk confirmed she could not help with set up or purchase of some items. Cllr Shivers carried out a lot of work also for this event, and we could not confirm if he is willing to help this year. Next Agenda.

21/010 **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 took no part)

**Library** – As the finances of the library are healthy, it was RESOLVED not to give the library any financial help this year.

**VHMC** - £1000 was agreed to cover cost of the council offices

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

McMillan Cancer support – letter received – Defer to next meeting.

21/011 **Presentation of Deed and Trust Instruments**

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

21/012 **Confirmation of Cheque Signatories for 2021/22.**

Current cheque signatories are: L Pizer our financial officer, Cllr Needham, Cathy Duffy, John Malpus and Roger Merryhowe. The mandate form is being update and the three ex-Councillors will be removed. Cllr Nelson and Cllr Cannon will be added as new signatories and will need to arrange to visit TSB to present ID documents.

21/013 **Appointment of Representatives**

RESOLVED that representatives were appointed as per the attached sheet. Cllr Nelson will ask Cllr Oakes if she wishes to join any working parties or committees.

21/014 **Proposed Accounts**

Accounts to the sum of £ 3642.65 were accepted by the council for May and £7603.78 for April. RESOLVED to make all payments via bank transfer for the short term until the new cheque signatories are approved.

The Chair and Vice Chair are conducting a thorough internal check of all accounts on a monthly basis.

21/015

**To approve the Village Hall's Annual Account**

The annual accounts were presented to all Councillors.

RESOLVED that the accounts be approved by the Parish Council (trustees).  
Councillor Needham signed the accounts on behalf of the Council

21/016

**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 31<sup>st</sup> July. The internal audit was undertaken on 18<sup>th</sup> May.
- Environmental Action Zoom mtg – Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June – Cllr Cannon to attend.
- Carbon Literacy Training – Cllr Cannon be recompensed for training fee.
- Community carbon calculator – East Goscote score 9.9t CO2 per household against a national average of 13.7. Cllr Needham to establish the criteria for working this out, and why East Goscote fairs so well in the score.
- Consultation on ward boundaries – posters to go out in noticeboards – Cllr Needham to help to write the council response that we feel East Goscote should remain unchanged.
- Large dog signs – Council felt that these were rather unsightly and would not be installed on our playing field.
- Request to consider installing a flagpole in the village. (Next agenda)
- Request to arrange a village event following the pandemic. Clerk to write to resident saying that in principle we could help to fund this event. Suggest that a village working party be set up (with the resident as project manager) to look at the planning of the day, costs, clean up, risk assessment etc.
- Junior FC – Use of pavilion for a summer camp (one day) agreed at a reduced rate.
- Resident request to hold a charity football match on August 22<sup>nd</sup> – approved at no charge.
- Problem with youth playing football against resident fence. Cllr Cannon to notify the PCSO of this nuisance
- Circus – Request to hold circus on jubilee playing fields (April/May 2022). Clerk to circulate pack of information – for discussion and decision next meeting.

21/017

**Planning Matters – Gladman Land**

Cllr Axon sent in a written report giving the latest update. He is visiting the national archives to try to obtain more information regarding the proposed site.

RESOLVED to ensure the travel expenses of £65.20 are reimbursed.

Further letter re the results of the consultation – Cllr Needham to ask for further clarification.

Press release – Agreed that the press release should be issued once we are aware of the date of the committee site visit. We can then invite residents to hold a peaceful protest and invite the press to attend.

Following information from Cllr Gerrard earlier in the meeting, Cllr Needham to ensure that this application is being called in and will be heard by Charnwood's planning committee.

**P/21/0780/2 – Extensions to 4 Fletchers Way, East Goscote**

The Councillors felt this extension was extremely large and were concerned that it would be overbearing on the street scene and it was protruding in front of the building line. They were also concerned that onsite parking must be provided as part of the planning conditions. - OBJECT

**P/21/0682/02 – 2 Foresters Row, East Goscote**

**RESOLVED** - No Objections

- 21/018      **To review our standing orders**  
Resolved that our Standing Order (NALC April 2020) will now be replaced with our existing standing orders June 2018. All CILrs to be asked to review the current orders and contact the Clerk for any suggested amendments.
- 21/019      a) **To approve the Chair/Vice Chair’s Allowance payable for the year commencing May 2021.**  
Due to being inquorate if the Chair and Vice were to leave, this will be considered at our next meeting.
- 21/020      **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 are in poor condition. We did budget for a replacement goal end and whirlybird, which will be considered at our next meeting.
- 21/021      **To Review the Council Insurance Policy.**  
Our Current insurance policy is with Ecclesiastical through brokers “Came and Company” until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The Clerk said that she did not feel we needed to add anything onto our existing policy and that we were fully covered.
- 21/022      **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 were approved. The Saturday morning training fee to hire the pavilion was agreed at £5 per week. Pitches will be inspected by our Caretaker each Thursday and teams will be informed if the pitch is unplayable by 3pm each Thursday.
- 21/023      **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 and Midland Rangers  
2. Under 7/8 pitch allocated to East Goscote Junior Under 8’s  
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 11’s

Councillors felt that we unfortunately could not accommodate the Under13/14 teams, however, should the pitches become available, these teams will be given first refusal.

- 21/024     **To Appoint an Internal Auditor**  
 Mr Richard Wilcox (Redwood Pryor) has been appointed to carry out the internal audit for the accounts ending March 2021/2 and has carried out our audit for many years. He completed the internal audit on 18th May so that the Council can have all the audit information for approval at their June meeting as normal.  
 RESOLVED for the year ending March 2022, Council felt that a new auditor would be appropriate with a fresh pair of eyes checking everything. The Clerk will contact the LRALC to add our name to their service in providing an internal auditor.
- 21/025     **Maintenance**  
 Maintenance forms were issued to all Councillors with the agenda for completion.
- 21/026     **Items Approved for expenditure**  

Subs and Donations	Travel Expenses
Training Expenses	Internal Auditor
Wildflowers	Proposed Accounts for April and May
- 21/027     **Urgent items by permission of the Chairman**  
 The June meeting will be held on June 16<sup>th</sup> due to staff holidays and the July meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July.  
 The Parish office will be closed for one week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> June.  
 Our Caretaker has notified us that he will be off sick from Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May until early June, date not yet known. The Clerk has secured a temporary replacement who is self-employed and will invoice the council at his usual hourly rate. The insurance cover will be arranged for his use of the council van.  
 The staffing committee will need to meet in June to look at any applications received for the admin assistant.

The Meeting closed at 9.30pm

L. Pizer  
 20th May 2021