

<b>EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL</b>
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Minutes of a Full Council Meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 6.30pm in the village hall.

Present:

Cllr L Needham (Chair)	Cllr Shivers
Cllr S Gerrard	Cllr R Fazackerley
Cllr D Cannon	Cllr V Oakes
Cllr Harris	

Mrs L Pizer	Mrs C Turlington
1 Member of the public	

Cllr Mousley resigned on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022. A thank you card has been sent to him. He contacted the office to say that he is working on a Christmas Lighting project with the shopkeepers to light up the precinct. He also offered to take aerial pictures of the village as he has access to a drone. Councillors appreciated his efforts and look forward to seeing the precinct lit up and to receive some aerial photos.

22/086      **Co-option of New Members - None**

22/087      **Matters arising from the Public (Meeting Adjourned)**

The Chair of the library was present to confirm that he has secured a volunteer to help with the Santa event and also that, if possible, could he request that we continue to provide sticker books as the children's gift. He also explained to the Council that he was investigating the provision of Solar panels for the library.

22/088      **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Axon, Cllr Tate

22/089      **To report any declarations of interest:** Cllr Cannon re the Long Furrow, Greener Goscote, and Library, Cllr Shivers re the Village Hall, Cllr Needham re Greener Goscote, Cllr Gerrard re planning matters.

22/090      **To confirm the minutes of the last full council meetings held on 13/07/22**

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

22/091      **Matters arising from the minutes**

- 22/061 New registers of interests are now on our website
- 22/043 A meeting has been held with Smurfit Kappa and the resident and it was agreed that remedial works would be carried out on the wall w/c 26<sup>th</sup> September.
- 22/070 No further update on the installation of the basket swing
- 22/070 LCC are currently surveying all their trees and are carrying out minor works to their trees around the village.
- 22/070 – The Circus has been booked for October 2023
- 22/070 – The prosperity fund allocation has been published and circulated
- 22/076 – Two LED lights have been purchased and checked. The remaining lights will be ordered and installed.
- 22/078 – Works to the pavilion goalstore have been completed
- 22/079 – The office alarm has been fitted
- 22/081 – The Lilac Way play area has now re-opened
- 22/009 – Cllr Shivers asked if Cllr Poland had forwarded a report from the camera enforcement vehicle – he also asked if we could request that they visit again to look at the parking on Ling Dale, and the problem with drivers leaving their engines running.

22/092      **Matters arising from the Police**

PCSO Harrison circulated a report for Councillors detailing the checks made at the recycling

Centre.

22/093

**County Councillors Report (Questions only)**

Cllr Poland circulated his report prior to the meeting. This included:

- Huge budget challenges at Leics County Council – the budget gap is set to grow from £8m to £28m next year and could even top £140m by 2026.
- Pensioners eligible for vouchers to help with cost-of-living crisis
- Free trees scheme – available in packs from LCC

22/094

**Borough Councillors Report (Questions only)**

Cllr Needham said that her members grant was still available. She also reminded Councillors that there is a new online form section on the Charnwood website. The “Cleaner greener” email address is no longer active. There were no questions for Cllr Needham.

22/095

**Reports from Reps on other Committees**

**VHMC** – Over the summer lots of work has been carried out to ensure that the hall is maintained to a high standard. The village hall has purchased a laptop for the Council office staff and also made improvements to the furniture in the office, with a new floor to ceiling storage unit. The Village Hall are creating their climate change action plan which is in its final stages. Next meeting September 29th.

**LONG FURROW** – The latest issue has been delivered and is on our website. The deadline for the Christmas issue is 1<sup>st</sup> October. Cllr Cannon will write the Parish News; we are also putting a dog fouling article in this edition along with the Christmas events.

**PAV & PLAYING FIELD** – Cllr Axon is due to complete the playground checks for September. A comprehensive report was carried out by Cllr Tate and given to our caretaker.

- Playground Signs – new signs were approved for the village green and Lilac Way playgrounds as per the proof circulated to Councillors – the cost for supply and installation is £154 + Vat.
- Cllr Axon has sent in a map detailing his continued concerns regarding the structure of the mound roof. It was agreed to ask Cllr Axon to arrange a meeting with Charnwood Borough Council to discuss this. Councillors agreed that the mowing contractor will continue to mow the path over the mound until we have further information. The Clerk will give Cllr Axon information regarding the previous works/projects to the mound along with a copy of the structural survey.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH** – No update.

**TREES** – A report was circulated from Cllr Axon.

- We will obtain some whips for filling in the hedge gap.
- The Clerk has contacted the school regarding the Lime Tree overhanging the path and this has now been cut back
- Our caretaker will be carrying out tree works during Oct/Nov to our trees which have dead branches or in need of lifting.

The Clerk met with the tree professional from LCC who was surveying all of the 340+ LCC trees on our village. Works are categorized as follows: category 1 immediately; category 2 within 4 weeks; category 3 within 3 months; category 4 within 12 months. He has also dealt with several resident queries which were ongoing. There is a problem with the tree outside the village hall which houses the transformer. This has had to be removed along with the cabling so that a large branch can be removed. We will also need to consider the need for a new transformer and cabling at our next meeting.

**FOOTBALL MEETING UPDATE** – Cllr Shivers and Needham met with the football clubs on 25<sup>th</sup> August. Payments have been made in full and keys issued. One of the junior teams is

using the senior pitch on a match-by-match basis.

**ELDERLY EVENT UPDATE** – The date was set for Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Cllrs Fazackerley and Harris have issued a proposal for consideration. Cllr Fazackerley confirmed that she has made contact with the entertainer, but this has not yet been booked. She will check what the cancellation policy is and work on an advert for the Long Furrow this week. The costings were within budget and Cllr Fazackerley will discuss in more detail with the Clerk who has ordered the food in the past few years. Once the event has been booked, we will also advertise on social media and in our notice boards. It was RESOLVED to approve the budget and the vote was against purchasing any gifts for those attending.

**TRAINING UPDATE** – The Admin Assistant ran a code of conduct training session in the village hall for the following Councillors: Tate, Shivers, Cannon, Harris. Cllr Fazackerley carried out one to one training in the Council offices. Cllr Oakes has undertaken online training. Cllr Gerrard and Needham have carried out the training at Charnwood. Cllr Axon has not carried out the code of conduct training.

New Councillor Training – Was undertaken by Cllr Cannon and Cllr Oakes on 30<sup>th</sup> August and Cllr Harris and Cllr Fazackerley will be trained in October. The co-option questionnaire will include a question regarding undertaking Councillor training within 6 months.

**EMERGENCY RESILIENCE PLAN** – No Further progress. Cllr Cannon agreed to work on this document himself and present it to our next meeting.

**SPEEDWATCH UPDATE** – We have heard nothing from LCC regarding this scheme. Admin to chase this up.

**CLIMATE CHANGE** – A report was circulated by Cllr Cannon. Issues covered were the wildlife verge and the environment policy which is being worked on by the climate change group.

**GREENER GOSCOTE AGM** – Cllr Cannon confirmed that 5 people attended the Greener Goscote AGM. The chair gave a presentation covering the history and achievements to date. The treasurers report confirmed that the account currently stands at £238.76 although the group were recently successful in securing another grant of £400 and also received a very kind donation of £250.00. The group are looking at providing new signage to the nature garden and recycling area. Future meetings will be held quarterly – dates to be set.

22/096

### **Proposed Accounts**

Accounts to the sum of £5800.41 were accepted for August and £6983.25 for September by the Council. The bank reconciliation and relevant statements for August and September were checked along with the invoices and signed off by the Chair and Vice-Chair.

22/097

### **Correspondence**

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

- Cedar tree at the front of vhall – LCC request to remove the electrical box for some minor works (TPO) – Query new box/cablings for tree lights. Christmas lights next agenda.
- S178 Licence to install Christmas decorations next to the highway needs to be applied for.
- Examination consultation on Leics housing and employment land needs ended 26<sup>th</sup> September.
- Review of polling districts – representations by 3<sup>rd</sup> October
- Circus booked for 15-19 October 2023
- External auditor – option to opt-out – not recommended
- Thank you letter from the Long Furrow magazine
- Resident query regarding LCC land being used as a private drive – LCC are aware

- The external audit has been signed off and the certificate will be placed on our website.

22/098

**Planning Matters –**

- A) Feedback from Redrow meeting was circulated to all Councillors. It was felt that the meeting was beneficial to all parties.
- B) Public consultation on 24<sup>th</sup> August – Mr Atha confirmed that 55 individuals signed into the consultation event although this was optional, so the figure was actually higher. Feedback forms were received from 33 individuals.

Supporting comments and comments of concern were summarised by Mr Atha for the Councils attention.

In respect of the crossing that the Parish Council requested, on the Melton Road, this is something that Redrow will review with County Highways once the reserved matters planning application has been submitted. However, one was not sought by County Highways at the outline stage, so they may not consider that one is necessary in that particular location. Redrow will raise this issue with LCC.

RE the pedestrian/cycle link to Melton Road, Redrow confirmed that this relates to third party landownership so it may not be possible to deliver this.

The Chair suggested that we ask Cllr Poland if he could arrange a meeting between the Parish Council and representatives from the Highways department to discuss the traffic and speeding along the A607. It was noted that there are speed or vehicle monitoring lines on the A607 – Admin to establish if these are investigations by LCC or Redrow.

P/22/1424/2 – 8 Long Furrow – Proposed front boundary wall. - (retrospective application) RESOLVED to object on visibility grounds and also the height of the wall next to the footpath on a bend. Cllr Needham has written to call this application in. Several residents from the village have made comments against the wall and the issues that they believe it causes.

P/22/1415/2 – 10 Chestnut Way – Change of use/extension – Unfortunately not enough councillor comments were received, and we could not defer for consideration at this meeting, so no response was submitted.

P/22/1255/2 – 25 Keepers Croft – Object – very large extension and inadequate parking

P/22/1093/2 – 50 Long Furrow – No comments due to lack of Cllr responses – Borough Councillor commented on behalf of residents.

P/22/1168/2 – 65 houses to Gaddesby Lane – Rearsby. A draft response was circulated by Cllr Axon and approved. Cllr Shivers said that the primary school children exit the school at the end of their day onto the Melton Road. There are a lot of cars parked there for the pickup timeslot. This will be very dangerous if lorries are accessing the site and driving past the school. This point will be added to our letter.

22/099

**To consider cutting the playing field hedge**

The Clerk confirmed that the contractor normally cuts the perimeter hedge each year. RESOLVED to arrange for the hedge to be cut. This year's mowing was reduced due to the weather conditions, so the cost of the hedge cutting may be covered within the contract cost. Cllr Cannon asked if the hedge could be cut slightly higher and wider for the habitat. The Clerk will discuss this with the contractor.

22/100

**To discuss the risk assessment for the street furniture/pavilion and office.**

The risk assessments were carried out by a professional in October 2021. To have these updated the cost is £350. RESOLVED to appoint the contractor to update the risk assessments in October.

22/101

**Risk Assessment for the Mound – To consider the fire risk with having long grass/future mowing contract.**

The Chair explained that we have had lots of correspondence during July and August from one resident regarding the long grass on the mound and with the fire service. Two quotes for

a risk assessment have been obtained. RESOLVED to request a risk assessment be done in October.

A lot of discussion ensued regarding the risk and the future maintenance of the grass on the mound. RESOLVED The mowing contract for next season will be reviewed when the risk assessment has been received.

Anti-social behaviour- youths congregating in the bushes at the side of Countryman's Way – Cllr Axon recommends that the some of the bushes and (self-set) trees be removed to open up the area to prevent it being used as a “den”. This was agreed and our caretaker will work on this.

We may also require tree works to the large tree and if so the Clerk will obtain quotes.

The resident also wrote to our MP who has written to the Chair. A drafted letter was approved by the council to be sent from our Chair.

22/102

**To consider amended/updated Standing Orders**

Cllr Cannon and our Admin staff worked on producing fully updated standing orders.

Cllrs all received a copy with their agendas to read thoroughly. RESOLVED to adopt the new standing orders. The Chair confirmed that she intends to ensure our meetings from October onwards finish no later than 9pm and any items not agreed will be deferred to the next meeting. She also asked Councillors to ensure that they are fully acquainted with section 28 – Councillor activities.

22/103

**Member Highway fund – to confirm our requirements**

The Parish Council applied for a Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign back in July 2021. Cllr

Poland has now confirmed that the fund would cover the purchase of the sign and two posts.

The Parish council will be responsible for the sign maintenance and repair. There is a licence agreement that we would need to sign at a cost of £75.00. RESOLVED that the sign is to be installed on the Long Furrow straight section of road adjacent to the brook.

Cllr Poland will authorise the cost of this which is £3076.

22/104

**To consider quotes for our insurance policy renewal**

We are currently with Ecclesiastical on a three-year contract. The cost for last year was £1714.75. This year the cost is £1897.51. There were no changes to the policy.

22/105

**Parish Priorities – submission to Charnwood/public consultation**

We are still awaiting feedback from Charnwood regarding some of our queries. However, it was RESOLVED that we should consult with our residents to ask what in their opinion the priorities are for the village. The office will work on an online form with hard copies to be available in the shops.

22/106

**To discuss the Santa Event**

The date for the Santa event has been agreed as Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December and will be held in the library. The library has confirmed that they have secured a volunteer for this event.

The Council discussed this years' gifts, and it was agreed to purchase 80 x sticker books as per previous years. Cllr Shivers said that new headwear may be required i.e., hat/beard/wig

22/107

**To ratify the cost of the survey for the wildlife verge. Future management and confirm response to complaints.**

The Chair confirmed that we received 5 letters of complaint regarding the wildlife verge.

A survey was conducted at a cost of £40 to help with the response.

RESOLVED to ratify the cost of the survey. A draft letter was circulated by Cllr Cannon, and it was resolved that Cllr Needham and Cannon would work further on the letter to include the future management before distributing. Cllr Needham said that she was happy to have face to face discussions with those residents who have complained to explain to them more about the scheme.

Future management – Cllr Cannon circulated his proposal for the future management of the verge. This included the purchase of plug plants to improve the colour of the verge along with

mowing a strip at the road edge to improve the look. RESOLVED to approve the future management details. This item will be included on the next agenda to discuss the costs of the plug plants.

- 22/108      **Review of our Financial Regulations.**  
Cllr Shivers and our Admin Assistant will review the financial regulations in due course and report back any changes to the Council.
- 22/109      **To consider strimming the mound sides (woodland trust trees and behind the play area)**  
The Clerk confirmed that she can employ a landscape gardener at a cost of £140 per day to strim for 8 hours per day. RESOLVED to appoint the contractor to strim the two sides of the mound. We will employ for a maximum of two days.
- 22/110      **To review our policies: Complaints procedure/Adult Safeguarding/Children Safeguarding and Equality and Diversity.**  
Councillors were issued with new policies updated with the latest legislation. RESOLVED to accept all the policies.
- 22/111      **Update from the Staffing Meeting** (Standing order 3v invoked) Public and press are asked to leave the meeting. See confidential minute.
- 22/112      **Maintenance**
- Bonfire – The caretaker is concerned that there may be an animal living in the woodpile at the rear of the pavilion. He will remove it and make a bonfire at a new location before burning. Cllr Needham has arranged for a camera to establish what is living under the woodpile.
  - Council Van – The Mot recommends that we have new brakes (front and rear) which are currently at 3mm. An oil leak also needs attention. A quote has been obtained from East Goscote Services at a cost in region of £350. Resolved to go ahead with this in the next month.
  - Cllr Shivers asked if we could enhance the front of Lilac Way/Melton Road by planting more miniature daffodil bulbs in the shape of a crown. He suggested that we involve one of the Girl Guiding units. RESOLVED to spend up to £50 on bulbs.
- 22/113      **Items approved for Expenditure**  
Insurance policy renewal, Risk assessments, Bulbs, Survey, Council Van, Sticker Books, Strimming, VAS licence, budget for elderly event.
- 22/114      **Urgent items by permission of the Chairman**
- Date of Next Meeting – This was discussed, and it was agreed to continue with 12<sup>th</sup> October.
  - Cllr Gerrard apologised for being unable to attend October and November's meetings.

The Meeting closed at 8.25 pm

L. Pizer  
27<sup>th</sup> September 2022