

**EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
at 6.15pm in the Village Hall.

Present:

Cllr L Needham

Cllr A Harris

Cllr C Tate

Cllr S Gerrard

Cllr R Fazackerley

Mrs L Pizer (Clerk)

Mrs C Turlington (Deputy Clerk)

The Chair welcomed the elected Councillors to our meeting.

Five Councillors had chosen not to continue in office, and these were Cllr Shivers (34 months service), Cllr Axon (34 months service), Cllr Oakes (26 months service), Cllr Westerveld (4 months service), and Cllr Cannon (53 months service) although he has expressed a wish to continue his councillor duties and be co-opted in June, with the primary aim of overseeing the Reaching People project. The Chair thanked all those councillors who have worked extremely hard for the benefit of our village. It was agreed that retiring Councillors would be thanked in accordance with our Councillor retirement guidelines.

23/001

**Election of Chair**

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

23/002

**Election of Vice Chair**

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

23/003

**Declarations of Acceptance of Office**

The Proper Officer signed the declarations of office from the Chair, Vice Chair and Councillors. All the Councillors also completed an email consent form.

23/004

**Co-option of any vacancies following the election due to insufficient nominations**

The Clerk explained that we can co-opt in May / June without the need to advertise for the public to call an election. The Chair requested that should anyone know someone interested to inform them of this and mentioned there has been one expression of interest who will be contacted with the co-option paperwork before the June meeting.

23/005

**Declarations of interests/Register of Interest to be completed.**

Cllr Needham re Greener Goscote and the Chairs Allowance

Cllr Tate re the Vice Chair Allowance

All Councillors were asked to update their register of interests form within 28 days.

23/006

**Matters arising from the public (Meeting adjourned)**

None present.

23/007

**Apologies for Absence**

None.

23/008

**To confirm the minutes of the last meeting (March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023)**

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

23/009

**Matters arising from the Minutes (March 2023)**

22/220 – Red Gate – the Clerk is still waiting for a quote and will follow this up. Cllr Tate mentioned that the yellow gate shuts too quickly and the Clerk will investigate further.

22/232 – The VAS for the Long Furrow has arrived and will be installed by the end of May.

22/252 – The new waste contract is in place with Biffa although we are having a lot of initial problems.

22/252 – Damaged Sign Melton Road – Redrow have confirmed that the contractors who damaged the sign have ordered a new one and will install it.

22/252 – The requested charity football match in the summer is no longer required.

22/256 – The dog fouling signs have arrived although there is a slight issue. They will be installed as soon as possible.

22/259 – The bus shelter panels have arrived and will be installed in due course.

22/260 – The hedge has been planted to prevent vehicular access to the village green. This was under budget.

23/010

**Reports from Reps on other Committees**

**VHMC** – A meeting was held on March 30th, 2023. The Village Hall Secretary sent in the report, which included:

- Hire charges have been reviewed.
- Various maintenance improvements to the hall have taken place, including the installation of the hearing loop and PA System using grant funding.

The VHMC AGM is to be held on June 27th.

**LONG FURROW** – The May edition is now online and has been posted to all our residents and businesses.

**TREES** – No report.

**CHRISTMAS** – It was RESOLVED to book the singer for the event which was agreed to be held on December 9<sup>th</sup> at a cost of £95.00.

**GREENER GOSCOTE** – No report.

**CIRCUS VISIT** – The circus is due to visit from Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October to Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October. The fee last year was £100 per day, and it was RESOLVED to approve the same charges for this year, including a £500 damage waiver deposit as per last year.

**SCOUT LEASE** – The Clerk is liaising with the scout group and solicitor.

**LRALC AGM REP** – Cllr Harris was appointed as our LRALC rep.

**TRAINING NEEDS** – Cllrs were made aware of the recent training email from LRALC. Cllr Tate is to complete Chair's training.

- 23/011      **Review of reps on committees/working parties**  
The committees/working parties were agreed as per the attached sheet. These will be reviewed at future meetings when new councillors are co-opted.
- 23/012      **Review of Maintenance areas and playground checks**  
The maintenance areas and playground checks were agreed and will be reviewed at future meetings when new councillors are co-opted. It was requested that councillors are reminded at the beginning of each month regarding this.
- 23/013      **To agree annual Subs and Donations**  
RESOLVED that we subscribe to all the associations/societies listed on the attached sheet. Cllr Tate queried the subscription to SLCC, and the Clerk will monitor how often advice is sought over LRALC this year.
- Donations with their own budget were agreed as follows:
- **Long Furrow** – Resolved to award £500.
  - **VHMC** - £1500 was agreed to cover cost of using the council offices. The council were asked to ratify the cost of a new air conditioning unit for the parish council office and pay the invoice for this as part of the donation. This was agreed. Due to time constraints, it was confirmed that this was installed during the Easter break whilst access to the hall was available.
- 23/014      **Presentation of Deed and Trust Instruments**  
All documents are available for inspection by members in the future.
- 23/015      **Confirmation of Cheque Signatories for 2023/24.**  
Current cheque signatories are L Pizer our financial officer, Cllr Needham, and Cllr Cannon. The mandate form is being updated; Cllr Cannon will be removed if not co-opted in June and Cllr Tate will be added as a new signatory and will need to arrange to visit TSB to present ID documents.
- 23/016      **Proposed Accounts (April and May)**  
Accounts to the sum of £5460.47 were accepted by the council for April and £5037.22 for May. RESOLVED to make all payments via bank transfer. The Chair and Vice Chair are conducting a thorough internal check of all accounts on a monthly basis.
- a) **To approve the updated Financial Regulations and new list of approved payees.**  
The Clerk circulated the regulations and the new list of payees which was approved by the Council for payments via bank transfer.
- 23/017      **To approve the Village Hall's Annual Account and Annual Report**  
The annual accounts were presented to all Councillors. RESOLVED that the accounts be approved by the Parish Council (custodian trustees). Councillor Needham signed the accounts on behalf of the Council.
- 23/018      **Correspondence**  
A list of correspondence received was issued to all Councillors present:
- **Police Report** - There were no crimes reported this month. Regarding the speeding problems, the road safety unit have recently conducted a survey and although there were 20% of drivers exceeding 35mph as there have been no serious collisions, they won't repeat the exercise;

therefore, the beat team have advised that they are intending to conduct a speeding operation issuing tickets to offenders.

- Precept payment - £31,500 received.
- Our village phone app will be available until 1<sup>st</sup> June only. Push notifications will be sent regularly before this date.
- Guide group – notice to withdraw from agreement to maintain planter.
- Floodlights – feedback to our queries – It was agreed that we would consult with residents before our meeting in June.
- Wildlife verge – future management – Cllr Needham is overseeing this in the interim.
- Confirmation of grant application approval for £2k for an ecological appraisal of the village/guided walks – It was agreed to sign the grant agreement form. To be added to the next agenda with all the information.
- Resident letter re mound grass cutting – the caretakers are keeping the grass short 30m from properties.
- Mound quarterly inspection – our ex-Councillor Axon suggested that we should inspect the mound and the Clerk has devised a form to achieve this. The Clerk has asked ex Cllr Axon if he wished to complete an inspection as an idea of what he is suggesting should be inspected.
- Offer of a specimen tree – It was agreed that we would accept the offer of a tree and the planting by the residents. The location was agreed to be on the corner of the mound behind the blue bench.
- Request to remove a bollard on Pedlars Way – the Clerk will respond advising that the bollard is not on parish land and signpost the resident to the appropriate place.
- Resident request to reconsider the decision to plant the hedge at the top of Brackendale as the resident would like vehicular access – due to Standing Orders it isn't possible for this to be added to a future agenda until after 6 months unless additional councillors are co-opted and 6 agree to request this be added to the agenda to rescind the decision. The Clerk will respond to the resident explaining that councillors have considered the correspondence at the recent meeting, the reasons for the decision and that due to the rules governing the council this cannot be revisited unless circumstances change. Cllr Needham will also visit the resident.

23/019

**Planning Matters**

The Clerk and Chair met with representatives from Redrow homes and gave an update to the Council members. New plans are expected by the end of May and the council will be consulted on the amendments. The next meeting is 18<sup>th</sup> July.

23/020

**To review our standing orders.**

RESOLVED that Cllr Tate and the Deputy Clerk will arrange a date to review our Standing Orders.

23/021

**To approve the Chair/Vice Chair's Allowance payable for the year commencing May 2023.**

The Chair and Vice Chair left the meeting separately so that there was a quorum.

RESOLVED that the allowance is to be paid upon completion of one years'

service in April 2024 and is not paid on a monthly basis unless the council agree to pay this in exceptional circumstances.

The Maximum amount available is £400 between the Chair and Vice Chair with a further amount of £100 for the purchase of gifts for retiring Councillors/Staff.

23/022

**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.

- b) Basket Swing – RESOLVED to not hang the swing and contact the company to see if anything can be done. The Clerk will also obtain quotes for alternatives from other companies.
- c) New recommended signage for the Multi Sports court – the Clerk has received the wording and will arrange the signage.
- d) BMX track – this will be monitored, and the Clerk requested that all councillors have a look at the track, and she will obtain quotes to repair and replace.

23/023

**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. Quotes will be brought to the September meeting.

23/024

**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 discussed with changes highlighted.

Agreed: -

- 1. Football charges to be paid in August.
- 2. The Saturday morning training fee to hire the pavilion was agreed at £10 per week.
- 3. A one-year trial allowing teams to mark their own pitches and provide their own paint and line marker will be continued.
- 4. Pitches will be inspected by our Caretaker each Thursday and teams will be informed if the pitch is unplayable by 3pm each Thursday.

23/025

**To ratify Pitch Allocations 2023/24**

The Clerk informed Councillors of pitch requests made for next season. RESOLVED that the pitches be allocated as per the applications – one senior team and the junior team require one senior pitch, two teams on the junior pitch and one team on the U9/10 pitch. They may require the U7/8 pitch but have not confirmed this yet. The Clerk confirmed that our landscaping contractor will no longer initial mark our pitches. We have managed to do some work ourselves and ordered some of the recommended weedkiller. This will be monitored to establish if we need a contractor to do the work in August.

23/026

**To Appoint an Internal Auditor**

The LRALC was appointed to carry out the internal audit for the accounts ending March 2023. This is being completed 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 2024 we continue with the LRALC internal audit service.

- 23/027      **To consider the proposal to employ a dog warden to patrol the village.**  
Further to discussions about a dog warden at our March meeting and further information from ex- Cllr Shivers, it was noted that Queniborough PC employ a dog warden, who in principle would be happy to do this for our council, on a 6-month trial basis for 2 hours per month. It was agreed that this would reinforce the signage, show the council is doing something and act as a visual deterrent. Cllr Gerrard mentioned that Syston TC also employ a dog warden with powers to enforce and the Clerk will follow this up. RESOLVED to proceed on a 6-month trial basis as soon as practicable.
- 23/028      **Maintenance**  
Maintenance forms were issued to all Councillors with the agenda for completion.
- 23/029      **Items Approved for expenditure.**  
Subs and Donations  
Proposed Accounts for April and May  
Chair and Vice Chair Allowances  
Internal Auditor  
Dog Warden
- 23/030      **Urgent items by permission of the Chairman**  
➤ Cllr Tate asked for clarification of the Dispensation Form and the Clerk explained this.  
➤ Cllr Gerrard wishes to donate some English Bluebells to the Parish, and it was proposed that these are scattered either side of the main gate to the playing fields, with advice taken from Greener Goscote if required.  
➤ Cllr Needham raised that there is a serious situation of threatening behaviour and possible substance misuse in Fleury Court and advised that she is in contact with the police and the Anti-Social Behaviour team at CBC. She requested that any resident concerns are always reported to the police and CBC and proposed that the Council write to express concerns regarding anti-social behaviour, crime, and safeguarding issues to the police and the Anti-Social Behaviour and Housing teams at CBC. This was approved.  
➤ Date of next meeting – due to councillor absences the date of the next meeting was discussed, and it was decided that the Deputy Clerk will set up a Doodle Poll to ascertain the best date when four councillors are available.

The Meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

L. Pizer  
16th May 2023