

EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a full Council Meeting held on Monday 5th June 2023 at 6.30pm in the East Goscote Village Hall.

Present:

Cllr L Needham	Cllr C Tate (part)
Cllr A Harris	Cllr R Fazackerley
Cllr Gerrard	Mr D Cannon
 Mrs L Pizer (Clerk)	 Mrs C Turlington (Deputy Clerk)

2 members of public

23/031 Co-option of New Members

Mr David Cannon has written in and completed his co-option questionnaire. A secret ballot was held, and Mr Cannon was duly co-opted and signed the declaration of office. He will complete his register of interest within 28 days.

Cllr Tate left the meeting.

23/032 Matters arising from the Public (Meeting Adjourned)

A resident raised that she is having trouble leaving her driveway due to a high vehicle blocking the view and asked if there was any possibility of restrictions being imposed by the Parish Council. She explained that she has been in touch with CBC who are unable to assist as the cost of installing double yellow lines is approximately £7000. She has also been advised by the police that as he is not parked illegally there isn't anything they can do to help. Cllr Needham explained that as a parish we do as much as we can in terms of speeding, but are limited otherwise, and it was proposed the resident contact the County Councillor Mr James Poland.

23/033 Apologies for absence: Cllr Poland

23/034 To report any declarations of interest: Cllr Needham regarding Greener Goscote and agenda item Reaching People Environment Fund; Cllr Cannon re the Long Furrow Magazine and Greener Goscote; Cllr Fazackerley re Village Hall.

23/035 To confirm the minutes of the last full council meetings held on 15th May 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th May were agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

23/036 Matters arising from the Minutes.

Councillors thank you cards have been signed by councillors and will be posted along with their vouchers.

23/009 – The Clerk has contacted Wicksteed Leisure for prices to repair the gates. The red gate has been removed as it became “jammed.” We now have details of the specific part that we require and are trying to source the new part. Greyhound have been to look at the yellow gate and basket swing. As the cost of replacing the basket swing is approximately £4000 this will need to be considered in next year's precept.

23/009 – The VAS has been installed – it was RESOLVED to set the speed at 31mph for the angry face to appear.

23/009 – The damaged sign on Melton Road (Redrow) has been replaced.

23/009 – The bus shelter has now been repaired.

23/010 – Cllr Tate will undertake Chairs training on 22nd June.

23/018 – Phone App – the app has been removed although there is still some work to be done on accessing the tennis bookings via the website.

23/019 – Redrow homes have not yet resubmitted their new plans. Environmental Health Conditions have been uploaded.

23/020 – Standing orders were reviewed by Cllr Tate and the Deputy Clerk and have been circulated

to Councillors.

23/022 – New signage has been received for the multi sports court at a cost of £40.

23/022 – BMX Track – This is being monitored and Cllr Fazackerley said that she did not feel there were any safety issues to be concerned about, the equipment was well used during half term.

23/027 – A meeting has been held with the dog warden and his first day of patrolling the village green and playing field is Monday June 12th between 8.30am and 10.30am.

23/030 – A letter was sent regarding anti-social behaviour in Fleury Court. Cllr Needham advised that she recently joined a member of the CBC anti-social behaviour team and the PCSO to visit the residents of Fleury Court. She has asked for an update from the PCSO following this meeting and has been advised that there have been no further reports. Her belief is that there are still ongoing issues and that people have stopped reporting their concerns. She requested that all councillors advise people to report issues by calling CBC antisocial behaviour, completing the online form, or calling 101 which can be done anonymously.

23/037 **Matters arising from the Police.**

The police were absent from the meeting and no crime report was received. A speeding operation has been carried out on the Melton Road and 4 speeding tickets were issued.

23/038 **County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Poland emailed all Councillors with a written report prior to the meeting. Topics covered were: -

- Creating wildflower areas continues to grow places - Around 60 parish councils have now signed up to the county council- run-scheme, which involves volunteers giving up their time to restore the verges, including the sowing of native wildflower seeds and learning about the local wildlife within these important habitats. The initiative forms part of the council's wider work to tackle climate change, including fresh proposals to make Leicestershire a net zero carbon county by 2045.
- Grass Cutting – The annual programme of grass cutting has started across Leicestershire and residents can check when their grass will be cut on the county council's map: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/grass-cutting
- Council makes case for fair funding at Downing Street – Leicestershire's push for fair funding has taken a step forward after a positive meeting with the Chancellor in Downing Street. The Leader and a delegation from Leicestershire County Council, along with local MPs, met Jeremy Hunt to set out how an outdated system means that Leicestershire receives less than half the money of the best funded areas. Presented was a pragmatic, temporary fix which would see Government put in an extra £350 million to level up 32 of the lowest funded councils. Follow up meetings with local government minister, Lee Rowley, and Government officials are already being arranged. If Leicestershire were funded at the average level for English councils, it would receive an extra £130m a year.
- Cllr Kevin Feltham continues as County Council Chairman for another year – For the second consecutive year, County Councillor Dr Kevin Feltham is taking on the position of Chairman. Dr Feltham's role for the next 12 months was confirmed at the Council Annual Meeting on Wednesday 17th May.

23/039 **Borough Councillor's Report**

Cllr Needham gave a verbal report which included:

- Fleury Court update previously discussed.
- Assisting with general resident queries.
- Three Ways Farm – a flyer has been circulated to residents in Queniborough advising a reduction in the planning application to 150 houses. When the plans are uploaded Cllr Needham will inform the Clerk should the council wish to comment.

23/040 **Reports from Reps on other Committees**

VHMC – The village hall has not met since our last meeting. The AGM will be held on 27th June. The Council were informed that the Pocket Rocket pre-school who were based in the village hall will not be continuing in the Autumn term.

LONG FURROW – The latest edition is on our website. The deadline for the next edition is 1st July. It was agreed to include an article about dog fouling / the dog warden and photographs from the Coronation event. Cllr Cannon will put the parish news together.

PAV & PLAYING FIELD – Playground checks have been conducted by Councillor Tate for May. There has been wetpour damage, the latch to the playing field gate has gone missing, and the red gate at the village green play area has been removed. It was agreed that we would look at replacing the playing field gate – Councillors were asked for their opinions to be sent to the Clerk regarding their preferred size and material of the new gate so that she can obtain quotes.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – No report.

TREES – No report.

CIRCUS 2023 – The Clerk advised that she has emailed the organiser but has not heard back yet.

WILDFLOWER VERGE – 2 residents have complained about the verge stating that we are not carrying out works as stated in our letter of September 2022. It was **RESOLVED** that the council staff will mow a path and 60cm edge to frame the area. The Clerk will respond to the residents advising them of this.

23/041

Proposed Accounts

Accounts to the sum of £5292.82 were accepted by the Council. The bank reconciliation and relevant statements were checked along with the invoices and signed off by the Chair and Vice Chair.

23/042

Correspondence

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

- Response re anti-social behaviour in Fleury Court
- Scout Lease – update and request for new lease – **RESOLVED** to proceed with this.
- Hedge – replacement hedge plants will be distributed when they are available.
- Dog Warden – details of patrols – the Clerk will purchase some dog bags.
- Electric charging points query – **RESOLVED** to approach the garage regarding a public charging point and contact LRALC, Queniborough and Rearsby parish councils to ask if they have any plans to install charging points and if so, further details on cost and suppliers. The Clerk will inform the resident of this.
- Charity football tournament request – **RESOLVED** to proceed.
- Complaint re Wildflower Verge
- LRALC Monthly training bulletin
- LRALC – Details of Annual Conference on 3rd July – The Deputy Clerk will attend.

23/043

Planning Matters

None

23/044

Completion of the Annual Return

a) Review effectiveness of the Internal Audit

Resolved that the comments of the Responsible Financial Officer be noted and the Council, having reviewed the effectiveness of the system of internal audit, approves the current arrangements. The Statement on Internal Control, for the year ending 31st March 2023 was signed by the Council Chair.

b) To consider the internal audit report

The Summary Internal Audit report was sent to all Councillors.

All Recommendations from 2022 have been addressed.

The Report was noted and received.

- 23/045 **Approval of the Statement of Assurance (Section 1)**
Resolved that the statement of assurance be approved and was signed by the Council Chair.
- 23/046 **Approval of the Statement of Accounts (Section 2)**
The annual accounts contained in the annual return for the period ending 31st March 2023 were approved and was signed by the Council Chair.
- 23/047 **Approval of our Asset Register**
The Clerk issued the asset register listing values along with insurance values, in year additions and disposals.
The Council approved the register, and the Chair signed it.
- 23/048 **Approval of Risk Assessment and Management Policy**
The Clerk provided the council with the risk assessment policy.
The Council approved the policy which was signed by the Chair.
- 23/049 **Review of our Risk Register**
The Clerk issued the risk register which details all items which have any risk, and when they were last reviewed. The Council approved the risk register.
- 23/050 **The Reaching People Environmental fund – Grant awarded was £2000.**
Cllr Needham took no part and Cllr Cannon was elected chair for this item.
The Clerk circulated the details of the application along with quotes for the survey and guided walks. She confirmed that the funding has been received and that of the 4 quotes received, this has been narrowed down to 2 in line with the funding. Cllr Cannon explained that the desktop survey includes the surrounding area of the parish, whilst the walkabout survey will include a smaller area that the council can have some influence over. The Clerk advised that she has some additional questions and would like to see a sample of the preliminary ecological survey before proceeding. RESOLVED that the Clerk and Cllr Cannon research further and decide who to proceed with.
- 23/051 **Mound Inspection Form / update on the mound from Charnwood**
We have not yet received the example inspection form from our ex-councillor.
Charnwood Borough council have confirmed that they have arranged for a Topographic survey including a ground penetration survey of the area which covers the location of the mounds. The survey should help to identify if there are any voids in the structure. It is not intrusive and will not involve any digging. They have requested that the grass should be cut so that the radar equipment can be pushed across the open area. The survey will take place on 21/22 June.
The Council have also requested that signage be installed to notify users of the survey works.
The Clerk confirmed that the amount of work to cut this area since it has been left uncut for several years is quite extensive and has received a quote of £300 for strimming the area for two days, however the caretakers do not believe it can be done with strimmers.
An additional quote has been received for a tractor and flail at £180. The Clerk also said that we may need to rake the grass off although can assess this after the cut. RESOLVED to approve a maximum budget of £500 to ensure all the work is completed as necessary.
The Chair agreed to draft a letter to be sent this week to the houses surrounding the mound. Cllr Fazackerley agreed to post them.
- 23/052 **Christmas events 2022 – Santa event/Elderly event**
The Clerk confirmed that she has booked the vintage singer for the elderly event on Saturday December 9th between 2pm and 4pm – the cost was £95.00. The library is happy to host the Santa event again and they do have enough sticker books to give out. The proposed date for Santa is Friday 8th December. The budget will be looked at in Oct/November.
- 23/053 **Lime Tree on Lilac Way – to consider quotes to remove the deadwood.**
Councillors received three quotes to remove the 2 hanging branches and the deadwood in the Lime Tree on Lilac Way. An aerial inspection of the tree will also be carried out whilst a climber is in the tree. RESOLVED to arrange for the works to be carried out at a cost of £325 + Vat.

- 23/054 **To consider floodlights for football training on the playing field/consultation feedback.**
The Deputy Clerk circulated details of the floodlights and answers to previous councillor queries. Letters were sent to 29 adjacent houses, and we have received 3 responses, all with no objections. RESOLVED to allow portable floodlights to be used on the playing fields between 6.00 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings.
- 23/055 **Review of Council policies**
The Clerk issued all Councillors with the list of Council policies. Several of these need to be reviewed and possibly updated, including Co-option, Financial Reserves, Subject Access Request, and Training. It was RESOLVED that the Deputy Clerk will review these and circulate any suggested updates for consideration at July's meeting.
- 23/056 **Maintenance**
Cllr Cannon advised that a heavy dustbin has been left behind the shops and requested Jelson move this. Cllr Needham asked if a bin store for the residents could also be installed by Jelson.
- 23/057 **Items approved for Expenditure.**
Mound works
Singer for Christmas event
Lime Tree works.
Ecologist – grant funded.
- 23/058 **Urgent items by permission of the Chair**

Date of next Meeting: **Monday July 24th, 2023, at 6.30 p.m.**

It was agreed that the meeting in August will be postponed (summer recess) unless an emergency meeting is required for any reason. Delegated powers given to the Finance Committee to sign August accounts and ratify at September's meeting.

The Meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

L Pizer
6th June 2023