

EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a full Council Meeting held on Monday 24th July 2023 at 6.30pm in the East Goscote Village Hall.

Present:

Cllr L Needham (Chair)	Cllr C Tate
Cllr S Gerrard	Cllr A Harris
5 members of the public	Cllr J Poland
Mrs L Pizer	Mrs C Turlington

23/059 **Co-option of New Members**

23/060 **Matters arising from the Public (Meeting Adjourned)**

1 member of the public advised he was attending the meeting as he may wish to be more involved with village activities. He asked why the minutes of the last meeting weren't available on the website and Cllr Needham explained this was because they will be approved at this meeting.

4 members of the public expressed a variety of concerns, about which they have also sent letters to the Council. This included street lighting concerns, the hedge on Bracken Dale, the school hedge, and parking issues on Yeoman's Dale, particularly on a Saturday morning. Cllr Needham explained that different councils/organisations are responsible for the different concerns and addressed each point:

- Lighting – this is the responsibility of Leicestershire County Council, and a request has been made today to leave the lights on and turn one of them around so that the light shines on the path rather than in the trees. Cllr Poland mentioned that any evidence from the police as to an increase in crime will support the case for keeping the lights on.
- Bracken Dale Hedge – this will be looked at during September's meeting when all the comments and feedback from other organisations will be presented.
- School Hedge – this is the responsibility of the school and has been reported to them on numerous occasions. Cllr Poland will also report this. The Clerk advised that the school's mowing contractor will be due to cut the hedge during the school holidays and she will see if she can find out when this will take place.
- Yeoman's Dale Parking – Cllr Needham said she was aware of the parking issues at the junction but will follow this up with the PSCO to arrange a visit to the area on a Saturday morning when the issue is particularly bad.

The residents will be kept informed of any developments to each of the points raised.

23/061 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Cannon, Cllr Fazackerley

23/062 **To report any declarations of interest:** Cllr Needham re Greener Goscote

23/063 **To confirm the minutes of the last full council meetings held on 5th June 2023**
The minutes of the meetings held on 5th June were agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

23/064 **Matters arising from the Minutes**
23/036 – The red gate has now been replaced with the new part fitted and is working well.
23/036 – Cllr Tate completed the Chairs training on 22nd June and slides were circulated for all Councillors.

23/036 – The website is now taking tennis bookings and is replying to users with the code.

23/036 – The dog warden has visited the village on two occasions and feedback forms have been completed.

23/036 – Anti-social behaviour in Fleury Court has gone quiet, but Cllr Needham requested that everyone encourage residents to report any concerns.

23/053 – Lime Tree on Lilac Way has had the deadwood removed as per the inspection. We are still waiting for the report.

23/054 – Floodlights will be used on our playing fields in the winter.

23/056 – A letter requesting a bin store for residents of Merchants Common was sent to Jelsons on 20th June – no response as yet.

23/056 – Heavy dustbin fly tipped behind the shops – we believe this has been removed.

23/065 **Matters arising from the Police**

The police were absent from the meeting, and a report was received. There were 7 crimes reported this month, which were predominantly of the same type, in the same area. The Clerk has thanked the police for the report and asked if there will be any additional patrols given the increase in crime.

23/066 **County Councillor's Report**

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

- Council re-signs Covenant to show its support for service personnel, veterans, reservists, and cadet volunteers – Leicestershire County Council has affirmed its support for the armed forces community by re-signing the Armed Forces Covenant to celebrate and promote the value of reserve forces to businesses.
- Share your views on street lighting proposal – The online survey went live at the start of July as the council seeks views on its proposal to dim most streetlights in the county to levels of 30 per cent from 8pm (down from 50 per cent), depending on the location, and to understand where there should be exceptions.

Cllr Needham requested that views be submitted on the street lighting and asked Cllr Poland for more information regarding the flooding consultation which he agreed to send again.

As the streetlights are currently set at different percentages, the Clerk asked if all the lights will be dimmed to 30% e.g., will this apply to the ones currently at 70%. Cllr Poland will investigate this.

The Clerk asked Cllr Poland to ascertain the criteria when LCC install bollards and prevent access by emergency services (as is the case at the end of Weavers Wynd).

23/067 **Borough Councillor's Report**

Cllr Needham gave a verbal report and in addition to general case work, she advised the Council that the local plan has been delayed and it is now likely to be after Christmas before this can be voted on.

23/068 **Reports from Reps on other Committees**

VHMC – The AGM was held on 27th June. The VHMC Chair and Vice Chair remain the same as previously. Cllr Fazackerley was co-opted as the Council Representative. Summer work has started, and the floor will be replaced in August. The next meeting is in September.

LONG FURROW – The deadline for Articles was July 1st and the next edition is currently with design and print.

PAV & PLAYING FIELD – Playground checks for June/July/August will be carried out by Cllr Tate.

Football – The managers' meeting is scheduled for 23rd August.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – Cllr Harris advised that she is the process of obtaining the information to restart the scheme.

TREES – A resident letter was received regarding the condition of the newly planted trees adjacent to the tennis court which he believes the majority have died. It was agreed to remove the dead ones and revisit replanting at a later date.

The TPO tree to the front of the village hall has suffered wind damage and a large bough of the tree has fallen onto the footpath. LCC have been informed as it is their tree and have removed the fallen bough.

ELECTRIC CHARGING POINTS – The Deputy Clerk circulated a paper after having researched the possibility of charging points within the parish. EGPC isn't eligible for EV Charging funding to install charge points ourselves, but other options including lamppost charging and setting up a car club were noted. LCC have obtained funding to install approximately 100 charge points across the county. Queniborough and Rearsby parish councils have no intentions of fitting a charging point themselves.

It was agreed to:

- Contact LCC to propose Merchant's Common and the Village Hall Car Park be considered as part of their installation
- Look at alternative funding options e.g., EMA Flight Path
- Obtain more information on the Car Club

CIRCUS UPDATE - For 2023 we have been offered Sunday 15th – Thursday 19th October, arriving PM Sunday 15th to PM Wednesday or Thursday 19th Oct 2023. Performances will be at 3pm & 6pm on a school holiday week. The organiser has confirmed that this will be subject to weather conditions.

LCC CONFERENCE – A written report was circulated to Cllrs. The focus of the event was around climate change and updates from the Environment and Transport Department at LCC. Points of note were:

- NALC has a dedicated webpage for climate change
- £2 bus fare cap extended until October 2023
- Pothole enquiries have almost doubled for the period October 2022 – May 2023
- Street Lighting Engagement – circulated to Councillors on 10th July
- Net Zero Toolkit – circulated to Councillors on 6th July
- Poppy decorations can be added to street lighting columns without a licence

GREENER GOSCOTE – Councillor Cannon issued a written report for Councillor information.

UPDATE FOLLOWING MEETING WITH THE PLANNING LIAISON

OFFICER. – The Clerk met with Cara Baker on 29th June. She visited the playing fields and pavilion and walked round the village. She felt that the pavilion would benefit from a new building and suggested that the FA offer a lot of funding. She also said that some of the outdoor sports facilities could be clawed back if necessary. She said that the annual priorities survey was due, and we would benefit from completing this as fully as possible. The Clerk mentioned we haven't got the land for allotments that have been allocated funding and was advised that if the money isn't used it is returned to the developer. CBC have a large amount of funding for biodiversity projects, and this is something we may be able to apply for when we have received the outcome of the survey.

23/069

Proposed Accounts

Accounts to the sum of £6038.21 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.

23/070

Correspondence

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

- County Council Community Engagement Strategy
- Closure of Ploughmans Lea for patching works 4th August
- Street lighting consultation until 3rd August – reducing the light levels to 30% from 8pm – this has been put on the website and Spotted.
- Five-year housing supply is now 4.27 years of supply an increase from 3.04 years. Charnwood cannot demonstrate a five-year supply.
- Section 106 response from Chief Exec – No response from the leader or the MP
- VHMC – request for a licence to cultivate – next agenda
- Weavers Wynd – Cars parking on village green
- Trees adjacent to Tennis court – agreed to remove.
- Resident Fence needing repair – agreed to contact the resident with a polite request to repair or remove the fencing.
- Clover Walk – rear footpath – the Clerk has reported this but will chase up.
- Several resident letters regarding the hedge on Bracken Dale – next agenda.
- Several resident letters regarding the lack of street lighting on Bracken Dale – this has been reported to LCC.
- Dog Warden Monitoring Forms
- Debris on the railway line – reported to the police
- Government Apprenticeship Scheme
- Community Safety Scheme – up to £10,000 funding. The Clerk explained that Mountsorrel PC installed a CCTV system through this scheme and the next round of applications opens on 4th September. It was agreed to obtain more information from Mountsorrel and add to the next agenda.
- Planning refusal appeal
- Letter from an Ex-Cllr regarding his position as Tree Warden – RESOLVED that he continue in the role subject to him still wanting to, the Council's insurance policy, and undertaking any necessary training with LCC.

23/071

Planning Matters

P/23/0667/2 – To ratify response re discharge of condition 25 (Redrow) – RESOLVED

P/22/2310/2 – Outline planning for residential development of up to 99 houses to land north of Melton Road, Queniborough – RESOLVED that the Clerk draft and circulate a response. The following points are to be included:

- Housing allocations in other settlements
- Traffic
- Area of separation
- Local services e.g., doctors, schools
- Flooding

P/22/2279 – Amended plans from Redrow homes. The number of homes to be built has increased from 256 to 258. The deadline for comments is 4th August. It was requested that any comments be sent to the Clerk and RESOLVED to give delegated powers to the Clerk to send a response if necessary.

Update from Meeting with Redrow – Cllrs Needham and Harris, and the Clerk met with Redrow on 24th July. The detailed plans were explained, and a crossing won't be installed as Highways aren't in agreement. If the Reserved Matters are passed then construction will start in October with the round-a-bout, with the first show home in the Spring.

23/072 **Budget Update**
The spreadsheet containing spending v budget was issued for April to June. It was noted that the repairs to the bus shelter base were under budget.
There were no questions.

23/073 **Field Gate – to discuss options**
Size of the current gate is 7 feet by 4 feet.
Cllr Tate proposed a kissing gate, in wood with panels either side and this was agreed. 3 quotes will be obtained for the next meeting.

23/074 **To consider Updated policies:**

- Training policy
- HR Data Protection Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Financial Reserves policy
- Subject Access requests policy
- Councillor vacancies and co-option policy
- Records and retentions policy
- Health and Safety Policy

The draft policies were circulated to all Councillors on 8th July for them to read and consider before the meeting. RESOLVED to accept all the policies and changes.

23/075 **CILCA Training for our Deputy Clerk**
Councillors were in receipt of a paper outlining the CILCA training course details with the SLCC costs and time needed to complete the course. RESOLVED to approve at a cost of £375 + VAT for the first part of the training course. To gain the qualification there will be a second fee of £450 (subject to annual increase) which would need to be included in next year's budget.
The Staffing Committee will consider the hours needed to complete the course.

23/076 **The Mound Update**
The Clerk appointed our mowing contractor to flail the mound on two occasions. Our caretakers then raked some of the top into rows to give better access to some areas. The total cost of this was £360 for the mowing and 8 hours staff time.
The Clerk confirmed that the mound was surveyed on 3rd and 4th July 2023. She spoke with the surveyors and offered them historical information and pictures of the mound. The survey will be sent to Charnwood Borough Council who ordered the works, and we await the outcome and any recommendations regarding the management. A copy of the report will be requested for the next meeting.

23/077 **Reaching People – Ecological Survey – Guided walk information.**
Councillor Cannon and the Clerk appointed Dr Helen O'Brien as our ecologist to complete the survey as part of the grant funding. A very successful meeting was held, and dates were agreed to hold guided walks for the village residents, staff, and Councillors. An article will appear in the next Long Furrow and copies were given out to all Councillors.

23/078 **Maintenance**
It was agreed to install poppies this year around Long Furrow and Ling Dale as we did last year.

23/079 **Items approved for Expenditure**
CILCA Training

23/080 **Urgent items by permission of the Chairman**

The meeting with the football managers on August 23rd will be led by Cllr Needham and the Deputy Clerk. Cllr Tate advised she can attend if Cllr Needham isn't available.

The next staffing meeting is planned for 29th August at 1.00 p.m.

Date of next Meeting: **Monday September 11th, 2023, at 6.30pm**

The Meeting closed at 8.15pm

L Pizer
25th July 2023